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World Day Against the Death Penalty

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World Day Against the Death Penalty

Dear Friends :

There is a renewed effort by the police and far right to destroy the support for Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been on Pennsylvania's death row for nearly three decades. Their purpose is simple : to kill him. This is the most dangerous time for Mumia since his 1981 arrest. I am fighting for his life. The support of the movement in France is crucial to this campaign to save and free him.

Saturday, October 10, was *World Day Against the Death Penalty*. Last night I returned from The Netherlands where I spoke at the invitation of Amnesty International on behalf of Mumia. On Friday I gave a lecture at the prestigious Utrecht University school of law. I spoke Saturday at the showing of the movie, *In Prison My Whole Life*, concerning my client and the death penalty. Mumia has become a global symbol in the campaign against the death penalty.

I am presently litigating the issue of the death penalty in the United States Supreme Court. Last year we won a new jury trial in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia. The state has gone to the Supreme Court seeking a reversal of that ruling and the execution of my client. Thus Mumia remains on death row under a sentence of death. Tomorrow the court will hear arguments in an older case from Ohio, *Smith v. Spisak*, which has a similar issue. We do not know when the court will issue a decision in Mumia's case. I am also litigating an issue concerning ballistics. We were denied a hearing in the state trial court on a technicality, so are proceeding to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Last week *Reporters Without Borders*, headquartered in Paris, published a video interview regarding Mumia's case and the latest case developments. It is in English, French and German, and can be found at :
http://www.rsf.org/spip.php?page=article&id_article=34689

Last spring at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin I announced that we would be issuing an online petition for Mumia. He and I decided to wait until this month for its release. It will be coming soon.

Finally, you in France have been wonderful in the outpouring of your concern for Mumia. At this crucial time your activism and support is needed more than ever. Mumia's legal defense needs help.

Your efforts are appreciated.

With best wishes,

Robert

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