

IN MASSACHUSETTS

413-586-4407
PO BOX 4690
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO / ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

212-969-0448
PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA
NEW YORK, NY 10025

APRIL 1989 SCHEDULE

WED. APRIL 19 7:30 p.m. Northampton 25 Main St. #218	CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VENCEREMOS BRIGADE! OPEN HOUSE! Come, join us. Literature, Trial Updates Refreshments	WED. APRIL 19 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. North Star Seafood Bar DANCE: Benefits WMASS Cuba Delegation
SAT. APRIL 22 11:00 a.m. Vigil Pulaski Park Northampton	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PRISONERS DAY Come, Join Us, Demonstrate Your Support for Our Brothers and Sisters Around the World *RAIN DATE: APRIL 29th*	
WED. APRIL 26 4:00 p.m. Springfield Federal Courthouse 1500 Main St.	JOIN US IN A VIGIL AFTER COURT DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS. DON'T LET THE OHIO 7 STAND ALONE!	

APRIL

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UPCOMING COURT DAYS

WHERE: Federal Courthouse, 1500 Main St.
Springfield, MA—5th Floor

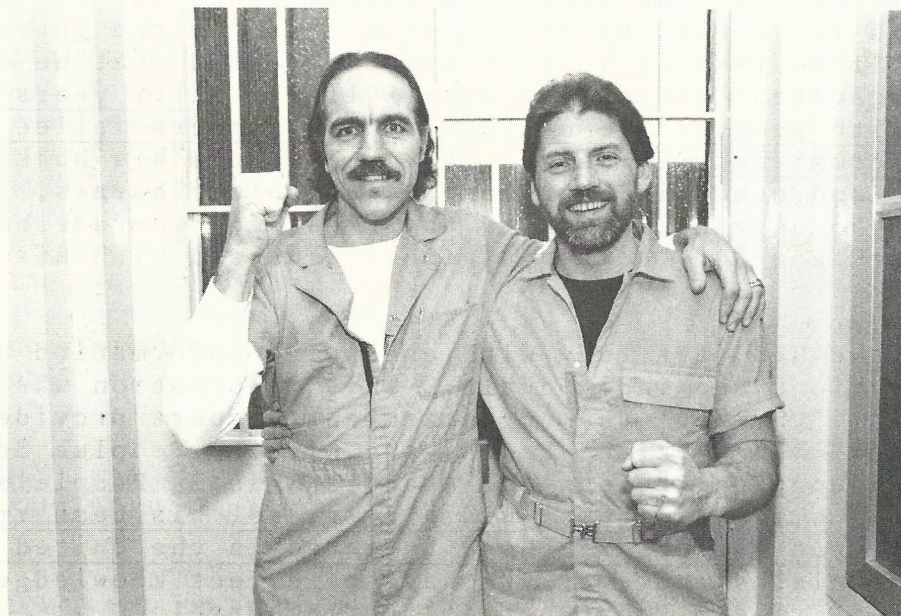
WHEN: 9:30-1:00, 2:00-4:00

The Ohio 7 need your presence in the court-
room! **YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER
AND EXIT AT WILL.** No photo I.D.
necessary. Call 586-4407 to arrange a ride or
someone to go with you.



May 2nd court only til 1 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Wed. 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



VENCEREMOS

THE MAKING OF A MAJOR SNITCH-FELIPE NOGUERA

TRIAL UPDATE: APRIL

During the week of March 20 thru 23rd, government informant and VIP snitch Felipe Michael Noguera took the stand as a government witness. Noguera (Black Hispanic male, born 7/30/55) was formerly a political activist with some of the defendants of this trial. He is presently Secretary General of the Caribbean Association of National Telephone Communication Organization (CANTO). He currently resides in Trinidad.



Noguera's collaboration with the government began with an interview he gave to members of the fbi's Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) in NYC on 12/3/84. Instead of refusing to answer questions, Noguera has admitted he tried to lie his way through the questioning which immediately subjected him to possible prosecution (lying to fbi agents is a violation of federal law). Not surprisingly, he was immediately subpoenaed to the BosLuc grand jury (gj) sitting in Boston.

For 5 days in February, March, and August, 1985, Noguera testified before the grand jury. He has admitted on the stand that he also lied extensively under oath to the gj. He says he stopped lying when the U.S. attorney talked to him several times outside the presence of the gj and told him that if he didn't perform as expected, the government would nail his ass to the wall. If prosecuted and convicted for each act of perjury, he would face over 100 years in prison.

In September, 1987, Noguera appeared as a government witness in the trial of Kazi Toure (s/n Chris King) and testified against his former best friend.

Noguera has testified that the reason he initially collaborated with the gj was because he was frightened by the immense power of the government to jail him for contempt if he refused to testify. He stated that he feared losing his job and the resultant disruption of his life. After years of rhetoric and association with progressive organizations, Noguera failed his first test of character and commitment. The U.S. attorney broke his back, molded him into an informant and uses his testimony as a tool to harass, intimidate and imprison others. Noguera has betrayed the trust and comradeship of his former associates for the bourgeois comforts he has attained with his many university degrees.

Noguera provided the U.S. attorney with extensive information on dozens of political organizations and individuals. This information was immediately funneled to the fbi. Some of the organizations Noguera provided information on were the National Black United Front, the African Peoples Socialist Party, Marxist-Leninist Education Project and Amandla/Amandla People's Security. He also snitched on his own sister, his girlfriend, his best friend, a large number of community activists and those targeted in the United Freedom Front investigation. He claims, however, to have no direct knowledge of the operations of the United Freedom Front nor of its membership.

HUNGERSTRIKES IN SOUTH AFRICA & WEST GERMANY CONTINUE: A CALL FOR INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY

*** On Jan.23,1989, over 300 South African political prisoners, members of various anti-apartheid organizations, initiated an unlimited hungerstrike against the law of preventive detention.

***On Feb.1,1989,58 West German political prisoners of the anti-imperialist guerrilla organizations-Red Army Faction and the June 2nd Movement, the anti-imperialist resistance, the Kurdish nationalist movement and militant social prisoners began an unlimited hunger-strike for the freedom of association and against isolation and torture/sensory deprivation.

SOUTH AFRICA



from South Africa: The Cordoned Heart. Photo by Omar Badsha.

BACKGROUND:

Since the South African government declared its State of Emergency in June '86, it has detained over 30,000 people in an effort to stave off the revolutionary mass upheaval. Over 1000 political detainees, many of them children, are still in preventive detention after nearly 3 yrs. They have never been tried; they face no charges. Often their families have no idea of what happened to them or where they are. Anti-apartheid organizations have been robbed of their leading cadre while prisoners, families and communities suffer severely. The effects are comparable to those of the "disappearances" of activists in Latin America.

PRESENT SITUATION:

After the S. African gov't reneged on its promise to release political detainees (only 600 have been released) dozens of detainees have resumed their hungerstrike. The apartheid regime is meanwhile separating them by sending them to small local jails, thereby depriving them of mass solidarity and information about the nationwide strike.

The Hunger Strike Support Comm. maintains that the gov't is continuing to make arrests of activists and detain them without charges or trial. Within a 3 week period there has been 50 new detentions.

THE HUNGERSTRIKERS ARE NOW CALLING FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES!!

WEST GERMANY

BACKGROUND:

The prisoners of the RAF have been fighting isolation and sensory deprivation torture for 18 yrs. They have undertaken 9 hungerstrikes which have resulted in 12 deaths and physical impairment for many. The use of sensory deprivation torture is exemplified by the "Toten Trakte" (Dead Wings) unit of Stammheim/ Stuttgart where one prisoner is confined alone in an entire wing that has been otherwise vacated. The cells are sound-proofed, lights are under the guards control, exercise is taken alone in outdoor cages, mail is rigorously censored and limited, visits are noncontact and are monitored by state security police. RAF prisoner, Bernard Rossner, has endured 11 yrs. of this form of total isolation.

PRESENT SITUATION:

Of the 58 prisoners initiating the strike Christa Eckes and Karl-Heinz Dellwo endure the longest. All others temporarily suspended it, going over a chain system (as used by the IRA in '81) whereby every 2 weeks 2 more prisoners join the fast until demands are met or until death. **Christa and Karl-Heinz, after 60+days are heroic examples of revolutionary spirit. The German gov't is in a quandry as how to respond. Dialogue has been stressed by the gov't, meaning the request for capitulation of the prisoners' politics, a condition that none of the RAF prisoners will accept. The gov't states that it fears reprisals by any of the 1000s of people who support and sympathize with the prisoners.



Stammheim:

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THESE HUNGERSTRIKES ARE SIGNIFICANT TO U.S. POLITICAL PRISONERS,
THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS !!!

- 1) Preventive detention has taken many forms here: exorbitant bails, the grand jury subpoena, and the 1984 No-Bail law.
- 2) Solitary confinement and isolation has been used extensively against political prisoners for the past 2 decades: most recently recognized at the Lexington and Marion Control Units.

RAF prisoner Helmut Pohl says on behalf of the hungerstrikers (Feb.1, '89):

"Everyone who wants to, knows what isolation is; it is understood and defined internationally as torture. Isolation has become the rule for imprisoned revolutionaries here, whether from the guerilla, the resistance, or foreign comrades; it is being increasingly adopted internationally as the clean perfidious method of the fine West German-Europeans.
So isolation must be broken here"

In a letter, dated 3/29/89, Christa Eckes writes: "It's one fight against torture, isolation and criminalization, as it is one fight worldwide to break through against the imperialist power and achieve revolutionary change."
***About her reported "failing health situation" she writes, "no medical problems, it's a fight for coming together"

2 NEW FORMS OF REPRESSION HAVE RECENTLY BEEN LEGALIZED IN WEST GERMANY.

COMA LAW: Originating out of the '84-'85 hungerstrike in Germany, this law allows the gov't to step in as legal guardian as soon as the prisoner enters a coma to administer nutritional treatment, until they regain consciousness and refuse it again or give in. What can occur is a hideous form of torture, forcing the prisoner to hover on the brink of life and death. This technique is considered "cleaner" than the obvious torture of force-feeding!!!

PARAGRAPH 129a: Called an "anti-terrorist" law, it makes a crime of "membership or support of a criminal or terrorist organization". This law is being used widely to try to imprison public activists, prisoners' relatives, and attorneys based upon mere evidence of political support/association. In a new escalation of the use of this law, the FRG may bring P.129a against the hungerstrikers, asserting that the prisoners are members of "terrorist organization" in prison. The hungerstrike now becomes an act of terrorism!!!!

THE STRUGGLE IS ONE AND WILL BE WON!!

The struggle waged by the RAF prisoners and their attorneys' international work with Amnesty International and the European Commission for Human Rights laid a foundation for the successful campaign to close the Lexington Control Unit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!!!

**The Resistance Conspiracy Defendants have renewed their call for a solidarity fast on the 1st and 15th of every month until the strikes end. All supporters should write to Amnesty International and urge them to investigate the hungerstrike and take appropriate measures.

***Amnesty International, 322 Eighth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10001

***telegrams can be sent to: Ambassador

South African Embassy
3051 Mass. Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Ambassador
FRG Embassy
4645 Reservoir Rd., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

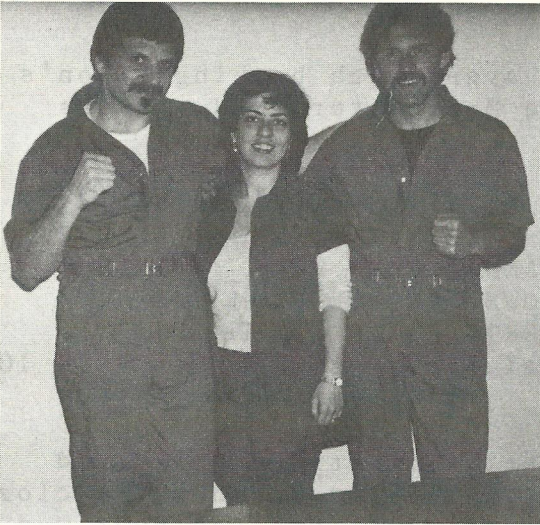
***Solidarity statements : Hungerstrike Information Office c/o GAL

Bartelsstrasse 30
2 Hamburg 36
Federal Republic of Germany

***** African National Congress
801 2nd Ave., Suite 405
N.Y., N.Y. 10017

****RICHARD WILLIAMS HAS DECIDED TO FAST EVERY WED. IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE HUNGERSTRIKERS---
WE COMMEND HIM FOR HIS POSITION!!!

***Tim Blunk provided indispensable information and prose for this insert.



Jaana Laaman, Barbara Curzi Laaman,
and Richard Williams.

Hi. Sitting here in Leavenworth Penitentiary, on my 41st birthday(3/21), with Spring just beginning, a fresh breath of new life and hope... is an appropriate time to put down some biographical thoughts.

Captured combatant/political prisoner since 1984, community, labor and student activist since the 1960's, underground work from 1971. Father of a wonderful 7yr. old son and two fine daughters, 15 and 13, who I share with my comrade-wife, Barbara.

From a close knit blue collar family, thankful to have my parents still alive and having 3 brothers, 2 sisters, most married and joyful, I am an uncle of an increasing number of little ones.

I am Estonian, having immigrated to the usa with my family when I was 3. My grandfather was part of the anti-czarist Bolshevik struggle, but sadly I

never knew him. My parents were not socialist or politically active.

We lived in the Roxbury section of Boston until I was 10. I feel fortunate in having first learned something about racism and working class survival as a kid in a black community. We then moved to the west side of Buffalo, a predominately Italian neighborhood. School was always easy but my teen years I was more interested in girls, streets and cars than anything else. At 16 getting a car and money was more important than school so I quit. I went to work in car lots and eventually made it to the steel mill.

This was during the mid-60's and the Vietnam war was heating up. Many of my friends got drafted and some returned in body bags. Meanwhile, jobs at major industries were suddenly available as war production went up and young workers were drafted. While at Bethlehem Steel I was part of a wild cat strike led by younger black and white guys from our local. Fighting the company, cops and union bureaucrats taught me alot about the power of unity of workers.

Police and trouble were constant features in my neighborhood. In 1966 I was convicted of assault, given a 5 year sentence and spent the next 21 months in Elmira and Wallkill prisons. Thrown into a brutal prison at 18 ,I had to learn quickly how to survive, but I also began thinking of what was happening and why. I finished high school and took some college courses and began some serious reading.

I left prison in early 1968 and went to Cornell Univ. where I ran into and joined SDS protesting against the war and racism. For the next 2 years I attended the U. of New Hampshire. I was very active in the anti-war movement, did draft counseling, co-founded a SDS chapter and did some regional organizing. I worked with marxist groups and came to consider myself a moaist. We supported National Liberation and labor struggles and, in particular, the Black Liberation Movement in this country, especially the Black Panther Party. From Vietnamese I learned that revolution was a protracted effort and in order to be successful, it had to be multi-leveled, utilising all meathods of resistance.

After the 1970 invasion of Cambodia and the killings at Kent and Jackson State, the U. of New Hampshire went on strike. Soon after I lost my scholarship and returned to Buffalo. I began doing anti-racist work with youth gangs. Soon my parole was violated and I was sent to Attica.THERE I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH DEDICATED REVOLUTIONARIES LIKE SAM MELVILLE.

I got out of Attica in the Spring of '71. I did some public speaking about the struggle in prisons and soon became a target of police surveillance. unwilling to go back to prison on some trumped up charge or to give up my revolutionary work, I went underground.

In Feb. of '72, I was injured and captured and charged with bombing Nixon's re-election headquarters and the police station in Manchester, N.H.. I was convicted and sentenced to 20 years.

I spent the next 7 years in captivity: 5 years in N.H. state prison and 2 years in Lewisburg and Atlanta. I helped prisoners fight for HUMAN RIGHTS, FILED LAWSUITS AGAINST BARBARIC CONDITIONS, MET AND WORKED WITH SOME OF THE MOST DEDICATED FREEDOM FIGHTERS I'VE EVER KNOWN- PEOPLE FROM THE BLACK LIBERATION ARMY REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRICA, PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENISTAS AND WHITE REVOLUTIONARIES. In '78, I won an appeal, had my sentence cut to 10 years and was released.

I moved to Boston and became active in anti-racist, community security and South African support work. Shortly after arriving, I met my soon to be close comrade, Barbara Curzi and her two wonderful daughters. Before the year was up we moved together as a family.

In '79, I was active as an organizer and a martial arts instructor for the Amandla Festival of Unity. The idea was to fight racism in Boston while building support for Southern Africa. After the concert, Amandla People's Security continued offering Tae Kwon Do training and doing security at cultural events, rallies and at people's homes when they were under racist attack. As a teacher and organizer in this, I drew surveillance and threats from the cops and reactionaries. By '81, with two young girls and Barbara pregnant with our son and in order for me to continue to do revolutionary work, we went underground.

We were captured in Cleveland, Ohio on 11/4/84. Since then I have been convicted in Massachusetts of being in a shoot out with State Police and received a 39 to 45 year sentence. Then I was convicted and sentenced to an additional 53 years in the Ohio-7 trial in Brooklyn federal court. We were charged with the actions of the United Freedom Front, including bombings of the South African government facilities and u.s. military and corporate sites. In August of '88, my comrade Tom Manning and myself had all charges dropped against us in the on-going Ohio-7 Sedition Trial in Springfield, Massachusetts.

I have never denied nor admitted any of these charges.

I am guilty of no crimes.

But, I am proud to say I am a revolutionary and fully support National liberation struggles and socialist revolution!

FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE!!!



L. to R.- Larry Giddings, Jaan Laaman, Leonard Peltier,
John Young, Wolf Zhang, in rear.

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Noguera also provided the government with the necessary information to decipher various codes and initials contained in notebooks seized from a Cleveland, Ohio, home. He stated that the codes were necessary to protect individual's identities from reprisals by the police, ku klux klan and other fascist elements. The government used Noguera's information to strengthen their investigation and to subpoena others before the gj. One of those subpoenaed was Carol Hill who refused to collaborate and spent 8 months in a federal jail!

The U.S. attorney's questioning of Noguera concerning his knowledge of the activities of the National Black United Front reveal the sort of FISHING EXPEDITION A GRAND JURY IS. It also reveals how a reluctant witness can be had to collaborate beyond what is the pronounced scope of the investigation. Noguera volunteered information on the goals of the NBUF, the role of the Boston chapter in organizing demonstrations protesting the police murder of a young Black youth named Levi Hart, infighting within the organization, Noguera's meeting in Grenada with NBUF leader Rev. Herbert Daughtry, etc. He also provided the gj with the name of a man associated with the NBUF that community activists thought to be an agent provocateur. Just the sort of information the police like to get their hands on.

Noguera has testified that in 1980-81, he felt a "war situation" existed in which Black and other Third World people were under attack (a situation we all know still exists!). He cited the growing influence of the ku klux klan and other fascist elements. Specifically, he testified about the killing of unarmed Black youth in Boston, NYC, Atlanta and Buffalo. During that period of time 14 Black women were raped and murdered in Boston and, as elsewhere, the police did nothing about it. He testified, that at his request, a gun was provided to him and he was instructed in how to use it and in the safe handling and breakdown of the weapon. He then turned around and snitched on everyone who provided him with the training that could save his life, a training he described as "self-defense training".

Felipe Noguera is a classic example of the "judicial terrorism" personified in a political grand jury. He was questioned by the fbi. Instead of refusing, he lied. Caught in the trap, he collaborated with the gj. Caught lying again, he provided information well beyond the scope of the investigation. Subsequently, others were subpoenaed, some of whom collaborated at Noguera's urging. By this time, Noguera was groomed into a government witness and testified at 2 political trials.

His cooperation strengthened the fbi's investigation and sent a chill thru the community. He told the grand jury that people were fearful of being subpoenaed and that an air of suspicion hung over everyone as none had any idea what those who chose to collaborate were telling the gj. One of the questions repeatedly asked of Noguera was his opinion of the mental attitude of various people to the investigation and the possibility of their being subpoenaed.

TREACHERY HAS MANY FACES!! FELIPE MICHAEL NOGUERA IS ONE OF THEM. AS OF THIS WRITING HE HAS ONE DAY OF TESTIMONY LEFT.

Emergency Appeal

America's only political prisoner on death row, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has been denied his appeal to have his death sentence overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Mumia's appeal had also demanded a new trial. The March 6 high court decision ignored a multitude of fair trial violations and refused to consider the political motivations which were central in prosecuting Mumia and getting him sentenced to death.

"As a former Black Panther Party spokesman and an outspoken MOVE supporter, Jamal has been in the cross hairs of Philadelphia's racist killer cops for over 20 years", said Partisan Defense Cttee. staff counsel Rachel Wolkenstein in a press release. At the time of his arrest, Jamal was President of the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia. He earned the cops' undying hatred especially for his sympathetic interviews with imprisoned MOVE members after the 1978 cop seige.

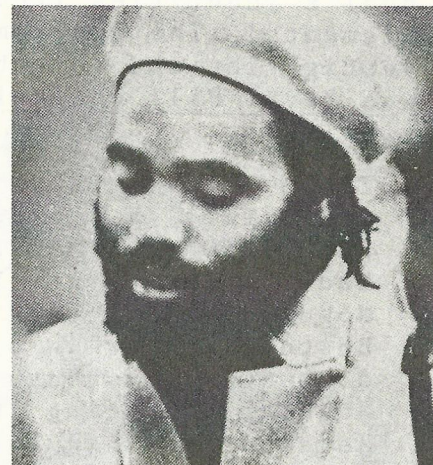
Mumia was framed up in the killing of a Philadelphia policeman in 1981. At the 1982 sentencing hearing, the prosecutor argued for the death sentence by claiming that Jamal's having been a member of the Black Panther Party showed he was a committed cop-killer. The jury was assured that the death penalty would never be carried out, that Jamal would have "appeal after appeal". For years the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had held in other cases that this obviously false argument mandated automatic reversal of the death sentence upon review. But in its March 6 decision the court ignored its own precedent in its push to silence Mumia by execution.

Mumia was targeted because of what he wrote and said, because of who he is: a radical Black man who became known as "THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS". At his trial, Mumia was denied counsel of his own choice. To get a hanging jury of 11 whites, the court permitted the seating of a white juror who admitted he could not be impartial, while excluding 12 prospective black jurors simply on the prosecution's request.

Jamal's appeal was supported by amici curiae (friends of the court) briefs from ACLU and the National Conf. of Black Lawyers. Ron Dellums, now chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, appealed to Pennsylvania's Gov. Casey "to remove the cloud of death from Mr. Abu-Jamal" in a letter last Nov. Thousands of people around the nation have petitioned the governor to demand "MUMIA ABU-JAMAL MUST NOT DIE" as part of a campaign initiated by PDC.

TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT NOW TO THE GOVERNOR: Gov. Casey
Main Capitol Bldg.
Room 225
Harrisburg, PA.
17120

FOR PETITIONS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
PARTISAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 99
Canal St. Station
New York, N.Y. 10013



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