

Text A**The Death Penalty in Pennsylvania**

As of September 1, 1999, there were 225 people on Pennsylvania's death row. Of those, 140 are African American, 69 are white, and 14 are Hispanic; 2 are listed under other, 4 of the death row inmates are women.

Pennsylvania comes in fourth in the list of states with the most people on death row-- after California (541), Texas (450), and Florida (389).

Of those four states with the most people on death row, Pennsylvania is the only one with a majority of African Americans on death row. African Americans make up less than 10% of the general population but as much as 62% of the death row population.

Since his inauguration in 1995, Governor Ridge has signed 197 death warrants (136 for people of color, 61 for white inmates). Three people have been executed since 1995. Ridge's predecessor Governor Robert Casey signed 11 death warrants; Governor David Thornburgh signed 7. No one was executed during their terms.

Judge Albert Sabo (Philadelphia) has sentenced more people to death than any other judge in the United States. The vast majority of whom are African Americans.

District Attorney Lynn Abraham (Philadelphia) is the deadliest D.A. in the United States. Her Office seeks the death penalty in every case legally possible.

Text B**Excerpts from: Message to the People**

This solidarity statement was written to be delivered to the People at the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty 3rd annual Memorial Day weekend protest in Huntsville, Texas on May 30, 1998

... I am being held captive by the State of Texas at the Pack One Prison in Navasota, Texas.

In america, one of the few things that the poor have better access to than the rich is the death penalty. There are no rich folks on death row. The official document issued by the coroner when a prisoner is murdered by the state says: "HOMICIDE". Yet the killers walk tall like they were John Wayne before his stomach rejected him. I'm afraid the conscience of america has crawled off under the White House and died.

... EXECUTIONS ARE WRONG

... The guards were dancing with the people, and in the dream I heard the voice of Nietzsche saying, "Whoever fights monsters would see to it that in the process he does not become a monster." I awakened in my dark, dank cage to the cold reality that our siter was with us no more, and the mass murderer known as the State of Texas still stalked the land.

When I think about how wrong the death penalty is, a shiver runs up and down my spine: "What if they had murdered my brother, Leonard Peltier?" Leonard, who has been in captivity for more than twenty-two years for a crime he did not commit.

All of you who struggle in unity to abolish the heinous crime of state-sanctioned murder are heroines & heros. Work like hell! Agitate, propagate, educate, and remember when you save or extend the life of a single individual the true reward is from Creator to your heart. Remeber the words of Mandela: "There are victories whose glory lies only in the fact that they are known to those who win them."

IN THE SPIRIT OF CRAZY HORSE,

Standing Deer

Text C**Poem: If They Were to Kill My Brother...[version II]**

If they were going to kill my brother...
by Standing Deer

"If we are to vent our riotous anger let it be before
they try to murder Mumia Abu-Jamal, not after."

--Michael Parenti, Martin Luther King
High School, Berkeley, June 25, 1995

"We are at a point beyond candle vigils that reflect
little besides moral indignation."

--Ray Luc Levasseur

"Think of sister Assata. We don't need another martyr.
We need our brother Mumia breathing, smiling, laughing,
alive and well among us, talking that talk and writing
those words as only he can do it."

--Standing Deer

If they were going to kill my brother
I would raise him...rescue him
steal him away from the murderous
thugs of the state.
They don't need his life nohow!
They can't sell it for twice what it's worth
'cause there ain't that much money in the world.
So what for do they want it?!?
He don't mean nothin' no way
'cept to those who love him
and need him
and can't do without him.
I always wonder why we let freedom fighters
rot their lives away in some jail
or go down in a murder for hire plot
rigged by the state.
Folks be marching and hollering
and carrying signs crying his name
demanding his freedom, but
if signs and words could free him
he woulda been free a long time ago.
This is not about revolution and we don't need
the masses to rise up and wrest away
the means of production
from the criminal class. This is about
our brother's life. His LIFE!
and it only takes a few of us
WHO DON'T WANT HIM DEAD.
So what can we do
to save the life of our brother?

First, we must find a way
to save the lives of ourselves.
There was a time when
an eye for an eye
and a tooth for a tooth
seemed like the right thing to do.
Perhaps, in an uncivilized world
it was right and proper
to tear our sinners limb from limb
to poke our their eyes with hot pokers
and strap them to electric chairs
and cook them alive,
but as the world strains to become civilized
it is time to abandon the fire and brimstone
of the olden days
and make a choice for a better world.
It is time to make a choice for LIFE!
It is time to make a choice for a world
where love and redemption and the Spirit of
FORGIVENESS
rules the day.
In the wake of the Littleton, Colorado tragedy
it is time to begin teaching our children
by our example
that it is NEVER right to kill!
Let us make a choice today,
for silence is consent
and choosing not to choose
is itself a choice...
a choice to kill.
We must protest the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal
as well as all the state sanctioned
murders to come.
For every time the state kills in our name
and we do not object
then we, ourselves, are the killers.
If the world is ever to become civilized
the end of the death penalty
has to start somewhere and sometime.
What better place than here?
What better time than now?

**FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL! STOP THE KILLING!
ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY NOW !!!**

POEM READ BY STANDING DEER'S THEN WIFE, ANNA,
AT "MILLIONS FOR MUMIA" IN PHILADELPHIA, PA APRIL 26,1999