

Mumia 'n 4th of U Lie
by: Del Jones, W.C. July 4, 1999



We were hauling ass by car through South Carolina hurling toward Philly when a news flash interrupted some bad music. A voice seemed to shout “In Philadelphia a well known Black journalist shot and killed a police officer this morning.” As organizers for the Committee for Pan-Afrikanist Development, we knew every Black journalist in town. The moments between us running through our mental data bases and the reactionary news reporter continuing his propaganda seemed like hours.

“Mu-me-ya abu-Jamal” he stammered to the shocked listeners in the car. We immediately, pulled over to the side of the road and glared into the darkness of night whispering to no one in particular... Mumia ? What da hell are they talking about?

When we reached Philly, confusion was everywhere, but people were organizing to support the brother, a brother they loved and respected. His beautiful mother and his dynamic sister Lydia represented properly with a determined dignity even though public speaking and political organizing was new to them.

Ms. Cooke passed while Mumia was locked down, but she believed in her son and knew he was innocent. The pain of separation and the passing of

his Mom while he languished in jail for a crime he did not commit was probably more than most of us could bear.

My mind travels back to that hot July in 1982 and I could feel the restlessness of the jury to get home to their family for their “4th of U Lie” holiday celebrations. Consequently, I knew that any serious deliberation of Mumia’s case was not going to happen as the jury shifted uncomfortably to get the hell out of there and into their Amerikkkan fantasy. Further, because Mumia was not allowed to represent himself, he was left to the incompetence of Black Attorney Anthony Jackson, who was not a criminal lawyer and it has been alleged he might have had a drug addiction at the time. In any case, he was forced on Mumia to insure victory and Mumia was not allowed to fire him.

A few days earlier, I was called as a character witness for Mumia and I took the stand right after Poet Sonia Sanchez had testified. I thought the tactic was wrong, using Sanchez and the War Correspondent. We were not gonna make any points for the defense. But Mumia was about more than points, he was about truth and we could easily represent what he meant to the ‘Hood.

As I took the stand I looked out at the crowd, scanning Press Row where I had been seated, to see the worse cowards and apologists for this foul shit-stem. Many in Press Row were shocked that I would move from their false objectivity to be a character witness for the accused. F**k them. My eyes fixed on Vernon Odom, the Black reporter from channel 6, and I wondered how he could nudge me at the railroad job the brother was gettin’ but when the camera lights went on he helped set the scenario for the legal lynching for his viewers.

“In a hail of profanity Mumia abu-Jamal was removed from the courtroom...” He reported. He had blurted out many times that Mumia was outta control. Even though, he knew better he sold Mumia out with other members of The Association of Black Journalists. The fact that Mumia was their president made the shit stink even more. That should never be forgotten, all young aspiring journalists should be made aware that the shit-stem is gonna ask that ya bend over without the grease and you should represent for us or be branded “traitor.’

I continued to scan and I saw Mumia’s family, supporters and MOVE

members bearing witness to this railroad job. My eyes caught the gaze of beautiful Theresa Afrika, who weeks earlier, had given me some important documents on Officer Faulkner. She would later be murdered by the city's anti-Black military (police) during the shot-in on Osage Avenue that left 11 Black people dead, the community terrorized and dozens of houses burned to the ground.

Naturally, while white supremacy was killing off the family MOVE, then Philly Mayor Wilson Goode and all the so-called Black Elected Officials were praying under tables at his house with their rubber stamp printed on the bomb of death. So much for justice concerning Black Politicians. They are part of the lynch mob. Since we refuse to understand their neocolonial relationship to us and their masters we still debate silly shit as if people like Jesse Jackson and Vernon Jordan really work for us. Meanwhile, we watch them function for Amerikkkan foreign and domestic policy like cabinet members. Getcha head outta the damn sand yo!

From the seat on the stand I looked at the Family of Officer Faulkner and saw that their vision was distorted by hatred after the death of a relative. And when Assistant District Attorney Thomas McGill approached, as ugly as televisions Barney Miller, I could see in his eyes ambition, deceit and hatred. I thought to myself, "now this punk is a pure devil, f**k him."

Ya see, he knew he had no case, and was/is part of those manufacturing evidence, hiding witnesses, intimidating people and semantically clouding the issues. I looked dead at him and wondered if he would even qualify to be a lawyer if there were justice in Amerikkka. How could he lose this case I thought, Judge Albert Sabo was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, he has always gotten away with placing minority defendants on death row. The broadcast and print news organs were using anti-Black, anti-revolutionary and anti-Mumia propaganda to prepare people for the gallows. How could he lose?

In addition, Mumia was not allowed to represent himself simply because he would have beat this clown (McGill). As a matter of fact, they didn't even allow him in the courtroom. So the world was not allowed to hear him protest the sham trial and call the shit-stem out... seen?

Yeah, we were moving toward the "4th of U Lie" at a brisk pace and the system had Mumia like a blood thirsty pit bull and it was never gonna let

go unless somebody killed that dog.

Seventeen years ago with “4th of U Lie” picnics on the brain the shit-stem called for Mumia’s blood in a legal lynching that has the world up in arms. The organizing by The Family and Friends of Mumia has been something to be proud of. But the rumble continues, see where you can plug in.

Remember, that the word picnic is slang for when they picked a Nigger and killed him or her as a sacrifice at the alter of blood. The Alter that people like Judge Sabo, Former D.A. now Philly Mayor “Fast Eddie” Rendell and McGill were spawned on... Free Mumia!

**It’s a privilege to be Afrikan,
but Afrikans must unite!**