

# The BLACK C o M M e n t a t o r

An independent weekly internet magazine  
dedicated to the movement for economic justice,  
social justice and peace - Providing commentary,  
analysis and investigations on issues affecting  
African Americans and the African world.

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[Contents of Issue](#)

[Click here](#)

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[Home](#)

**Leonard Peltier & Mumia Abu-Jamal -  
Justice Barometers of our Soul**

**Keeping It Real**

**By Larry Pinkney**

**BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board**

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Welcome to the United States of America, the land of hypocrisy, denial, and subterfuge.

Intense *economic and race war* in fact continues unabated in this nation unabashedly *fostered*, sadly, by U.S. President Barack Obama, who is himself the aloof and blissfully *oblivious* target of *increasing* racial bigotry. What a terrible irony! It is stunning, but no accident, how *the obvious* is repeatedly missed by so many in 'America.' The details in the cases of U.S. political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier make this abundant arrogance, hypocrisy, and dangerous obliviousness that is so prevalent in this land - *crystal clear*.

Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal however, are so much *more* than political prisoners in 'America.' Their three *decades-long* wrongful imprisonment represents the very heart and soul of ongoing hypocrisy, racism, and *growing* injustice in this nation. Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier are not simply *names to banter about*. As with many other political prisoners in this country, these two cases represent the collective *barometer* that indicate the *utter and dismal failure* of the judiciary and politicians of this nation to "change" their ways and come to their *human* senses.

Leonard Peltier, a former head of the American Indian Movement (AIM), and Mumia

Abu-Jamal, a former leader in the Black Panther Party (BPP), *both* demonstrated the unmitigated audacity to stand up for unfettered justice - which is in reality the *ultimate sin* in this nation. They *both* were falsely accused of having killed police agents of repression *and* they *both* had enormously *crucial and important evidence* **suppressed** by government prosecutors in their skewed, so - called free and democratic trials here in the empire's corporate 'America.' They *both* were (and continue to be - *even in prison*) the targets of local, state, and federal authorities - to be *discredited, kept imprisoned, and if possible - ultimately murdered.*

The crux of the Leonard Peltier case is *not only* the government subterfuge and concomitant suppression of crucial evidence, but also the legitimate *sovereignty rights* of Indigenous peoples collectively on *this* continent. *Indigenous sovereignty rights* is something that the U.S. Government and much of the collective psyche of this country has *studiously avoided*, refusing to honestly and fairly address for over five hundred years.

Likewise, the crux of the Mumia Abu-Jamal case is *not only* the government subterfuge and suppression of crucial evidence, but the audacity of Mr. Abu-Jamal to, *as a human rights activist* in word and deed, boldly expose the economic and racist hypocrisy of the U.S. Government, in his quest on behalf of the collective human rights of people here *and* abroad.

For thirty years now the corporate U.S. so - called 'news' media has used, and continues to use, a combination of falsehoods, omissions, and obfuscation to *perpetuate* this despicable outrage against Mr. Abu-Jamal and Mr. Peltier. Thus is this outrage *also* continually perpetrated against **us** - the majority of peoples in this nation and on this planet; not only pertaining to the Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal cases of injustice but *also* as pertains to the daily corporate media onslaught of distraction and disinformation in general both nationally and internationally. Make no mistake about this!

Leonard Peltier recently very clearly and quite correctly wrote that "now" he is Barack "Obama's political prisoner." Indeed he *is*, as *is* Mumia Abu-Jamal, just as the bloody wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and elsewhere *are now Obama's wars*. Stop the intellectual masturbation and get real - people! These two political prisoners represent the barometers of our very souls. Indeed, until *we ourselves uncompromisingly change it*, we are *all* the emotional and information prisoners of this present economic, social, and political Republicrat [i.e. Republican *and* Democratic Party] nonsense on the road to certain national and global disaster.

Whether we view our *primary* concern as being obtaining universal single payer health care, over-all social & economic justice, labor union busting, the environment, housing, increasing unemployment, or the *ongoing* U.S. bloody wars abroad, etc., the cases of Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal encompass *all* of these important concerns. Think about it! They are *all linked and intertwined*. We *must* understand this.

Our Mother Earth cannot continue to exist *without* social / political (including *environmental*) and economic justice and *real* change, and we cannot continue to exist *without* our Mother Earth. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or a Harvard graduate to understand this.

In the spirit of 'Crazy Horse' *and* with the determination of **all justice loving people**; spit out the poisonous political 'Kool' Aid and fight hard to make our hopes and dreams become *reality*. As we do this, let us *actively* remember Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal, for in doing so we remember and honor the very best in ourselves. Onward then sisters and brothers! Onward... There remains *much* work to be done.

**BlackCommentator.com** Editorial Board Member, Larry Pinkney, is a veteran of the Black Panther Party, the former Minister of Interior of the Republic of New Africa, a former political prisoner and the only American to have successfully self - authored his civil/political rights case to the United Nations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In connection with his political organizing activities in opposition to voter suppression, etc., Pinkney was interviewed in 1988 on the nationally televised PBS NewsHour, formerly known as The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour. For more about Larry Pinkney see the book, [Saying No to Power: Autobiography of a 20th Century Activist and Thinker](#), by William Mandel [Introduction by Howard Zinn]. (Click [here](#) to read excerpts from the book). Click [here](#) to contact Mr. Pinkney.



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[Contents of Issue](#)

[Click here](#)

[Home](#)

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