

THE FRENCH COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF MUMIA ABU JAMAL GATHERS AROUND A HUNDRED ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC **AUTHORITIES:**  Phone: 01 53 38 99 99

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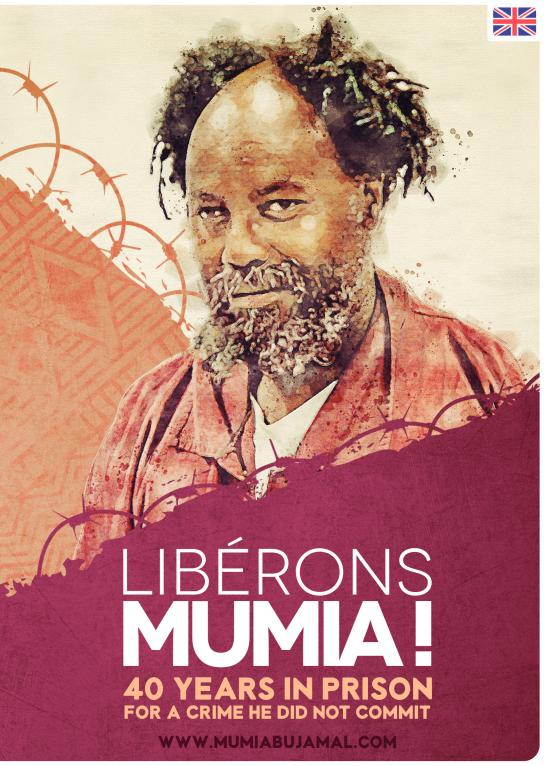
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**AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY -**



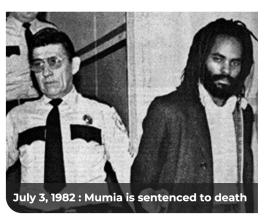


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An African-American journalist, he was sentenced to death in 1982 after a racist and botched trial whose unfairness was denounced by the UN Commission on Human Rights, Amnesty International and the European Parliament. Accused of killing a police officer, he has always claimed his innocence. After three decades of incarceration and international mobilization, his death sentence was cancelled and his sentence commuted to life imprisonment in 2011. An emblematic figure in the fight for the universal abolition of the death penalty, his situation still arouses indignation and mobilization throughout the world. In France, Mumia Abu-Jamal is a Honorary Citizen in 25 cities incluing Paris, the capital, and rwo 25 cities including Paris, the capital, and two streets in Bobigny and Saint-Denis are named after him.

## **DECEMBER 9, 1981**

A journalist by day and a taxi driver at night, Mumia Abu-Jamal was seriously injured in a shooting in Philadelphia's southern district where he had just dropped off a client in the early hours of the morning. Arrested, he was charged with the murder of Daniel Faulkner, a police officer killed in the shooting. Despite his denials and the absence of a criminal record, an unfair investigation concluded that he was guilty.



## THE FACTS

- There is no ballistic evidence to prove the link between the murder weapon and the bullets found in the victim's body.
- No serious investigation: no crime scene protection, no expertise.
- The police claim to have collected Mumia's confession while he was in a coma and under the protection of the medical profession.

## THE TRIAL

- The racist judge asserts his bias: African Americans are excluded from the jury; forbidden to speak, Mumia is expelled from his own trial for having expressed the wish to defend himself without a lawyer.
- **Public defender** with neither the time nor the means to defend his client.
- Witnesses threatened and dismissed, contradictory public reports.
   Mumia is sentenced to death by the jury



The Pennsylvania judiciary denies his right of appeal in refusing to take into account judicial bias and misconduct that had been hidden for 4 decades. A denial of justice that blocks the way to a new trial.

40th anniversary of his imprisonment and death sentence (commuted to life imprisonment in 2011). The Pennsylvania judiciary is to examine his right to appeal to defend his innocence, the final obstacle to the revision of his 1982 racist trial.

Suffering from Covid-19, his state of health has deteriorated sharply. Calls for his immediate release on humanitarian grounds have multiplied around the world.

After a large number of hearings throughout this year, **Judge Tucker granted Mumia the right to appeal his conviction** on December 27, 2018.

Mumia's defense took up a new case law of the United States Supreme Court to request a review of the 1982 trial. This precedent prohibits the same magistrate from being involved at different levels of appeal in the same case, including trials where the death penalty may be required.

Affected by hepatitis C, Mumia suffered a diabetic coma, exposing him to death due to the prison administration's refusal to treat him. Under the pressure of international mobilization, justice forced the administration to grant him medical assistance. Hundreds of prisoners in Pennsylvania benefited from he same treatment.

In total secrecy, the Pennsylvania courts terminated all new judicial proceedings and prohibit any possibility of parole.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court recognized the unconstitutionality of his death sentence, ending 30 years of judicial persecution. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

The Federal Court of Appeal ruled that the instructions given to the jury during the 1982 trial influenced the verdict and, above all. were not in accordance with the law.

The final appeals to the Pennsylvania courts were dismissed, referring the case to the federal courts.

After appeal, his death sentence was temporarily stayed.

However, Mumia remained on death row.

International mobilization twice prevented his execution.

Mumia was sentenced to death after a botched, racist and unfair trial, which was confirmed a few years later by Amnesty International USA, the UN Commission on Human Rights and the European Parliament.

On December 9, 1981, during a shooting in Philadelphia's south end, **Mumia was seriously injured and a policeman killed.**Without any evidence, the police accuse Mumia of the murder.