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- ▶ Prison Radio
- ▶ Mumia' Abu-Jamal's Radio Essays
- ▶ Photo Gallery
- ▶ Links/Resources
- ▶ Mumia Email Update
- ▶ Donate
- ▶ Mumia Gear
- ▶ Radio Programmers
- ▶ Contact Us

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A Project of the Redwood Justice Fund

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Mumia Abu-Jamal's Radio Broadcasts

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'From Warrior to Writer: Chernoh M. Bah's journey'

rec. 3-11-06

[1\) 2:45 Radio Essay Mp3](#)

[2\) 4:36 Radio Essay Mp3](#)

From Warrior to Writer: Chernoh M. Bah's journey Imagine, if you can, what you were doing when you were 12 years old. Chernoh Alpha M. Bah, a 27-year-old West African journalist, can't forget. That's because Chernoh was one of 15 thousand child soldiers, fighting a dreadful, bloody civil war, in Sierra Leone. The war, waged by the brutal Revolutionary United Front, wreaked havoc upon the country throughout the 1990's. When the people demanded and fought for peace, Chernoh left the army, and when he learned that the RUF-led regime was a force for national repression instead of liberation, he became increasingly politically active, as an organizer against the military junta and as a journalist. Working as a pro-democracy and socialist agitator and writer, Chernoh M. Bah worked tirelessly to bring an end to the regime and for the restoration of civilian rule. Today, he speaks bitingly of the betrayal of his youth and much of post-colonial Africa, as he did at a recent speech in London, saying, "We lived through violence, grew in it, and tasted its painful fruits. We are witnesses and victims of the diabolic activities of insincere individuals who have manipulated our appalling conditions to fulfill their opportunistic desires whilst at the same time satisfying the needs of the imperialist countries who commissioned them." In exile from Sierra Leone for his political and journalistic activities, Chernoh M. Bah found repression in many other West African countries, instigated by governments which sold their souls to western corporate neo-colonial interests. While in Guinea, he helped form the Young Writers Association, an association of journalists from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. In 2001 he was arrested and imprisoned on charges of espionage and sedition. After his release, the regime in Guinea promptly banned the Young Writers Association and the newspaper put out by the YWA, The Nation's Newspaper. Today, Chernoh M. Bah is touring the US to try to teach folks about the ruinous diamond wars in West Africa, the horrors of childhood war, and the necessity to build the global struggle for African liberation from western imperialism and their neo-colonial puppets. Today, as an organizer in the Africanist movement, M. Bah works in eight West African countries to try to promote democracy and socialism. In the US, he is working with Uhuru Movement, a program of the African People's Socialist Party. His condemnation of post-colonial Africa is as raw as that of his predecessors, for he argues that things haven't changed for the betterment of the common people. Again from his London speech, M. Bah argues, "Since our so-called independence, several revolutionary movements have emerged in Africa, each seeking to combat corruption, political oppression, and other negative elements affecting Africans, whilst at the same time seeking to change the conditions of the states in which their activities are organized. These so-called liberation forces can be found everywhere in Africa, starting from Uganda to Congo, and Liberia to Ivory Coast, and Senegal to Ethiopia, but they have all failed to live up to the desires to uplift us from the current dehumanizing conditions forced upon us by western mechanisms." There's a reason why Mr. M. Bah is an African socialist. That's because he sees the rich natural resources in Sierra Leone and other African states, and the sheer poverty of African populations. He sees wealth being used not to serve the needs of the people, but to prop up brutal military regimes, and to enrich foreign western interests. Sierra Leone is a country of vast natural wealth, exporting diamonds, coffee, cocoa, bauxite, titanium, among other resources to the west. The average diamond miner, for example, earns a

paltry \$2 a day, and a cup of rice. If you want to hear from Chernoh Alpha M. Bah, contact the Chernoh Alpha M. Bah Tour Committee at Uhuru House. That's U-H-U-R-U at 503 South 52nd St., Philadelphia, 19143. Or call (267) 254-5901. We all have much to learn from Chernoh Alpha M. Bah. From Death Row, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

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[Check out Mumia's latest: **WE WANT FREEDOM: A Life in the Black Panther Party**, from South End Press (<http://www.southendpress.org>); Ph. #1-800-533-8478.]

"When a cause comes along and you know in your bones that it is just, yet refuse to defend it--at that moment you begin to die. And I have never seen so many corpses walking around talking about justice." - Mumia Abu-Jamal

MUMIA'S COLUMNS NEED TO BE PUBLISHED AS BROADLY AS POSSIBLE TO INSPIRE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT AND HELP CALL ATTENTION TO HIS CASE.

The campaign to kill Mumia is in full swing and we need you to ****please**** contact as many publications and information outlets as you possibly can to run Mumia's commentaries (on-line and ****especially off-line****)!! The only requirements are that you run them **unedited**, with every word including copyright information intact, and send a copy of the publication to Mumia and/or ICFMAJ. THANK YOU!!!

Keep updated by reading ACTION ALERTS!!
at <http://www.mumia.org>, <http://www.onamove.com/> and their links.

To download Mp3's of Mumia's commentaries visit
<http://www.prisonradio.org> or <http://www.fsrn.org>

The Power of Truth is Final -- Free Mumia!

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WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM CAN ***NOT*** REST!!

Submitted by: Sis. Marpessa

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For additional information and to order *Mumia's new book We Want Freedom*, visit: southendpress.org

Check out Mumia's NEW book:

"Faith of Our Fathers: An Examination of the Spiritual Life of African and African-American People" at www.africanworld.com

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