



CHALLENGE THE LEGALITY
"PATRIOT ACT."
PROTECT OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES.

FREE LUMUMBA

JOIN:
"DEFENSE OF
LUMUMBA"

Write to:
Patrice Lumumba Ford
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People of color and dissidents have traditionally become targets and scapegoats when things go wrong. Following the September 11th attacks, the U.S. Government has put Muslim communities under siege. The government has resorted to periodic, highly-publicized arrests to divert attention from its failures in its ineffective "War on Terror."

Patrice Lumumba Ford is one of the Muslims they targeted. The government would have you believe that he is a dangerous man, a member of a "terrorist cell" in Portland, Oregon.

But who is he really? His friends and family know him as a gentle, compassionate, conscientious young man. He is a devoted husband and father, a dedicated teacher of children at his southwest Portland mosque. He is a well-educated man fluent in Chinese with undergraduate studies at Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, and a Bachelor of Arts from Portland State University in Far East studies and Languages. From Johns Hopkins University Center in Nanjing, China, he holds a Masters' Degree in International Studies. Now he is a **Prisoner of Conscience**.

He was not and never has been a terrorist. There has never been any evidence that he ever planned to hurt anyone.

Lumumba was sentenced to 18 years in a maximum-security federal prison on conspiracy charges as one of the "Portland Seven." What actually happened was that as the U.S. began to attack Afghanistan in October 2001, Lumumba felt a deep responsibility to try to assist Afghan children and families. He and six friends traveled legally to China and talked among themselves of entering Afghanistan to support fellow Muslims. As Lumumba said in a letter to his son that he read aloud in the courtroom at his sentencing:

"As America prepared to annihilate thousands of Muslim children as precious as the one I was holding, cherished by their fathers as much as I cherished mine... I heard the words of the prophet Muhammed reminding me of my duty to help Muslims anywhere they are in need."

In fact, they did not make it to Afghanistan and returned to the United States. A year later Attorney General John Ashcroft called a press conference to trumpet that Lumumba and the other members of the Portland Seven had been arrested.

Even the government did not believe the seriousness of its charges. At one point, the defense and prosecuting attorneys offered five year sentences if the defendants pled guilty. But, word came from Washington and John Ashcroft's Justice Department that the Portland Seven must be made examples of and the offer was withdrawn.

It is time for Muslims and all who stand on the side of justice to come together with a forceful "ENOUGH!" Attacks on Muslims, immigrants, anti-war activists, and defenders of civil liberties must stop!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?	Please contact:	Human Rights Watch	Michael Moore
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