

# MIME MITTERAND ON MUMIA

# BLU

Number 4 \$5 £3

ISSUE # 4

COMPILATION CD INSIDE

**DEAD PREZ**

**PIRI THOMAS**

**MOMSUG DOJO**

**DOPE-A-DELIC**

**WELFARE POETS**

**MYSELF (AKA GOLDIELOX)**

**MZWAKHE MBULI**

**BRUDERHOF KIDS**

**DAGOBERTO LOPEZ**



**2+2**

**Bob Marley + St Augustine**

**Satyagraha + Rage**

**King + Kosova**

**Piri Thomas + Barrio Memories**

**Mumia Abu-Jamal + Christoph Arnold**

**Jericho + Eddie Conway**

**Oscar López Rivera + Rubén Ayala**





## interview with **Chief Billy Tye**

**At Millions for Mumia, April 24<sup>th</sup> in Philly, we talked with Chief Billy Tye, an American Indian Movement [AIM] leader and chief of the Piscataway nation.**

**BLU:** *From the point of view of the American Indian Movement's struggle, where does Mumia fit into all this?*

**Chief Billy:** We see Mumia's struggle the same as Leonard Peltier's. They have come together as a joint effort here. The issues of Mumia, the hand picked judge, hard core judge, the fabrication of evidence, the suppression of evidence, all ties to the same thing of Leonard Peltier.

Mumia is innocent beyond a reasonable doubt. Everybody knows that Leonard Peltier is innocent beyond a reasonable doubt. The difference is that Mumia is on death row. He has been denied every personal freedom, the freedom of touching people, even talking to people. He is completely isolated. He has been locked down and isolated for thirteen or fourteen years. His life is in extreme jeopardy. We, the American Indian Movement, as a legal indigenous sovereign nation, feel that he is an innocent man. And we are here to support him one hundred percent.

**BLU:** *How do you feel seeing this crowd? What would you say to these people?*

**Chief Billy:** It's impressive. Well, I have already said it. I came here today to express our solidarity totally with the effort to stop the execution of Mumia, and to free Mumia.

**BLU:** *A lot of people would say that youth are maybe not fully conscious of AIM's struggle. And I think there's a lot of education that has to happen, so what strategies do you suggest, what strategies can we get for Mumia and Leonard Peltier?*

**Chief Billy:** There are two things. Mumia's got to get back in court, there's no doubt of our efforts about that. We know that if Mumia gets back in court he is going to be found innocent. The Leonard Peltier case is



beyond that. Leonard Peltier's case right now is on the president's desk for executive clemency. We ask people to write to the president of the United States asking him to sign that clemency order. He's an innocent man beyond the shadow of a doubt. He needs help just as Mumia needs help.

**BLU:** *What can you say from your personal experience to the youth in the struggle today?*

**Chief Billy:** The Indian struggle is a generational struggle. It was passed down to me a long time ago. It seems like it never ends, brothers have struggled for Indian recourses or for Indian land or for justice in the court system. Our youth are growing up in a very racist society; they need support.

So it's a never-ending struggle. But people have got to step up. If you don't step up it could be you next. That's the whole issue. Then eventually, we believe that the Creator is behind us, we believe we will win this situation. Five hundred years with us and we are still here, if it takes five thousand years, we will still be here. They told us at the beginning of the twentieth century we were a vanishing people, well we've popped back up and we are not going to go away!

april 24

**Millions for Mumia**



# In the Trenches: art in the streets at Millions for Mumia April 24

BLU

Shaka Shakur

Warrior Bloods

Seeds of Wisdom

blu  
stand

Ruben Ayala and  
Kathleen Cleaver

main stage

JUSTICE  
FOR  
THE  
MURDER  
OF  
MUMIA  
ABRAMS

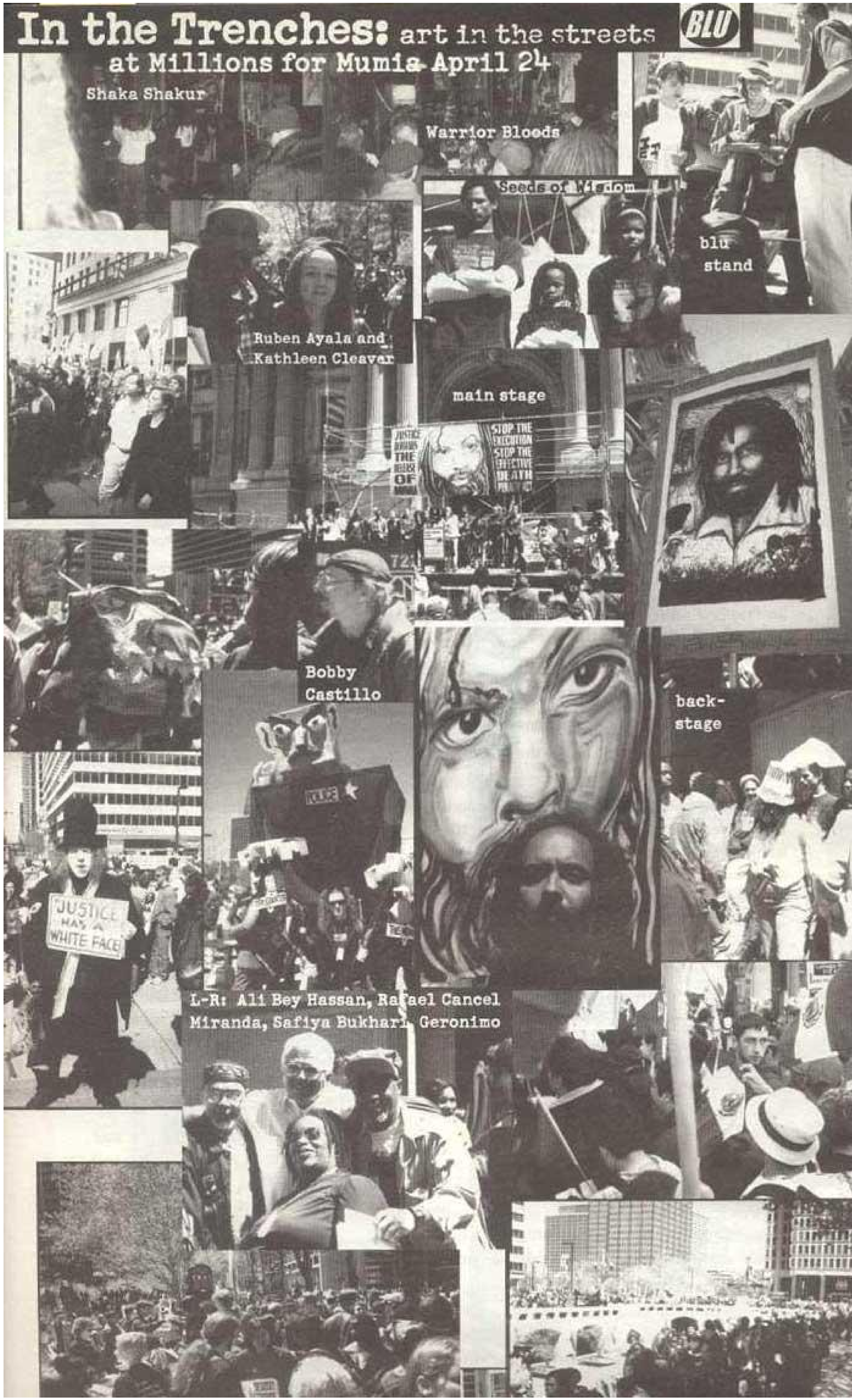
STOP THE  
EXECUTION  
STOP THE  
RETRIBUTIVE  
DEATH  
PENALTY

Bobby  
Castillo

back-  
stage

JUSTICE  
HAS A  
WHITE FACE

L-R: Ali Bey Hassan, Rafael Cancel  
Miranda, Safiya Bukhari, Geronimo







# Profile: The Jericho Movement

by Pete Weeks

## The Fight:

The Jericho Movement exists to bring attention to and support for the 150 plus political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States.

**Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War** are men and women who have been sent to prison for conscious revolutionary political activism in their communities. Prisoners who went to prison as a result of non-politically motivated "crime" and became political while in prison are not Political Prisoners or Prisoners of War. Though all prisoners righteously struggling against the repressive prison system should be supported, PP/POWs deserve the priority support of the revolutionary movement that they have sacrificed their freedom to build. As POW Ojore Lutalo has stated, "Any political movement that does not support its political internees is a sham movement!"

The issue of political prisoners has been ignored for too long in this country. Several political prisoners have been in prison for over 25 years for their beliefs and revolutionary activities. Jericho is a call to action for all of the people saying they're down with the revolution to fight actively for our comrades in prison and also to contact and involve PPs/POWs in the current struggle.

**Political Prisoners  
Do Not Come Out Of A  
Vacuum, But Out Of  
The Struggles Of A  
People To Be Free!**

## Background:

The Jericho Movement grew out of a call for a national march on the White House during Spring Break of 1998 by political prisoner Jalil Muntaqim. The call was made in October of 1996 through the Provisional Government Republic of New Afrika and the New Afrikan Liberation Front, but the organizers decided to use this opportunity to jumpstart a much needed movement to build a national support organization for political prisoners in general.

### The Jericho March

In Washington D.C. on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1998, people from all over the nation joined in a 3,000 plus strong march that demanded recognition for and release of U.S. political prisoners and POWs. The Jericho98 March was the collective work of over 50 organizations: defense committees and groups, 64 Jericho Organizing Committees and Students For Jericho. Jericho98 succeeded in making the issue of Recognition and Amnesty for U.S. held political prisoners and prisoners of war a national one with its successful demonstration and rally at the White House.

Out of the '98 March came the Jericho movement, a coalition of people from all walks of life banding together in an effort to accomplish these goals:

1. To educate people about the existence of political prisoners and prisoners of war in the United States.
2. To gain support for these political prisoners and prisoners of war.
3. To force the United States government to recognize and acknowledge their existence; and



## Political Prisoner Profile: Marshall Eddie Conway

In 1970 Marshall Eddie Conway, an influential leader in the Baltimore Black Panther Party was arrested and imprisoned for the murder of a police officer, a crime that many believe he did not commit.



The chances for Eddie, a black man, to receive a fair trial two years after the 1968 Baltimore riots were slim. When you add Eddie's radical politics and involvement with the Black Panther Party to the mix, you end up with a sure conviction

regardless of the evidence. To make matters worse in 1970, impoverished black defendants in serious felony cases had to face the court without having the adequate legal representation that they were rightfully entitled to under the constitution.

So Eddie went to trial in a court prejudiced against him from the out set. To make matters worse, he had to fire both of his lawyers because of incompetence. The first, who was privately retained, was fired in a dispute over trial strategy. The second, had been appointed by the Court to defend him, did little to prepare for trial. Eddie refused to cooperate with him.

If Eddie had faced a fair and unbiased jury of his peers he could have easily overcome the lack of effective legal counsel. **There was no physical evidence linking him to the crime!** The state's case consisted of shaky circumstantial evidence. While he was in custody, two of the police officers who were also involved in the incident identified his photo as matching the appearance of one of the assailants on the night in question. However, Eddie's attorney wasn't present and the witnesses were given two stacks of photos to look through. Eddie's mug was placed in both of them, unfairly suggesting he was the culprit. In the first stack, a 1963 photo of the defendant was used and neither officer could make a positive I.D. When his 1970 photo was inserted, however, they both identified the defendant. The usual police lineup of suspects wasn't held either.

Even if you discount the rigged line-ups, you should doubt the ability of the officers to make a positive ID on any suspect on this crime scene. The officers were attacked from distance, on a dark street in the middle of the night. Adding to the margin for error is the fact that both officers were under pressure to make an arrest that would lead to a conviction.

The other key piece of the state's case against Eddie is based on the most suspicious kind of evidence, a jail-house informer. Here's the setup: the police place Charles Reynolds, a known police informer, in Eddie's cell for four days in spite of Eddie's objections. The snitch insisted that Eddie confessed to

him about the killing of the police officer. It is hard to believe that someone as politically conscious as Conway would blab to a total stranger about his involvement in such an action.

**Eddie has stayed strong and committed to his beliefs during 29 years in prison.** He provides leadership for inmate councils and has been coordinating programs for other inmates. Eddie has been infraction free for over two decades. Administrators, attorneys, and others who work inside the state prison system commend his exemplary behavior.

While incarcerated, Eddie has:

- Earned a B.S. in Social Science from Coppin State College
- Earned an A.A. in both Education and Management Science from Essex Community College
- Organized literary and other events for fellow prisoners
- Become proficient in Computer Graphics
- Founded a computer literacy program for prisoners

Eddie continues to maintain his innocence with the following statement:

**“At no time in my life have I killed or attempted to kill anyone. I have no involvement in that incident. I’m innocent.”**



### **Action: Let's support Eddie!**

Please write him in solidarity  
Marshall Eddie Conway  
#116469  
Box 534  
Jessup, MD 20794

Spread consciousness about his  
situation

### **Write Governor Parris Glendening and request parole for Marshall Eddie Conway**

Governor Glendening  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

tel: (410) 974-3901  
in MD: 1-800-811-8336  
fax: (410) 974-3275  
e-mail: [governor@gov.state.md.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us)  
[www.gov.state.md.us](http://www.gov.state.md.us)

**For more info:**

**The Marshall E. Conway Support Committee**