

# 'Free Mumia' Protests Lead to 350 Arrests

Staff & Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — About 185 people were arrested outside the Supreme Court building and another 164 were arrested in San Francisco during protests Monday seeking a new trial for a man sentenced to death for killing a Philadelphia police officer.

Supreme Court and city police officers led away protesters who sat in the street or jumped a barrier and went onto the plaza in front of the court building. Supreme Court police officers arrested 24 people, and city police arrested about 160.

The demonstration came while the nation's highest court took the bench to issue orders and hear arguments in cases.

It was not known whether the justices knew of the protest.

San Francisco police said they arrested 164 protesters who blocked the sidewalk in front of the federal appeals court building in that city.

John Riley of the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition said the demonstrators in both cities were opposing capital punishment and calling for a new trial for Abu-Jamal, whose jailhouse writings about the justice system have attracted worldwide attention.

"The idea is to send a message to the Supreme Court that people all around the country are upset that Mumia Abu-Jamal did not get a fair trial," Riley said.

Protests are also occurring on behalf of Mumia in cities across the globe, including London, Oslo and Rio de Janeiro.

Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther and radio journalist, was convicted of fatally shooting a Philadelphia police

officer in 1981 after the officer stopped Abu-Jamal's brother for driving the wrong way down a city street.

Monday's demonstration was not the first time that demonstrators have taken up Abu-Jamal's incarceration as an issue to protest.

About 30,000 people, including a group of UNC students, descended upon Philadelphia's city hall in April of last year to demand a new trial for Abu-Jamal.

Ninety protesters from UNC and the surrounding community attended the rally in Philadelphia. Last year's rally, which included about 30,000 protesters, was organized by the group International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia and featured scores of speakers, from activists to entertainers, in support of a new trial for Abu-Jamal.

At that time, Abu-Jamal's lawyer,

Leonard Weinglass, discussed the flaws that were present in Mumia's original trial.

He claimed that Abu-Jamal was denied the right to speak in his own defense, and that he was given insufficient representation from his court-appointed lawyer.

Weinglass also said Abu-Jamal's original judge, Alfred E. Sabo, was biased, citing statistics that Sabo had sentenced more people to death than any other judge nationwide.

The rally lasted three hours and was followed by a march led by MOVE, a black religious and political group.

Even in the wake of this protest, the Supreme Court turned down an appeal by Abu-Jamal last October.

But Abu-Jamal's fate is not yet sealed. He still could pursue a new round of appeals.

# Parents, Faculty Weigh Benefits of IB Program

Monday's forum provided an outlet for discussing the possibility of implementing the IB program at CHHS.

By TRICIA BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

Parents, teachers and school board officials met Monday night at Chapel Hill High School to discuss the possible implementation of a program designed to better prepare high school students for college.

The forum, which was attended by Superintendent Neil Pedersen and school board member Gloria Faley, provided parents and faculty an outlet to share their concerns about the International Baccalaureate program.

The IB program, a comprehensive two-year curriculum that is accredited by universities around the world, might be implemented into the school's curriculum in the next two years.

Scott Culclasure, the IB coordinator at High Point Central High School, said the program gave students accurate expectations for college.

"IB's chief claim to fame is to make that transition from high school to college," he said. "You'll learn those skills somewhere. Maybe after you've lost your first job. But IB sets up those skills at the high school level."

Principal Carlotta Armstrong said she strongly favored the academic program.

"I think that our students will truly benefit from such an enriching program," she said.

But some faculty expressed concerns with the program. Karen Bell, a mathematics teacher at CHHS, said teachers wondered where the money would come from to fund the program.

She said other concerns centered on the compatibility of the IB program with existing programs such as the Advanced Placement program.

However, Larry Williamson, an IB history teacher at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, said the programs were not mutually exclusive of each other.

"You don't have to give up one because of the other," he said. "IB doesn't pull down AP."

Parents also raised concerns at the forum about eligibility for the program as well as allotting enough time in the day for students to complete all requirements.

Culclasure said students had to present their final grades from their freshman and sophomore years, a recommendation from a sophomore-year teacher and a writing sample to be considered for the program.

He assured parents that there would be flexibility in time allotments for student responsibilities.

The IB program requires students to take a knowledge theory class, take part in community service and write a 4,000-word research paper.

UNC freshman Jeff Waldon, who is a Morehead Scholar, said the program was an invaluable asset.

"Looking back, I can see how it helped me for college," he said. "It teaches time management."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

# Residents Air U-Mall Problems in Hearing

Residents expressed worries about early morning noise caused by the recycling center at University Mall.

By ENYONAM KPEGLU  
Staff Writer

The campaign for University Mall redevelopment continued Monday night as residents and property owners voiced concerns to the Chapel Hill Town Council.

The hearing allowed for further public input regarding complaints of noise, inaccessibility and unsightliness of the mall and surrounding facilities.

Council member Kevin Foy said the mall owners had been very cooperative in accommodating the needs of nearby residents.

"(Mall officials) are undertaking various renovations to increase pedestrian and bicycle access to University Mall," he said.

Gary Bird, a resident of the neighboring Ridgefield community, spoke out against the early morning noise of the recycling center in the mall parking lot.

"The noise level from recycling collection is between 72 to 89 decibels, while (U.S.) 15-501 only provides 50 decibels of noise," he said. "I want council members to ensure Ridgefield resi-



Chapel Hill Town Council member Flicka Bateman said she sympathized with complaints.

dents a restful start in the morning."

Sandy Brownstein, a 22-year resident of Ridgefield, said she was a regular recycler and was not against the practice — she said she was just against the noise it caused. "As I approach retirement I would like to be able to sleep later in the mornings," she said.

Council member Flicka Bateman said she recognized the dilemma of the recycling center's location.

"I sympathize with the residents of the Ridgefield neighborhood," she said. "The recycling center needs to try to work later in the day."

Don Willhoit, who spoke on behalf of Binkley Baptist Church, which is adjacent to the mall, said the church's primary concern was the location and orientation of K&W Cafeteria and the Chapel Hill Tire building. He said the church wanted K&W to address two unsightly walls of the building that faced

the church.

"The church is part of the community and has been there since the 1960s," Willhoit said. "Although we knew in advance that the mall was being planned, we did not plan on being screened out by a heavy vegetation buffer (covering the wall)."

He said the church wanted to cooperate with K&W and to reach a mutual agreement regarding redevelopment.

"(Church officials) are asking for more time to meet with the architect to further resolve concerns about the impact of neighboring buildings," he said. "We want a solution for the mall, the church and the community."

The council deferred any decision until March 20 to honor the church's request for a continuance.

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**CHOOSE**

**Next DTH Editor**

The Daily Tar Heel is seeking students to serve on the panel that will choose the editor of the DTH for the 2000-2001 school year.

Applications for the seven at-large positions on the DTH Editor Selection Board are available at the DTH Office, the Carolina Union info desk kiosk.

Applicants must be available for an orientation meeting from 5-6pm Wednesday, April 5 and from approximately 8:30am-4pm Saturday, April 8 to conduct interviews and make the selection.

All students may apply for at-large positions except current DTH news staff members. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Rob Nelson (962-4086, rnelson@email.unc.edu) or Janet Gallagher-Cassel (962-0520, jgcassel@email.unc.edu).

February 29, 2000

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8:30 - Live from the Clubhouse  
9:30 - Crush Workshop