



Mumia Abu-Jamal Health Timeline- Anatomy of Institutional Elder Abuse

BY DR. RICARDO ALVAREZ, MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S WESTERN MEDICAL CONSULTANT

Below is a partial outline of the harms done to Mumia, and Mumia's contribution to the Narrative of Institutional Elder Abuse

The Night of the Injury- The beatings after being shot

- 12.9.1981- Mumia suffered from a bullet that pierced his lungs, fractured his rib, went through his kidney, and lodged near his spine. He was choking at the scene from his own blood and gasping for breath.
 - beaten by police at the scene, described in court-documented testimony of witness Dessie Hightower (who dared to speak the truth and was subsequently harassed by the police and lost his employment as a result)
 - beaten in the paddy wagon with police radios by the senior police officer who was notoriously corrupt and under investigation for charges of corruption and tampering with evidence
 - arrived at the hospital 20 minutes after the slain officer
 - beaten at the entrance of Jefferson Hospital, described in court-documented testimony of witness Dr. Regina Culdemo

After the Operation to Remove the Bullet

- Survives the operation and describes, in his classic article [A Christmas Cage](#), examples of deliberate police violence in the hospital

"I awoke after surgery to find my belly ripped from top to bottom, with metallic staples protruding. My penis strapped to a tube, and tubes leading from each nostril to God knows where, was my first recollection. My second was intense pain and pressure in my already ripped kidneys, as a policeman stood at the doorway, a smile on his moustached lips, his name tag removed and his badge covered. Why was he smiling, and why the pain? He was standing on a plastic, square bag, the receptacle for my urine!

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PMB 1006, 447 Sutter St., Suite 405, San Francisco, CA 94108

Phone: 415-360-0033 Email: paroleelderabuse@gmail.com Website: paroleelderabuse.org

“Am I to trust these men, as they attempt to murder me again, in a public hospital? Not long afterwards, I was shaken to consciousness by a kick at the foot of my bed. I opened my eyes to see a cop standing in the doorway, an Uzi submachine gun in his hands. ‘Innocent until proven guilty?’”

- Describes suspicious, or at the very least, dangerous freezing temperatures for a patient trying to prevent pneumonia

“After I was transferred to what's laughingly referred to as the 'new hospital' wing of the Detention Center, I found out what 'cold' really means. For the first two days, the temperature plummeted so low that inmates wore blankets over their prison jackets.... Other inmates and a kind nurse supplemented my night warmth.

“The prison issued one bedsheet and one light wool blanket. When I protested to a social worker, she told me defensively, ‘I know it's cold, but there's nothing I can do. The warden's been told about the problem.’ Why am I concerned about cold? Because the doctor who treated me at Jefferson Hospital explained that the only real threat to my health was pneumonia, because of my punctured lung. Is it purely coincidental that for the next week, I spent some of the coldest nights and days of my life? Is the city, through the prison system, trying to kill me before I go to trial? What do they fear? I told this all to my prison social worker (a Mrs. Barbara Waldbaum), and she poo-pooed the suggestion. ‘No, Mr. Jamal, we want to see you get better.’ ‘Not hardly,’ I replied.”

Hepatitis C

From Affidavit of renowned Hepatologist Stacey Trooskin, submitted 9.29.2019

- Hepatitis C Liver Cirrhosis caused by prison medical delay and neglect
 - 1.23.2012- Mumia diagnosed with Hepatitis C
 - 1.5.2015- first test to even look for liver damage almost 3 years later, and no testing for a Hepatitis C Viral Load, which by community standards is done at the onset of diagnosis.
 - 3.15.2015- first imaging of the liver, suggesting harm to the liver
 - 8.12.2015- first viral load test over 3.5 years after the Hepatitis C diagnosis
 - 2.16.2017- repeat imaging demonstrating a cirrhotic liver
 - 1.3.2017- After an extensive and contentious trial, U.S. District Judge Robert Mariani granted Mumia's motion for a preliminary injunction, ordering health care staff on the DOC's Hepatitis Care Committee to give Mumia Hep C treatment. This is a powerful spiritual portal now.

- 1.10.2017- PA DOC appeals the injunction in its attempt to prevent and continue to delay Mumia's treatment

Prison Caused Diabetic Ketoacidosis

- Prison Medical Induced Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Caused by a Lack of Monitoring of Dangerously High Glucose and Administering Repeated Steroids
 - 2.14.2015-3.2.15- Oral steroid taper is given to Mumia for worsening rash.
 - 2.19.2015- A one-time injection of steroids is used.
 - 2.24.2015- Mumia is noted to have swelling of his legs- lymphedema
 - 3.3.2015- Labs are performed and showed dangerously high glucose levels over 400, and high levels of glucose in the urine. (Steroids can cause high levels of glucose and swelling of the legs.)
 - 3.13.2015- Medical consultation with a specialist misses the life-threatening elevation in glucose levels caused by the multiple steroids administered
 - 3.17.2015- Another oral steroid dose is given by a doctor who had previously noted the dangerously high sugar but did nothing about it.
 - 3.24.2015- Mumia presents to sick call urinating a lot and with high blood pressure (both side effects of the high sugar and the steroids), and again, no action was taken on the dangerously high sugar.
 - 3.30.2015- Mumia is hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit of the Schuylkill Medical Center with diabetic ketoacidosis, a serious and life-threatening manifestation of uncontrolled blood glucose.

COVID - The Lie and the Illness

[The Only Treatment is Freedom: Mumia Abu-Jamal and COVID](#)

- Early February 2021, rumors that Mumia had COVID prompts a call to action to call the prison to confirm his safety and status. A PA DOC staff member lies on a supporter's recorded call that Mumia was seen in an ambulance and was going to a hospital for what the staff member thought was COVID. A follow-up call to the same employee by the same supporter now recorded this employee's denial of his name and that he ever had that conversation. Professor Johanna Fernández spearheads an international call to establish the truth of Mumia's status and prepare a press conference with the recordings to demonstrate the complicity of the PA DOC in deliberate deceit.
- Prof. Fernández back channels the prison, insisting that Mumia be brought to the phone

outside of all protocol, or else she would hold the press conference. Mumia is brought to the phone, and she connects him to the entire conference call in a pivotal moment in the movement. He shares that he is fine, and he hears Janine and Janet Africa shout out their powerful love for him. He also sends an important message to try to “heal in the family as best we can,” which becomes foundational to understanding how to live in Love Not Phear.

- 2-26-2021- Mumia calls Mama Pam Africa and advises her that he is sure he has COVID
- The Movement mobilizes to get him care, and we are told repeatedly that his COVID tests were negative
- 3-3-2021- A press conference is held in front of the DA’s office, and he is told again that he does not have COVID, only to receive a call from his medical attorney to confirm that the fourth test is positive
- Mumia is denied release from prison despite the ongoing epidemic of COVID in prisons at that time, which was disproportionately killing prison elders. Mumia’s safety for release [Dr. Alvarez Interview](#)

Exacerbation of his Chronic Skin Condition and Shackling-

- It is also discovered that Mumia was placed in 4-point shackles that prevented him from scratching the severe exacerbation of his skin condition. As [Professor Fernandez](#) described it:

“In the approximately five minutes remaining of this timed, monitored and frequently interrupted prison call, I learned that per Department of Correction protocol, this sixty-six-year-old man diagnosed with COVID and Congestive Heart Failure, undergoing diuresis (removing fluid by promoting urination) and with an infernal skin condition, was shackled to the bed for four days during his recent hospitalization. He explained that while he had wounds all over his body, the bloody wound of his lower leg — captured in the photo taken by the nurse at the prison infirmary upon his discharge— he got from the shackles that dug into his already raw skin during the entirety of his four day stay in the hospital. He added that the nurse missed the ones on his other leg and the ones on his lower arms.”

Congestive Heart Failure

- 2.27.21-3.21.21- In this same hospitalization for COVID, it is revealed that the mobilization for Mumia’s evaluation revealed he was diagnosed with new-onset Congestive Heart Failure, and 30 pounds of fluid were removed from his body to decrease the fluid buildup in his lungs and allow him to breathe.
- He is discharged back to prison without getting a heart catheterization, which would fully

reveal any blockages of the heart arteries. His cardiac imaging was interpreted as an “old MI”(Myocardial Infarction or just plain old Heart Attack)

- The Mumia Health Committee is formed in 2021 to help advocate for Mumia’s health and begins the narrative of a multidisciplinary response to the abuse of *all* elder prisoners. The following Mission Statement is adopted:

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL HEALTH COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The Mumia Abu-Jamal Health Committee's (MHC) primary task is to protect the health and physical integrity of 68-year-old Black Philadelphia father, Journalist, author and world-recognized human rights activist, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Forty years of violent incarceration, almost thirty in solitary confinement, have taken a toll on Mumia’s health. The MHC roots its advocacy for Mumia in the larger abolition work of freeing the growing number of incarcerated elders, predominantly Black, Brown and Indigenous, who are the most vulnerable and at risk in U.S. prisons. Consistent with the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) call for abolition as public health, we affirm “Freedom is the Treatment.” MHC members come from multiple professions and fields but we work together as accountable to impacted communities, enjoining others in our respective professions and institutions to do likewise.

Open-Heart Surgery and Modified Shackling Protocol Due to Activist Advocacy

- 4.19.21 Mumia is admitted for Two Vessel Open open-heart surgery after a catheterization reveals that he has life-threatening heart blockages, and a re-interpretation of the cardiac imaging is more consistent with a recent infarct (MI) as opposed to an old MI
- During this hospitalization, his medical consultant and his spiritual advisor communicated directly to the highest level of hospital administration that he should not be shackled due to his age, personal history of peaceful conduct, the torturous suffering from his skin condition, and the cruel linkage to the legacy of slavery. Letters are written and overnighted to the key leadership of the hospital. His medical consultant and spiritual advisor personally go to the hospital where we believe he would be treated (Note: for security protocols, the location of the hospital and the dates of medical procedures are never revealed, but only limited contracted hospitals perform this surgery). We write:

- “Shackling Mumia while in surgery and in the hospital may be legal according to PA law but we ask that each of you search in your hearts to determine if this 66 year old prisoner really needs to be shackled, especially as he is suffering from CAD, CHF, Liver Cirrhosis, DM, HTN, and a severe debilitating skin condition. We determine such shackling to be unnecessary and unjust, as have those evaluating the practice and writing in the AMA Journal of Ethics. We ask that you consult with your medical ethicists and your psychiatry staff to understand that shackling deeply perpetuates trauma for Mumia and so many others.”

Get letters from Mark

- 4.20.21- Julia Wright, daughter of Richard Wright, engages the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNHCR) to send out a press release condemning Mumia’s shackling as deplorable

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/04/usa-shackling-aged-inmate-mumia-abu-jamal-deplorable-un-experts>

Harmful Interruption of UV Light Severely Exacerbates His Medical Condition. The MHC Letter to the Superintendent

- March-April 2022- Denial of UV light for 3 weeks provokes a precipitous exacerbation of his chronic skin condition. The Mumia Health Committee responds with a letter to the prison Superintendent. The letter carries a spirit of uncompromising defense of Mumia’s innocence and denounces harms done to him.

March 25, 2022

Bernadette Mason, Superintendent
301 Morea Road
Frackville, PA 17932
(570) 773-2158

Dear Superintendent Mason:

We are writing regarding 67-year-old Mr. Mumia Abu-Jamal (AM8335), who suffers from a severe and refractory skin condition for which UV light therapy is one of the only effective measures of relief. It has come to our attention that, for three months, the UV light machine was broken and has only recently been properly repaired. That would never be considered an acceptable standard in a private office or even a public clinic.

Mumia’s raw, bleeding skin shows evidence of tortuous suffering from interminable cycles of itching that have made it impossible for him to sleep, write, or conduct his daily activities. We join the United Nations in calling on authorities to “take all urgent measures to protect the

physical integrity, life, and dignity of Mr. Abu-Jamal.”

(Source:

<https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/news/2021/04/usa-shackling-aged-and-infirm-inmate-mumia-abu-jamal-deplorable-say-un#:~:text=Mumia%20Abu-Jamal%2C%20who%20has%20been%20incarcerated%20for%2040,police%20officer%20Daniel%20Faulkner%2C%20in%20Philadelphia%2C%20in%201981.>)

[Original source webpage no longer active. Updated link:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/04/usa-shackling-aged-inmate-mumia-abu-jamal-deplorable-un-experts>]

On March 23, 2023, Mark Taylor, Mumia’s designated “religious advisor,” was informed by the Director of the Health Department at SCI Mahanoy that the UV light machine had indeed been repaired. We appreciate the Director’s attention to this crucial matter and look forward to working with her in the future to ensure the health and well-being of all the prisoners.

Mumia Abu-Jamal (AM8335) is a 67-year-old Black Philadelphia father, journalist, author, and world-recognized human rights activist. Forty years of violent incarceration, almost thirty of them in solitary confinement, have taken a serious toll on Mumia’s health. He suffers from hypertension, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, and a severe skin condition for which UV light offers one of the only effective therapies. Dr. Joseph Trooskin, a nationally recognized hepatologist, has provided compelling court-documented evidence of medical neglect in prison that directly caused Mumia to suffer diabetes and liver cirrhosis.

Mumia’s outspoken advocacy as a human rights activist has made him especially vulnerable to state violence. His false conviction in the killing of a police officer has created deep hostility within the law enforcement community, which continues to perpetuate trauma. In spite of factual evidence of his innocence — in a setting of systemic corruption in which 15 of the 35 officers involved in Mumia’s arrest were later arrested and convicted for corruption — there remains an aggressive campaign to ensure Mumia dies in prison.

The medical profession has come to a profound crossroads in its understanding of the harms of mass incarceration. The American Public Health Association (APHA) — the oldest and largest public health association in the world — has taken an unequivocal position that Prison Abolition is Public Health. The harm to prisoners, families, and impacted communities has been identified as resulting from cruel, racist, and oppressive policies that are directly identified as state violence, and which must be abolished.

It states: “Mass incarceration also fails to interrogate and hold to account the ways in which the harms of structural injustice — including that perpetrated by the legal system itself — manifest in interpersonal harm.”

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Even the American Medical Association has acknowledged medicine's historical contributions to racism as a public health crisis.

(Source: <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/abolitionist-reimaginings-health/2022-03>)

An emerging professional ethos across diverse disciplines calls for an end to mass incarceration and to responsibly embrace abolition as the only viable public policy. COVID provided a unique opportunity to safely decarcerate. Instead, we continued to violate basic principles of public health and human dignity as we imposed punitive lockdowns.

No one is immune from the cycles of oppression and racism. Among the impacted communities are the police officers and correctional officers who themselves suffer high rates of physical and mental illness, as well as domestic violence. The APHA position paper has thoroughly debunked any myth that mass incarceration is in service of public safety.

There is compelling evidence that elders age out of violent crime and can be safely returned to their loved ones. It is incumbent upon us now to maintain greater vigilance to protect our elders and other impacted communities while they remain in prison, and to hold the state accountable for the harms it has inflicted — especially as we move toward the imminent abolition of these carceral systems.

Sincerely,

Mark Lewis Taylor, Ph.D.
Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Theology and Culture
Princeton Theological Seminary
P.O. Box 821
64 Mercer Street
Princeton, NJ 08542-0803
mark.taylor@ptsem.edu
Mumia Health Committee Phone Number: (631) 302-7810

Sincerely,

Ricardo Alvarez, M.D.
Coordinator of Clinical Innovation
Mission Neighborhood Health Center
240 Shotwell Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
Mumia Health Committee Phone Number: (631) 302-7810

c.c.:

Tom Wolf, Governor of Pennsylvania
George Little, Acting Secretary of Corrections
SCI Mahanoy — Mumia's Counselor, ask for Mr. Kelner

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PADOC, Christopher Oppman, Deputy Secretary for Administration (oversees healthcare)
Tammy Ferguson, Deputy Secretary Eastern Region
Ann Verbyla, Staff Assistant
Keith Miller, Staff Assistant
Captain Sprinkle, Inspection Captain

– end of letter–

- 4.21.2022- Mark Lewis, Mumia's then spiritual advisor and Princeton Theological Seminarian, identifies Mumia's request that the Mumia Health Committee continue the struggle to restore the UV light therapy
- As Pam Africa is poised to call for a public campaign, the UV light is restored at the prison.

Denial of a Cardiac Diet After Cardiac Bypass-

- Mumia is regularly denied a proper cardiac diet as prescribed by his discharging physician. He is subjected to what he calls "the 3 whites," white rice, white bread, and white potatoes.
- Mumia spends much of his time dedicated to the lengthy bureaucratic grievances and standard denials to address the universal need for healthier food in prison industrial slave complexes we call prisons. This is setting up his medical lawyers for a legal battle.
- 4.21.2022- Mark Taylor notes that Mumia *also* asks the Mumia Health Committee to support the medical lawyers, primarily Noel Hanrahan's work, to obtain a cardiac diet.
- 3.25.2024- Noel continues this ongoing campaign to link nutrition advocacy with Mumia's declining health on a Prison Radio call to action
prisonradio.org/news-update/mumia-abu-jamal-am-8335-health-alert-action/

The Multidisciplinary Declaration of the Attempted Assassination of Mumia Abu-Jamal

- 2.12.2024- Dr. Alvarez, Pam Africa, and medical lawyer Noel Hanrahan are interviewed by Kalonji Jama Changa, co-founder of [Black Power Media](#), and [Williams Philosophy Professor Joy James](#) as part of the Guerrilla University Series, to identify the attempted assassination of Mumia Abu-Jamal.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qUTtQiopPo>
- Joy James includes this interview as part of her creative collaboration with Kalonji Jama

Changa Chapter of 7 (pg.88) in her published work, [Beyond Cop City](https://www.plutobooks.com/9780745350486/beyond-cop-cities/). Pluto Press
<https://www.plutobooks.com/9780745350486/beyond-cop-cities/>

- San Francisco Bayview Newspaper picks up portions of the interview in an article entitled [Assassination Attempts Against Mumia Abu-Jamal](#)
- 2.22.2024- First call to action is posted on Prison Radio to mobilize [Diet Call For Action](#)

Mumia experiences weight loss, hair loss, anemia, and declining health from Sept 2023, prompting a call to action by March 2024 linking to the State of PA efforts to establish a 10-Year Master Plan on Aging, which ignores prisoners, and citing the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC) powerful [amicus brief by former PA DOC Secretaries Wetzel and Little](#).

- 1.18.2024- Mumia's medical consultant, with Mumia's permission and in coordination with a strategy identified by Jalil Muntaqim, uses the state-recorded video sessions to communicate directly with the state. The following statement is read and posted publicly two months later
https://paroleelderabuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/MUMIA-ABU-JAMAL-MEDICAL-ASSESSMENT_1-18-2024-.pdf

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL MEDICAL ASSESSMENT 1.18.24

My training as a trauma-informed medical provider and my professional ethical codes require that I am witness to your suffering as an internationally recognized political prisoner, that has suffered torture as evidenced by 30 years of solitary confinement. You are one of the most surveilled human beings on earth as evidenced by the extensive COINTELPRO Counterintelligence documentation a program of illegal and hostile surveillance and assassinations and other violence that specifically targeted you as a member of the Black Panther Party). I also declare as medical consultant that you have suffered court-documented harm to the organs of your body as a result of prison medical neglect and that you are denied access to secure medical consultation of your choice to meet the proper standards of privacy. It is my assessment that the primary social determinant of health for you is the violence of incarceration, for which there is clear complicity of state forces. These forces are granted through public funds and, more importantly, public trust- a monopoly on violence that is intended to be in service of public safety and justice. This monopoly is corrupted and unaccountable to the communities they serve and perpetuate their institutional and political power. The language of the social determinants of health and the recognition of police violence as a

harm to communities directly impacted by mass incarceration are deeply rooted in Western Medical thinking and there are multiple position papers of the American Public Health Association (APHA) which directly identifies police violence as a public health harm and directly identifies abolition as a form of public health. So my assessment now rests in the mainstream of medical thought.

Some specific examples of state violence you suffered directly include the police brutality on the night of your arrest including the physical beatings at the very entrance to the hospital, the administrative violence of courts for which the perverse contortions of logic to deny your justice reveal the illegitimacy of the courts' rulings, and the ongoing violence of incarceration. In my medical assessment as witness to your suffering, I note that because your conviction involves the death of a police officer there is a dangerously aggressive engagement of the fraternal order of the police to influence the district attorneys offices of philadelphia, local, state, national, congressional, and even federal officials to be complicit in the Fraternal Order of the Police (FOP) code of silence. The FOP has acted as a voice of vengeance, but, in the process, reveals more the corruption of the 1981 District 6 police department, which arrested you. Over one-third of the 35 officers involved in your case were later convicted of rank corruption, extortion and tampering with evidence to obtain convictions. Your confession story was necessary for you to receive the death penalty. In the setting of a nationally recognized corrupt police force in 1981, it is clear evidence of perjury for multiple security officers and police officers to suddenly "remember" a confession three months after your arrest. There is already court-documented testimony that the investigator of your police brutality case openly asked the gathered officers if they "remembered a confession." As your medical consultant, I have not only consulted primary source documents such as your court trials, but I have also communicated and met with professionals, lay people, and law enforcement to help understand the nature of this violence. Your own messages around the importance of compassion and the overwhelming literature on trauma-informed engagement does help us understand that your case, and many other cases like yours, do not reflect the true diversity of the police and correctional officers. We discussed in our last visit that the experiment in more humane imprisonment for the elderly is being modelled after Scandinavian prisons that reduce the cost of violent social control through more humane treatment, which benefits the correctional officers directly. The work of Dr. Brie Williams actively engages the correctional officers to be part of the

formation of new models of more humane imprisonment. These models may be important stepping stones to abolition, but cannot substitute for freedom.

The FOP engagement in the political process is complicated not only by the membership and direct financial support of many members of the district attorney's office, judges (including Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ron Castille as definitively ruled on by Judge Leon Tucker) but also by the deeply emotional vulnerability of the widow of the slain officer whose lifetime supported alliance with the FOP has propelled her into the dangerous arenas of media, politics, and the courts in a publicly declared agenda of revenge and death or slow death by incarceration.

Your medical consultation is also complicated by your uncompromising dedication to exploring the human condition through the lens of your ancestral connection to the strength of resistance in the African Diaspora. As a griot journalist, your specific gifts of vision, verbal and written communication have allowed you to examine administrative and police violence, with an eloquence and clarity that has drawn national and international attention to what is supposed to be the invisible- that is, our nations' unresolved soul wounds of genocide and slavery. That particular gift has also intensified the resistance to your physical freedom. While it is a constitutionally protected right for you to explore, write, and speak about White Supremacy, Imperialism, Settler-Colonialism, Neo-liberalism, and even Revolution, it is very clear that you are being punished for what you say and not any crime that you committed.

New generations of professionals across diverse professions, including medical, legal, social work, teaching, clergy, have come to understand what you, and many others, have identified as Institutional Elder Abuse. The very Department of Justice has given clear definitions of institutional elder abuse, which are evident in all prison settings. Professional examination of intergenerational trauma and state violence is now so extensive that we are no longer debating *whether* harms have been done. We are having mature and healthy discussions of how to heal from those harms. Even now, we are speaking of the safe return of our elders from the abuse in ways that allow the loving support of family as well as traditional healers in the community.

I consult you in a tradition of narrative medicine that engages poetry, art, and prose to bear witness to the pain and beauty of resilient love in the face of oppressive forces. You are not the only voice of the voiceless. There are many released and imprisoned elders whose collective voices have reached professional organizations and have directly informed the narrative with a clarity that is both urgent and loving- **LIBERATE OUR ELDERS. REPORT ELDER ABUSE.** I will continue, as your medical consultant, to respectfully engage all disciplines and all peoples to heed the call of the elders. There is now a paradigm shift. **Abolition IS PUBLIC HEALTH. FREEDOM IS THE ONLY TREATMENT.**

RESPECTFULLY REVIEWED WITH MUMIA UNDER VIDEO SURVEILLANCE WITH HIS PERMISSION 1.18.24

- In early March 2024, Professor Johanna Fernández coordinates through Roots Action to get out the call and makes an important link to the public comment period of the PA 10-year Master Plan on Aging, which completely ignores the plight of elder prisoners <https://rootsaction.org/care-about-all-aging-pennsylvanians>
- Again Mumia links his advocacy to the larger call to Liberate the Elders and to communicate with Pennsylvania State Leadership to include all elder prisoners. Roots Action puts out a call linking to the public comment period that ended March 20, 2024 and citing the important link between his case and elder abuse.

I write to urge you to include imprisoned elders in the 10-year Master Plan on Aging.

As you know, state and federal prisons have become "poor old people's homes" for mostly poor Black and Brown prisoners serving decades-long terms in an indefensible system committed to excessive sentencing. The system denies them adequate physical, psychological, or medical care. Mass incarceration is now recognized as a public health concern (APHA Abolition as Public Health).

The last two Pennsylvania Secretaries of the Dept. of Corrections recognized this in their Amicus Brief in the case Commonwealth v. Derek (Wetzel/Little Brief). The brief makes clear that it is financially untenable to continue to imprison the number of aging Pennsylvania lifers. Compelling evidence exists that older prisoners are safe to return to society. To not return them to their homes and communities amounts to a form of institutional elder abuse, and a form cruel and unusual punishment.

We call on you to engage formerly imprisoned, abolitionist and community voices, such as Saleem Holbrook of the Abolitionist Law Center and Pastor Keith Collins, in the development of a project to deliver imprisoned elders from the harms of mass incarceration.

You have the authority to rectify this situation by including imprisoned elders and their communities in the PA Master Plan for Older Adults.

Background:

<https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2021/01/14/advancing-public-health-interventions-to-address-the-harms-of-the-carceral-system>

<https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2023/07/Amicus%20Brief%20in%20Support%20of%20PAA%20for%20John%20Wetzel%20and%20George%20Little.pdf>

Mumia Recuperates from the decline in Health and Energetically Engages in Advocacy for Brother Leonard Peltier as he advances the Narrative of Institutional Elder Abuse

9.6.2023- Mumia publishes his commentary *No Place For Old Men* on Prison Radio <https://www.prisonradio.org/commentary/no-place-for-old-men/> He responds to the APHA statement on Abolition as Public Health by identifying the call to end elder abuse. Although the APHA never actually uses the words “elder abuse” his commentary begins the narrative of elder abuse as a public health strategy for abolitionist organizing.

<https://www.apha.org/policy-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-briefs/policy-database/2021/01/14/advancing-public-health-interventions-to-address-the-harms-of-the-carceral-system>

May 2024- Mumia sends a clear message to begin to link and support Brother Leonard Peltier, identifying the transition of President Biden in January 2025 as a pivotal opportunity for advocacy. In his weekly communication with his medical consultant, he notes:

RE: Leonard Peltier

We are approaching a turning point- his life will be determined by his liberation. That is especially certain for any Native American who lives in this colonial settler ...Anything we can share with this brother to lighten his load and help him achieve

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PMB 1006, 447 Sutter St., Suite 405, San Francisco, CA 94108

Phone: 415-360-0033 Email: paroleelderabuse@gmail.com Website: paroleelderabuse.org

He is a good and beautiful brother.

June 2024- Medical consultant Dr. Ricardo Alvarez introduces prison artist [Donald “C-Note” Hooker](#) and National Matriarch [Ms. Anita Wills](#) as part of [Prison Elder Abuse Concerns Everyone \(P.E.A.C.E.\)](#) to work with Brother Leonard's inner team and the dynamic new legal representation of Jenipher Jones and Moira Meltzer-Cohen, which eventually secures his physical freedom through an 11th-hour commutation on January 20, 2025.(Brother Leonard remains unjustly under parole.)

June.2024-1.20.2025- Mumia educates on the important role of the Griot Voice as connecting with ancestral journeys and speaking truth to power. A section of the P.E.A.C.E website entitled [Griot P.E.A.C.E. Archives](#) is set up to link the advocacy for Brother Leonard to Mumia’s unique status as a co-anchor with [Johanna Fernandez](#) in the [Brown Archives on Mass Incarceration](#).

P.E.A.C.E Develops the Organizational Framework in the Brother Leonard Peltier Campaign to Prepare for the Multidisciplinary Call for Mumia’s Freedom from Institutional Elder Abuse

- After the death of his father, Russell Maroon Shoatz (elder Maroon had been released from a Pennsylvania prison 52 days earlier after 50 years a political prisoner), Russell Shoatz III engages Mumia’s medical consultant to help advance the narrative of Institutional Elder Abuse as a strategy for the freedom of our Political Prisoners. Russell, YahNé Ndgo, Jalil Muntaqim, and Rafael Outland commit the next year to helping identify a strategy for advancing the Institutional Elder Abuse Narrative.
- Jalil provides critical guidance regarding the messages of:
 - “Use of the Language of the Oppressor,” while recognizing the violence of the oppressor’s language
 - “There are No Throwaways” Defend completely
- Mumia provides critical guidance on the application of never losing the language of resilient love. He guides the teachings in the application to Brother Leonard’s support, identifying the Primary Soul Wound of Our Nation as Genocide and the Secondary Soul Wound as Slavery.
- P.E.A.C.E. shifts from “Prison Elder Abuse Concerns Everyone” to “Parole Elder Abuse Concerns Everyone.” The legacy is posted <https://paroleelderabuse.org/category/griot-p-e-a-c-e-archives/page/2/>

- The Brother Peltier “Campaign” by P.E.A.C.E. is coordinated by 28-year unjustly incarcerated artist prisoner [Donald “C-Note” Hooker](#) with Mumia’s medical consultant, Dr. Ricardo Alvarez. SMART Goals are established (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound). Engaging C-Note’s media savvy, P.E.A.C.E is able to strategically use its limited resources to engage:
 - the use of letters to professional organizations
 - the purchase of the EIN Presswire Subscription to advance our narrative
 - the invitation of Ms. Anita Wills to write to Jill Biden
 - the visibility of Native American History Month

Mumia approves the June 4th, 2024 [National Lawyers Guild Mass Incarceration Committee Letter to the American Geriatric Society](#), which contains themes relevant to the narrative of reporting institutional elder abuse and does so with an unapologetic defense of Brother Leonard.

- [Ms. Anita Wills Letter](#) (12-22-2024)- to Dr. Jill Biden and all professional societies urging Clemency for Leonard Peltier
- [Suzanne Ross letter](#) (1-10-2025)- first formal report of elder abuse to all professional societies; includes letter urging Clemency for Leonard Peltier,