

Noelle Hanrahan, Esq.

June 21, 2022

Dear friend
~~_____~~

It is hard to type, even harder to call. But I will call - actually I have to call. I need your support. We need your support.

It always gets more difficult when freedom is at hand. Always.

We are standing on the precipice. And we are in this together.

The work is thrilling. Overwhelming. Taut with hope and desperation.

Practically every day I speak with Marvin Pete Walker Jr. (Shaka) on the phone. We are on the path to his freedom after four decades on California's death row. His next hearing is on July 12th. His release or retrial looms.

His case requires my urgent attention. In the past three months he has suffered 2 heart attacks. He recovered last year after being hospitalized with COVID.

I am his lawyer, along with local co-counsel Nolan, Barton, & Olmos. I cannot bring him home alone, or even with an army of lawyers. It will take all of us to make this a reality. Your company is critical.

Getting up at 5:30 am this past Sunday, I drove route 309, past Allentown, to see Mumia Abu-Jamal at SCI Mahanoy in Frackville, PA. Making it there and staying connected is brutally hard and often wearing to the point of exhaustion.* Imagine Kafka on steroids. On this visit, at least, there were no snarling drug dogs circling my pockets for dog biscuit crumbs.

Today it was banal - yet somehow equally crushing - oppression. I was on a legal visit-in an open room, with a recording camera and microphone just above our heads. Stocked full is a soda machine at the back of the room. Aquafina water on every shelf, behind a sign reading "Out of Order. Use the next one." When you try "the next one," it flashes "Sold Out." No water fountain. Why have a water fountain when you can commodify water! No food. Except a few pork hoagies. No privacy. Even for the 6th Amendment (right to counsel). The visiting process is designed to limit human contact. The place is practically empty. Only 9 men get to have visits. You are not allowed to get up, stretch or - god forbid - walk.

Yet, we continue. We plan, strategize, and we will realize freedom.

We need you to help make these freedom dreams a reality. Can you give the largest amount you have ever given us? If not that, can you give double what you gave last year? Can you donate a building? Stock? A car?

We are so close. Your gift will help us make our next strategic, crucial, step.

Today, I have to buy two flexible, coast-to-coast plane tickets for \$2500. Dead of summer airfare. I have to make the hearings. We are spending close to \$4,000 a month on staying in touch with our correspondents: visits, gas, tolls, plane tickets, broadcasting dispatches from inside. We need \$20,000 for the next phase of Shaka's release plan. We need \$2K a month for office and archive space in Philadelphia. Big Movie in the works. New Book. New Trials. Survival. And we need a car to get to the prison (our good friends are loaning us cars right now, but that offer is wearing thin).

Mumia Abu-Jamal has a hearing in the Common Pleas Court of Pennsylvania before Judge Lucretia Clemons on June 29th. Any day now the law division of Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner's office will file their response. The prosecution violated Mumia's constitutional rights by striking African Americans from the jury. This is called a

P.O. Box 19559, Paul Street, Philadelphia PA 19124

Batson violation, after the case that established that the prosecutorial practice of removing African Americans was unconstitutional. The prosecution buried evidence of promises and payments made to key witnesses for their testimony. This is called a Brady violation, after the case that established that the prosecutorial practice of not providing material evidence beneficial to the defendant, to his counsel, was unconstitutional. The court should order an evidentiary hearing, and in fact it could simply order what is called for: a new trial.

Mumia has a life expectancy of 5 years, following double bypass heart surgery in March of 2021. His conditions of confinement are awful. His diet and his lack of exercise (being confined in an 11' by 7' cell for 21 out of 24 hours a day) will cause additional cardiac events. Mumia is exhausting his administrative remedies regarding cardiac rehab. We are filing Right To Know Requests, getting copies of the prison menu. We are challenging the Kafkaesque justification for the prison industrial complex diet, basically diabetes and heart disease on a plate.

This moment must be met with immediate and strategic action. The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) have promised to try to intervene and delay any new court hearing. They have been emboldened by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which heard their frivolous Kings Bench Petition. Why this is deeply troubling is because Maureen Faulkner, speaking at an FOP event, told me, "We know we cannot win, we just want to delay Mumia's release as long as possible."

Let me just say that

Every commentary we record is a record of collective pain, resilience and triumph. www.prisonradio.org.

Our correspondents at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Michigan are speaking out about a tangled mess of malicious abuse and criminal neglect. We reached out to organizers in Michigan who were able to launch a grassroots campaign to demand a state investigation. This is just one example of leadership from the inside guiding work on the outside. We are poised to help the world hear this critical information.

We rely on you. We just do. To keep us traveling to the prison and keep the phones on. You are a critical part of that small circle.

We are in the final home stretch to freedom and, yes, abolition. Please join us.

Cuando luchamos ganamos, When We Fight, We Win



Noelle Hanrahan, Esq.
Prison Radio

P.S. In terms of how we show up. Four years ago, I decided to use the money from selling my house in San Francisco (when I bought it, it was a teardown 650 sq ft shack with - I kid you not - literally, a dirt floor). When I sold it, I used that money to send myself to Rutgers Law School, and to study and pass the PA bar exam. I invested that \$120K in freedom. No pension, no IRA, just freedom.

* Jamal Jr (Mumia's grandson) had been taking the bus to town and walking for an hour through rural "up south" Pennsylvania to get to the prison. We just had to have a working car and we have made a commitment to make sure he can visit. Honestly, that is not all that easy. 220-mile roundtrip and four hours by car. The 1997 Ford Ranger (no air conditioning, no radio, no airbag) is god-awful but, yes, that truck is still a blessing. I am just not sure it has many trips left.