



Human Rights, Resistance and Solidarity

Free Mumia!

Slavery and murders of those detained in prisons is often associated with countries in Africa, Latin America or Asia. Few people are aware that the biggest western superpower **USA** is a pioneer in both fields

The UN states that 25% of incarcerated people world-wide are locked away in US prisons, making them the world's biggest current **prison-nation**. The large profits raked in with these prisons are based on **forced labour** from prisoners - making it an economic necessity to ensure a constant flow of prisoners. Especially politicians are responsible for pushing new laws forward to incarcerate more and more people.

In regard to the **death penalty** the US plays a special role, too: as long as it is possible to murder prisoners, the majority of whom have been sentenced due to poverty- or race-related issues, other governments can hide behind the US and use this to legitimize their state-sanctioned murders.

One former death-row inmate who has spoken and written about this for more than 40 years is African-American *journalist* and former *Black Panther* **Mumia Abu-Jamal**. He is a **political prisoner** in Pennsylvania (PA) since 1981 - convicted for the alleged killing of a police officer. A crime he did not commit and a sentence that was build on manipulated evidence, including paid-off witnesses coerced by the police using threats. After two execution warrants the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Abu-Jamal's death sentence finding that jurors were given confusing instructions that encouraged them to vote for a death rather a life sentence. in 2011 prosecutors announced that they would no longer pursue the death penalty against Abu-Jamal, and the imprisoned journalist was transferred to "**slow death row**" - sentenced to life without parole.

Since his arrest in 1981 Mumia has been fighting for a fair trial. **Amnesty International** described the initial court proceedings as

"a trial that failed to meet international standards safeguarding fair trials". The justice department's attempts to silence the journalist's critical voice has had the reverse effect: millions of people world-wide began to read or hear Mumia's reports on exploitation, racism and war. Neither the miserable conditions in **solitary confinement** nor the 29 year long threat of being executed distracted Mumia from his fight against injustice. He keeps close contact with various activists from all over the world. Maybe this is the reason why the PA government wants to keep him locked-up so vehemently: somebody as unimpressed by state's repression still poses to big a threat to be released, even if they have to bend their own laws and constitution to do so.

"If we freed Mumia, we really moved a mountain - let's do!" Over the last three decades, the solidarity



movement was able to save Mumia's life on various occasions: twice before his death warrants were to be executed in 1995 and 1999 by literally mobilizing millions of people. In 2017 pressure was put on PA's Department of Justice to give him life-saving medical treatment, which enabled appr. 7000 other prisoners to receive the same afterwards. After more than 40 years it is necessary to finally free Mumia. There are many paths of activism and an international network working on this - join the struggle to **Free Mumia! - Free Them ALL!**

Abolish the Death Penalty - everywhere!

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