

Taking Liberties

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY 10th AUGUST 1995

On Prisoners Justice Day, August 10th every year, we remember those who have died in custody; at the hands of screws or police, but also those driven to take their own lives by the brutality of the prison system, or whose health has been worn down by inhuman conditions. An unofficial death penalty allows over fifty people a year to kill themselves in prison and this death toll is rising every year.

Prisoners Justice Day was originally started in 1975 by Canadian prisoners, commemorating the suicide of Eddie Nolan in Millhaven Penitentiary. Now every 10th August is marked in Canadian prisons with work-strikes, demonstrations by supporters, radio broadcasts, and protests. Over the last few years the day has broadened to become an international commemoration and protest at the deaths of prisoners.

In previous years the ABC Network has picketed Brixton and Pentonville prisons in London, Armley in Leeds and Winson Green Prison in Birmingham, all infamous for their brutal regimes and suicides (or murder by screws) of inmates. Last year we picketed Holloway in London in solidarity with women prisoners.

This year there are events taking place around Prisoners Justice Day in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Durham, Lewes near Brighton. If you want more details, contact us on the address over the page. Or organise your own event - at a prison, court or copshop near you.

Join us in making Prisoners Justice Day bigger than ever this August 10th, whether you support our actions or hold your own events.

Another Prisoners Justice Day event:
CLASS WAR PRISONERS BENEFIT GIG

with

BOLO
THE 1926 COMMITTEE
FEAR OF FEAR

adm:
£3
£2 concs

at: The George Robey, Seven Sisters Rd, N4
Finsbury Park tube

MONDAY 7TH AUGUST, 9 PM - 12

PROTEST AGAINST DEATHS IN CUSTODY

This year on August 10th, London ABC is focussing on deaths in police custody. Although Prisoners Justice Day is traditionally about inmates of jails, both prisons and police enforce a 'justice system' that keeps us 'in our place': and both are equally contemptuous of our lives - especially the lives of black people and other minorities that the cops feel they can attack and get away with it.

The horrific murder of Brian Douglas on May 8th this year by Kennington police officers, who had struck him several times on the back of the head with a US style long baton, is one terrible example. Another is that of Shiji Lapite, a 34-year old father of two, who died at the hands of Stoke Newington police in December last year, a lethal neck-hold crushing his voice box.

And do the killers ever get charged? Rarely. No action is being taken in Shiji Lapite's case - for 'lack of evidence'. And if they do get charged, killer cops hardly ever get convicted; as the death of Joy Gardner two years ago, and the recent acquittal of the cops who suffocated her, shows. Police, like prison officers, have a licence to kill.

We are holding a picket of Stoke Newington police station, as infamous for its drug dealing and corruption as it is for police brutality. Needless to say none of the cops involved have been brought to justice, short of being given desk-jobs for a while.

Whatever the police and prison authorities do to us, we must continue to fight back and work for a society where we organise our own justice.

Too many people have been destroyed by the sick capitalist system we live under, or killed in the struggle for a better life. **WE WON'T FORGET.**

DEMONSTRATE AT:

**STOKE NEWINGTON
POLICE STATION**

**33 Stoke Newington High St, London,
N16**

**Thursday August 10th
12 noon - 2pm**

London Anarchist Black Cross

ACT NOW FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a radical African-American journalist and activist on death row in Pennsylvania, USA for a 1982 conviction for the murder of a Philadelphia copper. Despite overwhelming evidence of his innocence (obvious forensic mismatches, witness changing stories, etc) and the blatant judicial racism and political bias in his legal case, Mumia and his supporters have unsuccessfully battled to have the evidence heard in the courtroom for thirteen years and now seem to have lost the legal battle to save his life. All Mumia's legal appeals have been exhausted, a death warrant has been signed: he is due to be executed on the 17th August '95.



Mumia has been consistently targeted for his activism. In his youth he was an organiser of the local Black Panther Party, facing police and state harassment like the rest of the Panthers. More recently he was a supporter of the black ecological/revolutionary group MOVE, which was targeted for repression by Philadelphia cops: culminating in the police bombing of a MOVE house in 1985 that left 11 dead. Despite imprisonment and simple tactics, like denial of a typewriter or much library time, Mumia has not been silenced. He continues to write articles and essays on a wide range of political issues. The police managed to get a series of radio broadcasts by Mumia from death row dropped from national radio, and also tried to pressure the publishers (Addison Wesley) of Mumia's new book, *Live From Death Row*, in to stopping the book. However, this move was unsuccessful.

The fight for Mumia's life now goes critical. It is vital that we oppose this legal murder by any means possible.

As part of our commemoration of Prisoners Justice Day, London ABC is organising a protest to demand Mumia be repleved and freed.

**SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST,
MEET AT: OXFORD CIRCUS, London, W1,
at the ARGYLL ST exit from the underground,
AT 12 NOON SHARP**

There are various other events happening in London in support of Mumia and campaigning against his execution. The **FRIENDS OF MOVE** are organising a non-stop 24-hr. picket of the US embassy from August 1st -17th. Contact them at: PO Box 3069, London, SW9 8LU. Tel Bryan on 0181 519 9228.

Other actions are being organised by the **PARTISAN DEFENCE COMMITTEE**, BCM Box 4986, London, WC1N 3XX, Tel. 0171 485 1396.

**Support other actions against
police murders in the same week:**

**NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
JUSTICE FOR
JOY GARDNER AND BRIAN DOUGLAS**
both killed by police in London.
**SATURDAY AUGUST 5TH
ASSEMBLE EMBANKMENT, LONDON, WC1
12 NOON**

PICKET HAMMERSMITH POLICE STATION
Shepherds Bush Rd, London, W6
MONDAY AUGUST 7TH, 6 - 7PM.
**FREE MALCOLM KENNEDY/
JUSTICE FOR PATRICK QUINN**
Patrick Quinn was beaten to death by police in
Hammersmith Police Stn., in December 1990. They
then framed Malcolm for the murder.
He is still doing time.

The above events are not organised by ABC or part of any Prisoners Justice Day actions, but we give them our full support.



THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

The Anarchist Black Cross Network aims at practical support for working class prisoners. We believe that prisons are part of a 'justice system, including cops, courts, judges, lawyers, the lot, that is used to control us, in the interests of the rich and powerful who run this society. The ABC support s people jailed for resistance to this exploitative system, eg: strikers, revolutionaries. We support people framed by the police. We support black people defending themselves against racist attacks and women jailed for fighting back against violent partners. We support people organising and fighting back against the prison system from the inside. We welcome contact from prisoners, their friends and relatives and anyone interested in our work. We actively support prisoners with letters, publicity for their cases and struggles, demos, material aid, and encouraging other people to write to and support people inside. Ultimately, we work for a class-based movement that will destroy prisons, along with the rest of capitalism, in a revolution to create a real classless society. People working together without leaders or bosses, without exploitation, hatred or terror, for a world community based on co-operation.

For more information on Prisoners Justice Day, or on prisoners, prison struggles or the ABC, contact:

London Anarchist Black Cross
c/o 121 Railton Road, London, SE24 0LR
Tel: 0171 274 6655 Fax: 0171 326 0353