## Take Action! - Things you can do to support MOVE

\*Send stamps, phone cards, Kinko's copy cards or donations to help with the high cost of Phone calls, copies and mailing

\*Send donations directly to the MOVE Nine for postage, photo copying, and to pay for their prepaid calls To send them donations, you must send money orders only. (adresses on page 9)

\*Write to different news media/papers in your area, in Philadelphia and in the papers near the prisons where the MOVE Nine are being held demanding justice for MOVE.

\*Arrange speaking engagements for Ramona Africa or other MOVE members.

- \*Write, Fax, Call the following:
- \*Governor Ed Rendell 225 Main Capitol Bldg., Harrisburg, Penna. 17120

\*D.A. Lynn Abraham 1421 Arch Street, Phila., PA 19107 Tel: (215) 686-8700

\*Mayor Michael Nutter City Hall Philadelphia, PA 19107 Tel: (215) 686-3000 Demand an investigation into the unjust imprisonment of innocent MOVE members!

\*Organize fund raisers like musical benefits, dinners, drives, etc. to help pay for organizing activities and to pay for the fight to free the MOVE 9.

\*Start a chapter of Friends of MOVE

# CONTACT US AND GET INVOLVED!

The MOVE Organization
PO Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143
(215) 387-4107
onamovellja@aol.com
www.onamove.com

# International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

PO Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143
(215) 476-8812
icffmaj@aol.com
www.mumia.org



Demand parole in 2008!

Never Forget! Never Forgive!

Free All Political Prisoners!





# **International Friends of MOVE Contacts**

#### Maryland

Ameejill Whitlock/ ameejill@hotmail.com (Baltimore) Sabrina Green/ freemove9mumia@hotmail.com(Glenn Burnie)

#### Michigan

Abayomi Azikiwe/ ac6123@wayne.edu (Detroit)

#### New York

Orie Lumumba/
lumumba170@aol.com
(Brooklyn)
Anne Lamb/
mateare@worldnet.att.net
(Bronx)
Suzanne Ross/
suzannewross@aol.com
(New York City)

#### Upstate New York

Leslie jones & Jason Corwin/ info@youth4mumia.org (Ithaca)

#### Oregon

Brenton Glicker/ breakthechains02@yahoo. com (Eugene)

#### Pennsylvania

Tiffany Robbins/
friendsofmove@aol.com
(Chester)
Fatirah Aziz/
litestar01@aol.com
(Philadelphia)
Denise Garner/
sweetydjazz@verizon.net
(Harrisburg)

#### Texas

Chrishon Bell X/ africaonamove@yahoo.com (Houston)

#### West Virginia

Sandy & James Evans/ redoctober008@adelphia.n et(Morgantown)

#### Maine

Dan Chard/pvg@riseup.net (Portland)

#### California

Ricardo Alvarez/ ricardoalvarez@mnhc.com (San Fran.) RaekwonMuenda/ raekm@aol.com (Sacramento) Donna Wallach/ dbwall@earthlink.net (San Jose)

#### **New Jersey**

Kevin, Maiga, Ellie & Bob/ sjfriendsofmove@hotmail.c om (Pennsauken)

#### Delaware

Sandy Jones/ sandrajoyjones@comcast.net (Wilmington) Marpessa & Jahfree Kupendua/ nattyreb@comcast.net Wilmington)

#### Spain

Francesc Arnau/ antianglada@hotmail.com (Barcelona)

#### **Belgium**

Peter Terryn/ pterryn@yahoo.com (Bogerhout)

#### France

Claude Guillaumaud/ claude.guillaumaud@free.fr (Paris) Marina Rajewski/freemumia63@yahoo.fr (Clermont Ferrand) Cuvelard Nicholas/ rastamokssha@aol.com (Laveine)

#### Czech Republic

Bartek Bobkowski/ bbobkowski@yahoo.com

#### United Kingdom

Cinaed Decanntun/ cinead.decanntun@ireland.com

#### Germany

Michael Schiffmann/ mikschiff@t-online.de (Heidelburg)

#### Austria

Christian Lidenhaler/ on\_a\_move@mail.com (Innesbruck)

#### Africa

Abujahlil Chacha/ Abujahlil@yahoo.fr (Ivory Coast) Omar Africa/ omarafrica@aol.com (Morocco)

#### Italy

Guiseppe Pipitone/ u\_net@libero.it (Milan)



# SUPPORT MOVE and educate yourself!

- \*Free The MOVE 9 Button Show your support everyday 50 cents
- \* 25 Years on the Move Book \$5 an excellent history of MOVE

## "Welcome to Philadelphia" T-Shirt - \$10

- depicts the bomb being dropped on MOVE that killed six adults, five children, burned over 60 homes to the ground and left 250 people homeless

## \*The MOVE Confrontation Video - \$10

- includes original black and white documentary on the 1978 confrontation and a short piece on the 1985 bombing

## \* New Documentary - "MOVE" -

- This amazing new documentary has recieved international acclaim. The film documents MOVE's history as well as present day battles. It is shocking with a fast paced soundtrack and narration by Howard Zinn.
  - \*\*To purchase send check or money order to the address listed on the back of this publication\*\*

# Update on the Parole Situation by the MOVE 9

On the MOVE!

August 2008, the MOVE 9 will be eligible for parole, after spending 30 years in prison for a crime they did not commit. According to the parole guidelines the MOVE 9 should be released. But we don't want people to relax with this, because the parole board is notorious for denying inmates parole for not admitting guilt, even when they're not guilty-or denying people parole for other reasons, that have nothing to do with your institutional record and "rehabilitation."

This is a tactic that is misused by the parole board and a huge injustice to political prisoners, like Leonard Peltier, Sundiata Acoli, Herman Bell, . . . and prisoners all over the nation especially if you are innocent of the charges, like the MOVE 9 are.

The threat of staying in prison for not admitting guilt is intimidating people into confessing to crimes they didn't commit. For the parole board to keep people in prison for not admitting guilt whether they are guilty or not is to resentence a person on the same charges to another jail term, which ain't nothin' but double jeopardy. That is supposed to be illegal.

The parole board makes people admit guilt so these judges are not liable. But whether you admit guilt or not should have no bearing-you have been tried, convicted, and sentenced to a prison term. You've paid for that conviction. And for the parole board to deny you release after paying for a conviction makes them rotten merchants. It's like paying for merchandise and not getting what you paid for. And MOVE is not gonna accept this injustice. It's a God given right to fight for what's right.

Judges send innocent poor people to prison all the time. Cops and DA's deliberately send poor people to prison that are not guilty of certain crimes. Since the DNA testing law has been in existence, over 200 people have been released from

prison who were falsely convicted. This has only been within a few years. In many of those cases the men were denied parole (release) up to 5 times or more, because they refused to admit to guilt, because they were not guilty. They spent 21 to 22 years in prison before being released, only due to DNA evidence. Two hundred people. That should tell you just about how many thousands of people are in prison and not guilty of crimes they've been convicted of. These people who cannot prove their innocence through a blood/swab test. These people who are on death row, executed, but cannot prove their innocence are just at the mercy of this system's apathy, deadness, arrogance, and insensitivity.

Everybody in prison is feeling the effects of this thievin' behavior of the parole board-stealing years, decades from people's lives, by denying their release when they come up for parole. This is inexplicable, and unacceptable, and MOVE is not gonna give up fighting for our innocence.

To quote JOHN AFRICA (quote)... THIS IS A SYSTEM FOLKS ARE LIVING IN, IT WAS DEVISED FROM AN IDEA AND THE RULES, THE SO CALLED LAWS, THE PRACTICES OF THIS SYSTEM, THIS IDEA, THIS CIVILIZATION HAS INFLUENCED EVERYBODY IN THE SYSTEM SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE SYS-TEM, SO IF YOU GOT CRIME NOW IT IS BECAUSE YOU HAD IT WHEN YOU STARTED, CRIMINALS DON'T COME FROM THE WOMB OF A WOMAN. THEY'RE INFLUENCED TO BE CRIMINALS WHEN THEY ENTER THE CRIME-ORIENTED CAVITY OF CIVILIZATION,... (end quote) JOHN AFRICA LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA! THE POWER OF TRUTH IS FINAL!



# Take Action to Push for Parole!

Below you will find the information for the Pennsylvania Parole Board, Lynn Abraham, and Ed Rendell. Contact them and let them know that you're watching this situation and that the MOVE 9 must be paroled, nothing else is acceptable.

PA Board of Probation and District Attorney Lynn Abraham Three South Penn Square Parole/ Central Office Riverfront Office Center Philadelphia, PA 19107-3499 1101 South Front Street 215 686 8700 Fax 215 563 0047 Harrisburg, PA 17104 717 787 5699 Da webmail@phila.gov

Office State Office Building, 14th Harrisburg, PA 17120 Floor 1400 Spring Garden Street Philadelphia, PA 19130 215 560 2452

Board Members: Catharine C. McVey/ Michael L. Green: Jeffrey R. Imboden; Matthew T. Mangino; Michael M. Weter; Lloyd A. White

Philadelphia District Parole Governor Edward Rendell 225 Main Capital Building 717 787 2500 Fax 717 772 8284

> Governor sites.state.pa.us/PA Exec/Governor/govmail.html



people are close up at the window and shooting out. They're away from the windows, hiding behind pillars in the basement. So, anything they're shooting out of the windows has to be at an upward trajectory. They would have to shoot up to get out the window.

Ramp was directly across the street at ground level. So how could something hit him in what was said to be a downward type angle when MOVE members were firing upward from that basement?



Police beating unarmed Delbert Africa, 8/8/78

Okay, maybe the bullet could have ricocheted a little bit. The apartment building across the street from the old MOVE compound is a brick building. However, their compound was made of wood, so the idea that the bullet ricocheted off the brick, back towards MOVE's house, and then back again to hit Ramp somewhere near ground level, is highly problematic.

Furthermore, the .223 bullet is actually a very small, light weight bullet. Since it's a very light bullet it will likely break up bouncing back and forth off a brick wall. It's not going to maintain its integrity and be able to ricochet back and forth a couple times. Unless this was a bullet like the one that Arlen Specter, when he worked for

the Warren Commission, said killed Kennedy. You know, one able to change directions in the air a couple times? It's questionable to unlikely that the bullet that killed Ramp came from that basement.

But, it's hard for anyone to ever know, because police destroyed evidence. Earlier that year, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that it's illegal for authorities to destroy a crime scene before the defense has a chance to examine it.

Furthermore, a couple days before the Aug. 8, raid, a Philadelphia judge signed an order barring the city from destroying the MOVE house. Yet, the city did it in violation of this order.

And guess what? They were never called to account for violating that court order. There are copies of the court order too, so they can't say that it does not exist.

The following is a letter that was written by the late State Representative David P. Richardson, Jr to then Governor Robert Casey regarding MOVE prisoners.

January 28, 1992

Dear Governor Casey:



I'm writing you concerning the MOVE Organization and its members who are presently incarcerated in institutions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am requesting that a full pardon be given to all MOVE members who are incarcerated at this present time with no preconditions for their release. It has been stated that if a MOVE member is to be released from prison, he or she can have no contact at all with other MOVE members. I think that is a racist and discriminatory act at best.

I don't know of any inmate who upon release is told that as part of the condition for release they cannot meet with or associate with his/her family members.

I would further request that you ask for the ballistics report to be released by the police department for public consumption. I believe this ballistics report will absolve MOVE from the responsibility of officer Ramp's death, placing it squarely on police officers and others (not MOVE) who were actually in a cross fire.

Finally, I along with a representative from the MOVE Organization, would be more than happy to meet with you to clarify any of the points that I have raised. I ask your full cooperation in attending to this matter personally.

Sincerely,

David P. Richardson, Jr. Majority Chairman, Health & Welfare 201 Legislative District Pennsylvania The Example of the MOVE 9 and Why Gaining Their Release is an Absolute Necessity by Kevin Price

Successful struggles to gain the release of political prisoners are dependent on key timing. A good strike while the iron is hot can be worth the force of hundreds under normal circumstance. Currently, the fight to bring the MOVE 9 home is very hot. The target, the parole hearings in 2008, is open for strike. With the backing of enough informed compassionate people, one blow could shatter the walls that cage them.

If you don't know Delbert, Phil, Janine, Janet, Debbie, Mike, Chuck and Eddie (Merle Africa died in prison under suspicious circumstance on March 13, 1998) Africa you need to go to www.onamove.com for background info. These amazing people have been unjustly incarcerated since 1978 for the murder of police officer James Ramp. Since their wrongful arrest there has been strong international work to obtain justice. Now is the key time to join the struggle.

The struggle for their parole is not just about getting 8 people released form prison. It is not just about righting a horrible wrong committed by Philadelphia authorities nearly 30 years ago. The case, like that of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier and the Cuban 5, is one that the world is watching. Victory would be a victory for all of those awaiting parole, all political prisoners, all of the nearly 2.5 million in the clutches of the prison industrial complex. Just as Kenneth Foster/Haramia KiNassor's August victory against his executioners was a blow to the entire death penalty process, a victory for the MOVE 9 would be a hard blow against all of these judicial institutions of injustice.

Within the prisons the MOVE 9 have set an inspiring example of unity and dedication. Their strength and determination has remained through years of solitary

# Excerpt of an interview with journalist Linn Washington Jr. regarding the innocence of the MOVE 9

for the full interview go to: http://insubordination.blogspot.com/2007/05/interview-linn-washington-jr-on-mumia.html

**Hans Bennett**: In the recent documentary on MOVE, you cite your sources within the police department who told you that the police know Ramp was killed by police gunfire. Can you say anything more about this?

**Linn Washington**: I will confirm that I was told that by my sources in the police department. However, I have never identified the sources to MOVE, and I will never identify them to anyone else.

But I will tell you this.

Officer Ramp was allegedly shot and killed by a bullet that came from a weapon that fired a .223 caliber round. .223 is the same caliber used in an M-16. Inside MOVE's house, police claimed that they found four carbines called Mini-14's, made by Ruger and they fired this .223 round.

The day immediately after the shootout, police were claiming that not a single officer out there that day carried that particular type of weapon. About three weeks later, during the pre-trial proceedings, the police department began to acknowledge the fact that there were police officers who had the Mini-14s firing the .223 rounds. They first said that they had just been out there, but not near the scene. Then, subsequent reports put the officers with those guns closer to the scene, however the official version was "Yes, they were part of the assault, but no, they never fired their weapon."

So, if in fact, there were no improprieties, why the constantly changing stories and why the heavy-handed cover-up?

There's another thing, and this is where the destruction of the property precluded a thorough examination, as well as how the trial was handled by MOVE and when the court-appointed attorneys came in, it really became a circus.

But let's think about this for a minute. You don't have to be a ballistician to figure this one out. It's just common sense. You've got four male MOVE members in the basement allegedly armed, according to police testimony. A basement by its very nature means it's below ground level. They're allegedly firing out of windows, and let's understand, this was not like The Alamo where

# August 8th, Again

by Mumia Abu-Jamal - 8/8/07

For those of us who know them, it is almost inconceivable that MOVE members are still in fire and water, it would try to do the state's dungeons today -- 29 For the events of vears later. Aug. 8th, 1978 couldn't be clearer; for it was on that date that the state launched a mass armed



Janet Africa, one of the MOVE 9

assault on MOVE's home and headquarters Philadelphia, when the state brought its urban war to Powelton Avenue in an attempt destrov the MOVE They shot hun-Organization. dreds of bullets into the house; fully automatic weapons fire in the heart of the city; when that failed, they launched water cannons, flooding the home full of men, women, and babies. and water, utilized as weapons of war and death: but MOVE men and women (and children) would emerge alive -- and that was their bered. --(c) '07 maj

only crime that day -- of survival! What the city failed to do with with words -- the words of the corporate media, merged with the words of the law, to convict 9 MOVE members of the high crimes of essentially being MOVE members -- being members of a predominantly Black group of rebels and nonconformists. For, in today's corporate state, being a revolutionary is crime enough! MOVE folks, followers of the naturalist teachings of John Africa, were sentenced to 30 to 100 years -- sentences not even provided by statute! -- and it's been 29 years in Pa. hellholes for what's known as the MOVE 9. Twenty-nine years -- in hell.

When MOVE folks were on the street, their inspiration reduced crime, for young minds were engaged in life-affirming ideas, not naked materialism. Being naturalists, the pursuit of money wasn't important to MOVE people -- what was important was Life. For 3 decades the city has been without them, and it has fallen steadily, into the abyss. August 8th -- remem-

Page 29

confinement and hunger strikes exceeding a month. None have ever turned their backs on each other or the struggle. Theirs is a flawless example of commitment for the numerous earth and animal liberation warriors who have been imprisoned en masse.

I have been told by squatters internationally that the stand taken by the MOVE 9 leading to their arrest on August 8th, 1978 is a huge inspiration. MOVE's home was surrounded by hundred's of police six months as the government attempted to starve them out. The police barricaded all entrances to the property and arrested those who tried to provide food and water for the rebels inside. Upon their capture the house was bulldozed to the ground.

The brutality that the police exhibited when arresting the MOVE 9 sent shock waves across the nation. The vicious beating, kicking and stomping of the unarmed Delbert Africa was one of the most barbaric and grotesque police beatings ever caught on film. Mobilizing around this case not only calls attention to illogical parole policies, inhumane prison conditions, and unjust courts, it puts national attention on police brutality and abuse.

The military-like behavior of the city police in relations with the MOVE Organization (for example the use of the military explosive C-4 to bomb them in 1985) draws parallels between the fight against the military industrial complex, the US war machine and the militarization of local police.

The state of Pennsylvania houses more US political prisoners than any other state. The parole of the MOVE 9 would be the release of more than half. We must realize the amazing opportunity we have in front of us. If we can not secure the release of the MOVE 9 at this ideal juncture than what chance do we really have of gaining the release of political prisoners such as David Gilbert and Russell Shoatz who have no such legal recourse. Now is the time to free the MOVE 9! Heed the call to free 'em all!



13 of the Friends of MOVE newsletter

# An Important Statement from

Chuck Africa about deaths at SCI-Graterford



Dear Sirs/Madams:

I write this letter to communicate a grave concern of mine and maybe yours once reading this.

A sea of apathy floods the cell blocks and corridors of Graterford State Prison as scores of elderly/terminally ill inmates are dying at a rapid and alarming pace. The mere fact of anybody dying is not remarkable by itself; but cold indifference can border on the inhumane when people capable of easing needless suffering fail to act. It is not my intent to suggest that there is a quick fix to a complex situation involving many individuals. However, I do know that there are certain men here who you have observed closely over the years that deserve to be released from this institution.

Counselors, Staffers, Administrators, Psychologists, Guards and Religious Authorities: You have all at various times interrelated with and gotten to know the character of many men here and you can make common sense evaluations and intelligent recommendations regarding this dire situation. Where there is clearly no valid reason pursuant to humanity to continue holding terminally ill men there should be alternatives. I realize that there are more priorities in the world that over shadow that of prisoners and this is not a call to lift the needs and concerns of prisoners above others; it is simply an attempt by me to shed light on a crisis here that requires special attention. Me expressing it with such urgency comes from the real fact that I watch Mr. Edward Williams (Abdullah Shah) AF-4687 wither away before me on A-Block. He is clearly ailing. And I've recently observed the late Jerry Mims' last days as a walking dead man. Helpless and harmless.

# Write to a MOVE Prisoner

The MOVE 9 have been locked down for 28 years. Mumia has spent over 25 years on deathrow. Write them a letter to encourage their fierce example!

Debbie Sims Africa #006307

Janet Holloway Africa #006308

Janine Phillips Africa #006309 SCI-Cambridge Springs 451 Fullerton Avenue Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238

Michael Davis Africa #AM4973

Charles Sims Africa #AM4975 SCI-Graterford P.O. Box 244 Graterford, PA 19426-0244 #AM4974 SCI-Mahanoy 301 Morea Road Frackville. PA 17932

William Phillips Africa #AM4984

Pelbert Orr Africa #AM4985 SCI-Dallas 1000 Follies Road Dallas, PA 18612-0286

Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM8335 SCI-Greene 175 Progress Drive Waynesburg, PA15370

To quote <u>JOHN AFRICA</u>, quote, "When you understand the <u>principle</u> of freedom you are intolerant of <u>anything</u> that threatens freedom, When people are jailed freedom is threatened and everybody <u>in</u> this system is in jail, including the jailer, and the people that <u>pay</u> the jailer. . . For you see it is impossible to commit a person to the burden of prison without committing <u>yourself</u> to the prisoning burden of <u>keepin</u> that person, <u>in</u> prison," end quote <u>LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!</u>

To quote, <u>JOHN AFRICA</u>, quote, "Water do not believe in prison, water is the power of LIFE, for water flow with the freedom of LIFE, nobody can stop the power of freedom, this is why nobody will stop the power of MOVE," end quote, <u>LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!</u>

A COURT DECISION COULD BE
MADE IN MUMIA'S
CASE ANY DAY!
THE TIME TO
ORGANIZE IS NOW!

AFTER 25 YEARS ON DEATH-ROW DESPITE INNOCENCE, MUMIA FACES 1 OF 4 POSSIBLE OUT-COMES FROM THE 3RD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS:

 The death-sentence is upheald and he again faces state sanctioned murder

2) The death penalty is rejected but the court upholds that Mumia is guilty, resulting in him possibly spending the rest of his life in prison.

3)A new trial is granted.

4) The court orders a new hearing on one or more of the constitutional claims in Mumia's appeal.

THE DAY AFTER THE
DECISION THERE WILL BE
LOCAL DEMO'S IN
CITIES ACROSS THE
GLOBE.

IN PHILLY WE WILL

IN PHILLY WE WILL
ASSEMBLE AT 13TH
AND LOCUST AND
MARCH TO THE FEDERAL BUILDING.
ON A WEEKDAY IT
WILL START AT 4PM
OR AT NOON ON A SAT.

INTERNATIONAL

CONCERNED

FAMILY AND

FRIENDS OF

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

215-476-8812

WWW.Mumia.org

ICFFMAJ@aol.com

PO BOX 19709

PHILADELPHIA

PA, 19143

Release Mumia Abu-Jamal Now! Parole the MOVE 9 2008! Hands off the

Free all political prisoners!

San Fran 8!

Stop the War!

THE THIRD
SATURDAY
AFTER THE
DECISION
THERE WILL BE
A NATIONAL
DEMO IN PHILLY
AT NOON AT
13TH AND
LOCUST!

(1) The bulletin boards continue to announce more memorials as dead faces line the walls on an almost daily basis. Surely some of these men could've/can have a positive impact on the communities outside. There can never be enough wisdom out there that people can benefit from. Especially in the wake of the vicious streak of violence plaguing the inner cities.

Finally, while death is inevitable to us all, in here and out there; terminally ill men should at least get to spend their last days of breathing with family and friends. Along with this letter to prison officials I'm calling on all Ministers, Guards, Rabbis, Chaplains, Priests, and Imams to have the courage as men; the moral imperative as spiritual guides; and the willingness to adhere to your conscience as human beings and do what's right: Put forth an intense effort to gain the release of some fathers and grandfathers who continue to languish in here unjustly (in every sense of the word) and without any more clear penological and rehabilitative purpose.

The months of April and May of this year alone have had more than twelve deaths.

Charles Sims Africa, AM-4975 A-Block A1-015

(1) One of many who've succumbed to a terminal illness and is now deceased. And I have witnessed many other stricken men die in similar fashion between 2002-2007.

Cc: Philadelphia Tribune Newspaper;

Cc: Senator Shirley Kitchen, 1701 West Lehigh Ave., Phila, PA 19132

Cc: www.onamove.com

# THE STATE OF THE S

#### LONG LIVE **IOHN AFRICA'S** REVOLUTION!

"SOLIDARITY IS UNITY, WITHOUT UNITY YOU CAN'T HAVE REVOLUTION"

QUOTE **<u>IOHN AFRICA</u>** 

Article by Phil Africa

On the MOVE!

My revolutionary greetings to all those engaged in the work needed to eliminate this rotten reform world system that has its enslaving boot on the necks of us all. In these days and times more than ever, the need for people the world over to understand and apply the urgent need for solidarity between all peoples is without question.

JOHN AFRICA explain how "Unity, Solidarity" ain't words but an activity, the activity of doing the work needed for all peoples, causes, cultures, religions, races to work together for the common good to be free of the vicious oppression of this system that is being suffered by folks world wide.

It is the goal of the MOVE Organization to make it clear to all peoples that this system is not just a threat to us but to us all. Ain't no one safe from this monster as long as it's allowed to exist. There is not a day that goes by that I don't see on the news, read in a paper, a zine, publication, letter about a political/social/class prisoner being unjustly buried away in these hell holes called prison. Although a huge number of political prisoners, POW's are being denied release, denied parole year after year from these places, po' folk, folk of color, folk that don't fit the "status quo," common folk everywhere are being viciously beaten, murdered, and jailed by the police, this system, just because of the color of their skin, their religious or political beliefs or cause they ain't in the right tax bracket or any other excuse this system wants to make up to attack them for.

Those of us in these prisons see it every day and know that it is already going on out there, people just don't realize yet just how much all the shit done to us in these hell holes is being packaged to be put on y'all out there! More cops being hired everyday and for "who?" Can't be for us already in jail, it has to be for y'all out there!

This system is using "fear" to trick people into giving up what little so-call freedom they have and what people don't willingly give up this system is going to take if folks don't come together in solidarity and face this monster down.

Hours after that Today Show interview, a Web site maintained by the conservative Media Research Center, accused a Today host for taking "up the cause of the convicted cop killer [by asking] skeptical questions ... about the legitimacy of Abu-Jamal's guilt..."

Asking questions, is exactly what journalists are supposed to do ... but too frequently don't do in the Abu-Jamal case.

The Today Show presented a balanced segment on the Abu-Jamal case, says media expert, Dr. Todd Burroughs.

"It was good to see Faulkner and Smerconish finally being asked some critical questions about the legitimacy of Abu-Jamal's trial and all of the evidence that points to a set-up," said Burroughs, who teaches at Morgan State University and is writing a journalistic biography of Abu-Jamal.

Burroughs feels Abu-Jamal supporters need to present "more actual news ... and less vigils and symbolic tribunals."

The news media needs to recognize that pain in this case extends beyond the understandable pain of Faulkner's widow.

Linn Washington Jr. is an award-winning writer who teaches journalism at Temple University

Mumia's case is at a pivotal moment. His last appeal is currently in the 3rd Circuit Court of appeals and could literally be decided any day. Please stay informed by emailing ICFFMAJ@aol.com and subscribing to the listserve. For current info go to www.freemumia.com, www.freemumia.org or www.abu-jamal-news.com which is the best site to learn of the Polakoff photos. Also, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia needs monetary donations to continue organizing at this most important time. Please send those to The National Black United Fund -40 Clinton St.

Newark, NJ 07102

(Checks must be earmarked "Mumia Organizing")

"With that being said, I had no reason whatsoever to protect a man accused of murdering him — a man that I did not even know," Jones wrote, stating her belief that Abu-Jamal "is innocent."

With news media brushing off 'hot-button' items like pain, the brush-off of crime scene photos is somewhat understandable.



The photos above and below show that Office Faulkner's hat was moved from the top of the car to the sidewalk for police photos.

One of those crime scene photographs shows the spot were prosecutors proclaim Abu-Jamal straddled fallen Policeman Daniel Faulkner, firing a pistol point blank at the officer, missing three times before blasting Faulkner between the eyes.

But this photograph shows no bullet holes or other marks in the sidewalk consistent with high-powered bullets being fired into that sidewalk as prosecutors told the jury

that convicted Abu-Jamal and judges who have repeatedly upheld his conviction.

One presenter at that press conference described how he sent this sidewalk

scene photo to a satellite photo imaging enhancement expert for the US space program.

No bullet holes in the sidewalk raises serious questions about the contention that Abu-Jamal killed Officer Faulkner.

Eyewitnesses ignored by authorities said another man shot Faulkner and fled the scene.



Page 25

While local news media brushed off the photos, the Today Show presented those photographs late last week during a feature segment providing a national launch for Mrs. Faulkner's book.

A few tamed questions about the photos and concerns about Abu-Jamal's conviction angered Faulkner, her co-author (Philly media personality Michael Smerconish) and their conservative allies.

Each day people of the world and around this country watch and suffer as this rotten system inches forward with it's vicious racist plans for "world domination" or their "new world order" as it sometimes refers to itself. While people are mouthing the words of equality/justice/harmony the work needed to stop this system continues to stagnate because of the lack of real unity, solidarity between the masses, the oppressed, and the restrained.

Anyone who watches how the police are training for "urban warfare" should realize that they are the folks living in urban areas. This system has created a "us or them" environment and that means anyone who stands up and speaks out against the crimes these officials commit, exposes the mentality this system promotes that breeds gay bashing, hate crimes, racism, sexism, war, police brutality, rape, eco issues, child abuse, the death penalty and every other crime imaginable, is a target for this system's agents.

If you are with those who speak out against this stuff, then you are in danger of this system making you the next victim of its hateful tactics. These prisons are "training grounds" for what this system is planning for all those who oppose it and is why we tell people that they ain't got to fight for us but that they need to fight for themselves because everything that y'all see happening to us in these hell holes is what the system has in store for y'all too!

The years in isolation, the vicious beatings and other forms of torture, listening to your phone calls, video taping your every move, keeping files on your family and everyone else connected to you that they can find out about and this is just the tip of what these rotten bastards have in store for those who oppose them. There are those who "talk" about how foul this system is, but few who truly understand what this system can and will do all of these things and more to them. So folks better come to the understanding that it is yourselves y'all need to fight for against the evils this system is going to heap on



So no matter "what" y'all call yourselves, whatever "causes" y'all-support, folks have to understand that this system is out to get you. At a time when this system is constantly talking about stamping out "terrorism," "getting tough on crime," saying there is to be no compassion or forgiveness for criminals, there is no mention of applying that same attitude to the murderers who "conspired together" and dropped the bomb on my family on May 13, 1985, resulting in the deaths of 11 MOVE members including 5 children! Such atrocities are never to be "forgotten and forgiven!" Yet when you hear them politicians talk about getting tough on crime, talk about the need for the "death penalty," they never push to apply it to themselves or their "assassins in blue" who carry out their terrorist oppression of the poor and those of color.

On May 13, 1985 our family was bombed for demanding something as simple as asking for an honest investigation of our case and for that this system murdered 5 of our children, 6 of our brothers and sisters and animals in our care. So don't fool yourself about what this rotten system will or won't do.

JOHN AFRICA explain that people don't have to do anything wrong to be persecuted by this system, all they have to do is be available and this system will do the rest. This system will create the excuse to kill and jail people at will and everyone needs to understand that and fight against it for your own safety and the safety of those you love and struggle with.

This system knows all struggles are linked together, because any one this system feels is not in support of this system and its evil goals is seen as an enemy of this system and this system will stop at nothing to get at you. The issue of this system putting people This system knows all struggles are linked together, because any one this system feels is not in support of this system and its evil goals is seen as an enemy of this system and this system will stop at nothing to get at you. The issue of this system putting people in jails for ages, murdering folks on the street, denying people parole, pardons, etc. is all things that all people should be aware of and fight against because it is aimed at them. Everyone has a family member in prison or one who has been in prison or knows someone who has been to jail. That's the reality of things and is why we are telling people that they need to fight for themselves if noth

A group interestingly called Journalists for Abu-Jamal held a press conference in West Philly last week to release previously unseen photographs of the 1981 crime scene.

These photographs graphically contradict core elements of the case presented in court against Abu-Jamal yet not a single local mainstream news organization sent a reporter to that press conference.

Given the local media's propensity to ignore evidence of Abu-Jamal's innocence while constantly hyping Maureen Faulkner's pain, it's not surprising that the pain of others impacted by this case falls from the media frame.

One of those long-sufferers is Veronica Jones, a person at the 1981 crime scene and a person who authorities pressured to give false testimony against Abu-Jamal.

Jones, in a recent letter to a national news organization, described the "intimidation and humiliation I was force to endure because of this case."

Only 20 years old at the time of the crime, Jones said assaults by authorities have "plagued" her entire adult life.

"If there were no merit or questions looming regarding Mr. Jamal's innocence, then can someone please explain to me why so much effort [has been] exerted to publicly try to discredit and humiliate me?" Jones wrote.

"Having me handcuffed and arrested while on the witness stand when I tried to come forward with the truth is one such example of the intimidation, threats and bullying I've endured since December 1981," said a pained Jones.

That handcuffing incident took place during a 1996 appeal hearing for Abu-Jamal immediately after Jones testified that she lied under police pressure at the original '82 trial.

Blatantly pro-prosecution judge Albert Sabo allowed NJ detectives to arrest Jones while on the witness stand for what turned out to be a bogus criminal charge.

Observers tagged that unusual in-court arrest action as intimidating retaliation against Jones.

If the media see no news in Jones' pain, perhaps there is news in her feelings about Officer Faulkner? Faulkner "helped and looked out for me several times" Jones wrote.

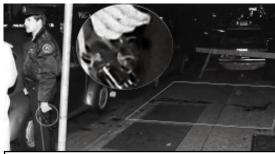
# Abu-Jamal case goes beyond weeping widow

By Linn Washington Jr. | 12.12.2007 (originally published in the Philadephia Tribune)

While guilt or innocence in the controversial case of death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal remains hotly contested after 26 years, it is clear that a lot of pain pervades this case.

Not surprisingly, most news media coverage of "pain" in this case centers on the pain borne by Maureen Faulkner.

Faulkner is the widow of the Philadelphia policeman whose Dec. 9, 1981 slaying set journalist Abu-Jamal on a path towards execution.



Above, one of the newly surfaced crime scene photos which clearly shows that the police mishandled evidence, falsified caused by cries that Abuevidence and contaminated the crime scene.

Jamal was unjustly convict-

Last week Philadelphia's mainstream media again fawned over Maureen Faulkner, this time focusing on her newly released book "Murdered by Mumia."

This book describes Faulkner's two-decades of pain and her anguish caused by cries that Abu-Jamal was unjustly convicted

Faulkner continues asserting her absolute belief in Abu-Jamal's guilt while assailing those she perceives as siding with Abu-Jamal from Philadelphia Mayor John Street to the late, legendary actor/activist Ossie Davis.

Philadelphia's news media, while focusing on Faulkner's pain, again turned its' collective back on new "news" further undermining the proof-pillars upholding the conviction of Abu-Jamal.



issue 13 of the Friends of MOVE newsletter

Page 23

ing else because this system has y'all in its sights.

Whatever people consider themselves: socialists, communists, nationalists, radicals, leftists, revolutionary, pacifists, religious, or whatever, people need to take a stand against this system's aggression on their right to be safe and free to believe as they wish.

This system is using these prisons as training grounds for the tactics it plans to inflict on those of you out there that don't goosestep to its rules. Look at how this system trains death squads around the world, trains dictatorships in the ways of torture, has the most people in prison in the world, one look at how this system mistreats those held in prison camps n Iraq, Cuba, and elsewhere this system holds people without trials, without legal representation, no contact with family and subjects them to all forms of torture just like they do those of us in these kamps we're in, let's you know what this system will do to you.

Who would thought years ago that this system would be labeling "Animal Rights" and "Earth" groups terrorists?! So people need to realize no matter what they are about, one thing y'all all need to do is take a stand against this runaway insanity this system is promoting before you become this system's next victim!

I want y'all to take care and stay strong out there and fight for yourselves and loved ones to be safe from this rotten system and the only way to be safe is to join in the work needed to eliminate this system for the good of all life. Be united and stay revolutionary.

"When oppression oppresses people to revolt, the way of true revolution is to press on with examples of revolution so that when a people rebel they will not be discouraged by seeing no way out except to go back to the very adversary they're rebelling against". . .

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA!

Ona MOVE!

Minister of Defense

Phil Africa

issue 13 of the Friends of MOVE newsletter

Page 1

 $\mathbb{Z}$ 

To all those in the struggle that fight for freedom, justice, and equality. This is a statement from the MOVE 9 for encouragement to be strong, stay strong and keep fighting for what's right.

JOHN AFRICA has taught us the meaning of true union, true revolution. Revolution is not war but peace, it does not weaken, but strengthens.

It is our position that finally all of our situations are the same because it all comes down to one thing-the oppressor waging an all out war against any resistance by the oppressed. It's no different than what the oppressor has done to resisters historically.

What we're experiencing ain't no different than what they experienced. We must never let out oppressor, the real criminals convince us that resisters, freedom fighters or the oppressed are criminal and belong in prison. How can oppressed people be convinced that Leonard Peltier belongs in prison when the people saying this are perpetuating the stealing of his whole country, slaughtered, butchered, raped his people into virtual extinction and got the Indians living on reservations in their own country.

How can oppressed people be convinced that Mumia Abu Jamal should be executed, based on the accusation of murder while also convinced that police commissioner Gregore Sambor, Wilson Goode, and their co-conspirators that murdered MOVE's family May 13, 1985, belongs in political office and deserves to collect a pension? How can oppressed people be convinced that Veronza Bowers belongs in prison on alleged murder charges when the US government murdered his Panther brothers? How can oppressed people be convinced that MOVE are criminal and belong in prison when the oppressor (cops and officials) murder daily on suspicion in the name of legality, political duty, patriotism? The US jails are full of poor folks, minorities, freedom fighter, revolutionary folks that ain't done nothing compared to the stuff these crime oriented gangsters do, and some ain't guilty of nothing at all but the suspicion of the cops, lies of the DAs, prejudice of judges.

online 2008 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records, in a section on cult suicides, MOVE (in the text, it actually reads, erroneously, "The MOVE") is listed as one case among six.

When she contacted the Guinness editors, she received an answer citing a London based group called the Cult Information Centre (CIC) as the basis for its listing.

As the MOVE Organization has noted in its online public message: We are not a cult, we're an organization, and we certainly did not commit suicide on May 13, 1985. The U.S. government dropped an incendiary bomb made of C4 on our home. The bomb ignited a fire and the fire department refused to do anything to put out the fire. They made a conscious decision to let the fire burn. Our home was a blazing inferno. 11 MOVE men, women, babies and numerous animals were burned alive because of that fire and because cops deliberately shot at us as we tried to escape that blazing inferno. It's documented that fragments from police bullets were found in some of the bodies of murdered MOVE people. That is not suicide; it's deliberate murder.

In the Oct. 19, 2007 reply letter from Guinness World Records' editor-inchief, Craig Glenday, the London based company cites CIC as a "credible source" for its report, and includes a section of CIC's self-description from their web site. They insist their data is both "accurate" and "correct."

Question: Why is the CIC account more "credible" than that of Ramona who was in the house and almost burned to death? It is a measure of the arrogance of those in positions of power and influence that no one ever bothered to contact MOVE before adding it to a suicide list - nor the one adult who survived this mass murder.

circulating currently an online petition http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/OnaMove/signatures.html (or simply contact: www.onamove.com The organization designed the petition to direct both Guinness and the CIC to retract this dangerous notation. Sounds like a plan.



And as we struggle to free Life from bondage, from enslavement and exploitation, we also grow stronger, wiser, healthier, and our example is clearly seen in us by everyone that encounters us. I never met any MOVE person, I never met **IOHN AFRICA**, but I feel them closer to me than any-body else. This is the true meaning of Family, of togetherness. It surpasses time or space. And this is something that no guns, bullets, bombs, missiles, or whatever so-called weapon can stop. This is a spiritual force which covers everything just as sunshine covers the earth, the oceans, and even penetrates the ocean. No matter how hard you try bombing or shooting at sunshine, it will keep on shining.

So I say ON THE MOVE to all of you who believe in Life first, who believe in Freedom enough to fight for it after it has been stolen from you, I say LONG LIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS, LONG LIVE FREEDOM, LONG LIVE LIFE, LONG LIVE OUR MAMA, and LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA the Founder and Father of MOVE, who influenced me and continues on influencing many more throughout the whole world. The power of Truth is final! ONA MOVE!

-Omar Africa.

Omar's YouTube videos of Bro. Raekwon interviewing Delbert:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W50r76oWDWI&mode=related&search=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9xVmQrByZg&mode=related&search=

## Guinness Records: Massacre or Suicide?

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

For millions of people worldwide, the Guinness Book of World Records is the definitive source for matters great and small.

Many a conflict has been resolved by reference to it, for it is seen as the last word. It appears that there are more copies of its books in bars and taverns than there are in libraries.

But in at least one case, the venerable record keeping agency has been called into serious question. That case is of the May 13, 1985 MOVE Bombing, where 11 men, women and babies were killed by Philadelphia police.

The problem arises when the Guinness company notes and records the event as a case of mass suicide -- not mass murder. MOVE's Ramona Africa, who narrowly escaped being burned to death during the bombing, heard about the reference, looked it up on the Web, and -- voila! -- there it was; in the

JOHN AFRICA explained that this system don't see the truth. They don't act on what's right, they see just what they been trained to see. They see a "nigga" robbing a bank but they're blind to the conditions that caused it. They see a Puerto Rican stealing a car but they're blind to the conditions that caused it. They see an Indian commanding a Wounded Knee but they're blind to the conditions that caused it. They look down at the dope addict but overlook the inventor of dope. Look down on the alcoholic but look up to the industry that sell it. They spit on the way of the prostitute but overlook the invention of prostitution.



They endorse industry and reject the workers, they jail radicals and dismiss the conditions that caused them. They support the CIA and reject its victims, calling poor white folks, minorities, unprofessional, illiterate folk trouble makers and calling professional, money, literates true representatives of everything  $\pi$ that's clean-play up unschooled, unprofessional, poor folks crimes for everybody to see and playin' down schooled people's crimes, guardin' it, shadin' it, hidin' it when all that filth comes out about these politicians, money people, legal people, professional people. JOHN AFRICA

teach that revolutionary-minded people should never let ourselves be categorized or divided despite any so-call differences because finally we have the most important thing in common, the oppressor and any so-call differences are second to that. The one thing this system fears more than anything is unity among the people because true unity puts an end to this conflict and war. STAY STRONG, STAY LOYAL, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE ANY OTHER WAY!

## LONG LIVE **JOHN AFRICA'S** REVOLUTION!

The MOVE 9

# Innocence and Parole by Janine Africa

This is an update on the parole situation. We want people to see the seriousness of the situation, see how the parole board is unjustly keeping innocent people in prison. Innocent people like James Capozzi, he was convicted of rape and murder. He went in front of the parole board 5 times and was denied parole all 5 times because he would not say he was guilty.

After 20 years in prison, DNA tests proved that James Capozzi was innocent and he was released from prison. But what if he had given into the parole board's coercion and said he was guilty just to get out of prison?! He would have been labeled a sex offender, a murderer in every community he moved to and every job he worked at. If he was paroled, just because you admit to guilt does not guarantee parole. It just goes on record so it looks like the cops don't arrest innocent people, the DA don't prosecute innocent people, the judge don't convict innocent people and everybody in prison is guilty.

Since writing these articles about the parole situation there has been over 200 people proven innocent by DNA testing and released from prison. But what about the innocent people whose cases can't be resolved through DNA testing? There are thousands of innocent people in these prisons, including us, the MOVE 9. A lot of these people are being forced by the parole board to do the maximum time of their sentence or falsely admit to guilt in order to have a possibility of being parolled.

This is an urgent situation and should be treated as such because innocent people are being held captive in prison. Being in prison is hard enough when you feel you've committed a crime but imagine how it is for people who know they're innocent and don't belong in prison. Imagine how you would feel in a situation like that. It could easily be you or somebody you love because as you can see, you don't have to commit a crime to be put in prison, you just have to be available and the cops will do the rest. It's just as JOHN AFRICA teach, unless you are rich, you are not immune to these conditions. This fight for justice today will keep you and your family safe from injustice tomorrow.

On the MOVE! Janine Africa

Everyone thinks that anything must be imposed, must be forced... but that is not true. The greatest things are seen when they come together into harmony. I am an Aikido practitioner, and if any other Aikido person is reading this, know that all of this is no different than the Philosophy and Teaching of the founder of Aikido. Same goes for Yoga people, and for all people and cultures that are linked to nature and living in harmony with Natural Law.

There is nothing wealthier than the Natural world that Mother Nature, that God has put into our reach. The system makes people think that wealth is money, that it's gold, jewelry and all that... it's not that at all. People have to understand, that true wealth doesn't even need to be labeled "wealth", and doesn't need people to put value into it for it to become valuable. Money is only paper until someone comes and makes people believe that it is valuable. As for pure water, clean air, fertile soil, lush environments, all of those wonderful things in this World, are automatically valuable for each and every living being. They don't need anyone to value them so that they can be seen as valuable. They are already valuable, because they come from Life. They ARE Life. And it is only Life which is truly valuable. If you limit your whole existence to something that is dead, then you are as dead as that thing you value. We use money to trade things with people, since society has already given it a value, but that doesn't make us believe that it is more valuable than Life. When you believe in Life before anything else, when you protect Life and revere Life first, everything else falls into place, harmoniously and righteously.

This is what people should understand from MOVE. MOVE's goal is to value Life before anything else. And to make this truth be seen to everyone in the system, in society. All the problems people have today don't come from the force of Life. They come from a distortion of Life. And we don't waste time by theorizing and being philosophical and stuff, we just make people understand that once you go back to the source, to Life, to a trusting of Life and knowing what Life is truly worth, then all their problems will dissolve within time. And as they dissolve, you become wiser, stronger, healthier, happier, more honest, more straight forward... and every so-called problem begins to find its solution harmoniously and it is that very thing that makes Life worth living as it is meant to be.

For us, the importance in giving MOVE an international base seems fivefold:

- a) get the MOVE prisoners out, free Mumia Abu Jamal and free all political prisoners
- b) learn from the MOVE experience, practice and insights
- c) create solidarity amongst revolutionaries wherever they are and whatever strategy they apply
- d) weaken the internal and external policies, government and elite of the United States of America by whatever means necessary and help the peoples to govern themselves
- e) overthrow capitalism, put an end to exploitation, war, the death penalty, the prison system, inequality, the destruction of nature, the warming of the atmosphere, the extermination of several lifeforms, the pollution of the air, waters, food, emotions and the protection of the wellbeing of life (and as far as I'm concerned human life first and foremost)

ONA MOVE,

Morocco

My name is Omar Africa. I was born and raised in Morocco, north-western Africa. I have discovered MOVE by accident, on the internet in 2004. It is not until I wrote to sister Ramona Africa in 2006 after reading about her for a couple of years, not knowing it was her e-mail address, that I began becoming a MOVE person little by little. I was already calling myself Omar Africa from before, because I was so touched by MOVE. The more I explored the teachings that MOVE take to heart, the teachings of a wonderful human being known as **IOHN AFRICA**, whose teachings have come straight from truth, from righteousness, from mother nature, and not from any school or university in society in the system, I began comparing it with my own life from the day I was born up to this day, and seeing the example of MOVE people, I began understanding that MOVE must be taken very seriously, because one day it is the Teachings of **IOHN AFRICA** that will be the last hope to save not only humanity, but all of Life from destruction. People should understand, that these Teachings are not an invention, not a creation like a new language or something. This is not a MOVE thing. The Teachings of **IOHN AFRICA** aim at all of Life. It is simply a way to understand how Life truly is, going back to the source, and automatically you begin to realize what is right and what is not right. All begins to flow into order harmoniously -- a way that most people have either lost or forgotten.

Belgium

My name is Peter terryn. I formed a Belgian Chapter of FFMAJ and a local Friends of MOVE branch. This is our story as it relates to your questions:

As a radiojournalist I was in the US in '94. The so called L.A.-(or Rodney King) riots had sparked my attention to the fact that all kinds of contradictions were alive in the US. I knew some history and was e.g. familiar with the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, had read a great deal about them, knew the story of Malcolm X and had read "A People's History" by Howard Zinn among other books. So basically, I was wondering what was going on as far as African-Americans were concerned and so I convinced my producer to send me to the States for research and interviews.

A friend of mine (Frank Vercruysse) - a keen listener of hip hop music, discovered some shout-outs in several albums (PARIS POWER) to what they considered to be the follow up to the BPP. We just went to the office mentioned in the album and came to meet a lot of people amongst whom some former BPP-members. had visited Fred Hampton Jr. in prison and the day before I was due to return home, someone asked me whether I was flying through Philadelphia. And when I said I was, he told me about Mumia Abu-Jamal (being a former BPP-member) and the MOVE organization. He advised me to get in touch with Ramona Africa and listen to her story, which I did. We spoke about three hours the evening before I had to catch my plane and I recorded the entire history of MOVE which I published on my return in a booklet called 'The History of MOVE as told by Ramona Africa'.

What attracted me to MOVE at the very beginning was it's link to the BPP and the fact that Delbert and Mumia had been members. After hearing Ramona's story however, I was utterly shocked and in disbelief. The idea that this could not be true in the States in this epoch came to mind. But suddenly I remembered having seen the bombing of Osage Avenue and the destruction of the entire block on the news in my home country. At that time the newsmedia called it 'the deliberate mass-suicide of a cult'. So it bore a lot of similarities with what had happened in '93 in Waco, Texas to the Branch Davidians. I have returned to the States several times since for further research (e.g. in the Urban Archives at Temple University) and was amazed with my findings.

I guess I became a friend of MOVE the evening I first talked to Ramona but even more so in '94 when I became totally convinced to the fact that they were being railroaded by the political and judicial system and imprisoned on the basis of an unfair trial. The utter insanity of convicting 9 people to a hundred years each should say enough for anyone with a sound heart and mind. But having gone through the transcripts of the trial, I became convinced that even I had to do something. There were no official 'Friends of MOVE' chapters at that time.

What really made me active tough was an interview I did with Mumia Abu Jamal in '95. Whilst he was being transfered to Philadelphia, I had the rare opportunity of speaking to him. He was behind glass of course and while he was talking about being a radiojournalist himself, standing up against racism, police brutality, ... I saw the reflection of myself in the glass. And all of a sudden, I saw this talented journalist, engaged in changing the world for the better and standing up for the powerless and being the voice of the voiceless. I basically saw myself (all be it that Mumia is far more talented). And since I got to meet him personally, I couldn't stand the idea that he was going to be killed. I could no longer just 'report' on him being murdered.

Of course (as any sane human) I was opposed to the death penalty long before that encounter, but knowing fully well that a man I knew personally was to be executed, made it impossible for me to sit by and watch.

I have met several MOVE members. At meetings, in courtrooms, at their homes, at parties, in prisons, in parks, at barbecues, on sidewalks, whilst shopping, at a concert, etc. I stayed at some of their houses several times and was welcomed as a long lost friend each and every time. The interactions were extremely friendly, helpful, open. We never discussed politics much, not in the sense that **JOHN AFRICA's** teachings were piled up on me or that they tried to explain the 'system' or get me into MOVE or wanted me to do things for them. I always felt they were extremely friendly and balanced and intelligent. Outspoken of course, but that sounds like a quality to me as well.

I invited several MOVE members to Europe on different occasions. I organized meetings for them with young people, trade-unionists, members of Parliament, politicians, radicals, people opposed to the death penalty, Christians, artists, students, immigrants, vegeterians, peaceniks, smokers and non-smokers, musicians and some idiots as well. We took them on a tour from Paris to Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam and London.

Each and everyone attending each and every event was shocked to hear what MOVE had been through and are still experiencing. Most people found it unbelievable that a government which states it is there to uphold someone's rights, freedoms and to protect the wellbeing of the people, could do something like that. But of course it wasn't hard to make people know better. All we had to do was mention Hiroshima. Or Nagasaki. Or Vietnam. Or Iran. Or Guatemala. Or Nicaragua. Or Colombia. Or South Africa. Or the death penalty in general. Or the fact that over 40 million US citizens live in poverty. Or that over 2 million are imprisoned. Or the story of Sacco and Vanzetti. Or the Native Indians. Or slavery. Basically, it didn't take long to make the audience understand that in fact repressing people and murdering or imprisoning them wrongfully is not an error BY the system. It IS the system.

As far as the reaction to MOVE's ideas was concerned, you might say there were as many different reactions as there were people attending. Some agreed with their analysis of 'the system' but preferred to call the system by a more common name. Capitalism e.g. Others had questions about the use of violence and would propagate nonviolent means. But those usually forgot that it is the state that is the most violent organization of all. Still others agreed that 'mama nature' needed protection but they wouldn't call it their mama, just nature. And still others just wanted to stick to eating meat, smoking cigarettes and getting drunk. Some others went quite a long way along with the ideas of MOVE but didn't want to get babies so they were in favor of legalized abortion and the use of contraceptives.

I don't know of anyone who saw MOVE as the Long Awaited Saviour and became an instant devout member. And I don't think MOVE would have wanted it that way.

The strategy of MOVE (which is basically summed up in their name: MOVE, take a step, get up, do something) was heralded by many as revolutionary, newsworthy, and applicable. The idea to actually confront the system, capitalism, the war mongerers, the destroyers of nature and life, the military-industrial complex, the neo-liberals, the neo-cons, the fascist, etc, by standing up, opening your mouth and taking a stand, appealed to many. Some others were less convinced and sticked to the notion that in order to awaken the proletariat and overthrow the bourgeoisie you need a party which is based on the historical, materialistic and dialectical principles as put forward by Vladimir Illich Olianov, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Page 17