

Free Michael, Fry Mumia!

Hello, good evening and welcome, Shalom, Assalamu alaikum. It is August 2009, my name is Alexander Baron, and this is my second Internet sermon. I am an independent researcher based in London, England, though the subject of this dissertation is not related to my researches in the ordinary sense of the word, but to two alleged miscarriages of justice.

One of these cases involves a black dude who was convicted of offing a pig; the other of a white man who was convicted of one of the most heinous crimes in modern British criminal history, the Chillenden Murders.

The evidence against the black dude is absolutely overwhelming; the evidence against the honky is close to non-existent, but you dumb sons of bitches and crazy hoers have been campaigning on behalf of de black dude for over two decades, while the only people looking out for de honky is his lawyers, his sister and a couple of mofos runnin' websites.

Okay, no more jive talk and certainly no ebonics.

As well as an independent researcher I have experienced at first hand what might be called, euphemistically, the dark side of British justice. And I have supplemented this painful experience with both academic and practical research first hand. My researches lead me to believe that American justice is often no better, and indeed you don't have to conduct detailed and painstaking research as I have done to be aware of this, investigative journalists and documentary makers have done all the work for you. Check out the cases of Clarence Elkins and Stefan Kiszko through your search engine, and you'll see what I mean.

In a criminal trial, an accused is supposed to be convicted only if the jury are convinced of his guilt beyond all reasonable doubt. And the more serious the alleged crime or crimes of which he stands accused, the stricter should be the burden of proof, certainly no one should be convicted of or even tried for a crime as serious as murder on mere hearsay. The reality though is that many people, not only in Britain and the United States but throughout the world, are convicted of serious crimes every day on the most tenuous of evidence.

In July 1982, Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted of the murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. All over this website, all over the Internet, you will find individuals and groups protesting his innocence. Anyone dropping in from the planet Mars would think at first glance that this was a terrible miscarriage of justice, or at the very least that there was some uncertainty about who stood over Daniel Faulkner in the small hours of a December morning and blew his brains out. But anyone who takes the trouble to study the documented evidence against Jamal will soon realise that this is not the case.

In October 1998, Michael Stone was convicted of the Chillenden Murders, the brutal slaying of Dr Lin Russell and her youngest daughter Megan. And the family dog. And of the attempted murder of Dr Russell's eldest daughter, whose surviving this murderous

onslaught was nothing short of miraculous. Michael Stone was convicted of the Chillenden Murders not on eyewitness evidence, not on forensic evidence, nor even on circumstantial evidence. He was convicted primarily on the evidence of confessions he was alleged to have made to other prisoners while on remand. After his conviction, one of these prisoners admitted he'd made up this confession out of the whole cloth. Stone's conviction was quashed, and he was retried and convicted on - get this - a confession he was alleged to have shouted through a prison wall to a drug addict who was so far out of it that shortly he tried to phone his own mother. Who was dead.

Yes, one confession from a self-confessed liar, drug dealer and police informant.

Now admittedly, Stone did not have the best representation at trial. In his first trial he did not take the stand because his legal team were afraid his previous convictions would be put before the jury. Dr Russell and her daughter were battered to death with a hammer, and Stone had a previous conviction for battering a man with a hammer. Some jurors might have considered that to have been too much of a coincidence. Of course, if they'd been told that the man he attacked was a child molester, and that goody two shoes Stone saw himself as an avenging angel administering summary justice, they might have taken a different view.

There was of course no way of keeping Stone's antecedents from the jury at the retrial, so he should have taken the stand. He didn't. But apart from denying making any sort of confession there was not a lot he could have told the jury anyway.

The same thing can't be said for Mumia Abu-Jamal. He had no previous convictions of any kind. He could have taken the stand and explained how he didn't shoot Officer Faulkner, how he just happened to be running towards him with a loaded gun in his hand, a gun that was registered to him, and that was empty when he was arrested a few minutes later.

He could have taken the stand and explained how Officer Faulkner had shot him in the chest for no apparent reason. He could have taken the stand and explained how Faulkner was shot by a mysterious gunman who disappeared into the night, the non-existent passenger in William Cook's car, or was it some guy with Johnny Mathis hair who pulled up in another car? Or was it self-confessed hitman Arnold Beverly? Or was it the Urban Spaceman? Or perhaps that should be the urban space cadet?

Jamal could have taken the stand and explained all these things and more. Heck, he could even have put his brother William Cook on the stand, who would doubtless have explained how someone else had shot Officer Faulkner.

Jamal did none of these things. And now he wants a retrial. Now he wants to explain to the world how he is an innocent man.

The cases of Michael Stone and Mumia Abu-Jamal are both striking, but in entirely different ways.

The evidence against Jamal is absolutely overwhelming: a fistful of eyewitnesses, forensic evidence, an arrest at the scene of the crime virtually *in flagrante delicto*, and

what some have called a confession, but what was in reality a boast. “I shot the motherfucker, and I hope the motherfucker dies!”

Jamal blurted that out at the hospital; Daniel Faulkner was already long dead, and he probably thought he was a dead man himself, so this can be seen as the last defiant act of a man who is angry at the world. He would have died too if the wicked *racist* police hadn't woken up a judge to obtain a court order to treat him against his will.

How much evidence do you need to convict a man of murder? If you can't convict Jamal, you can't convict anyone.

Michael Stone's case is the exact opposite: if you can convict Stone, you can convict anyone, not just of murder but of any crime, simply arrange for the inmate in the next cell to concoct a confession from information in the public domain, or in Damien Daley's case, that morning's newspaper.

So why has Jamal's case received international support from the actors Ed Asner and Harry Belafonte, the actress Susan Sarandon, a host of musicians, performers, activists, and the City of St-Denis, France, which named a street after this convicted murderer?

Why have there been concerts, protests, press conferences and meetings galore calling for a retrial, or even simply to set him free?

And why has Michael Stone received none of this support?

Jamal's supporters have raised millions of dollars for this worthless cause. The Michael Stone campaign is not really a campaign at all. It operates on a shoestring and consists of Stone's sister – who works independently through a local pressure group. She has done nothing meaningful on this case for years. Then there is Yours Truly who runs the Michael Stone website; recently another website has been set up by someone who is best described as a legal scholar rather than an activist.

There are two businessmen, both of whom wish to remain anonymous – one from London, another from Brighton. Like me, these two gents have experienced the dark side of British justice; their support has been mainly, but not exclusively financial. There is Stone's small legal team – who work on Legal Aid. And that is it.

Maybe if Stone grew dreadlocks and blacked his face he'd attract more support. Maybe, then again maybe not. Although Jamal is black, he is not and never was a member of the underclass. Stone was from the very beginning. He had an unhappy home life, spent time living in children's and care homes, became a juvenile delinquent, a drug addict, and if he hadn't been convicted of the Chillenden Murders he would surely have served a life sentence on the instalment plan.

Michael Stone does not have Jamal's cuddly, dreadlocked teddy bear image; he was never a radio journalist – award winning or otherwise. He is not the sort of man most people would invite into their homes, or even give the time of day too.

And he is certainly not a self-styled revolutionary who would give fireside chats from his cell, even if this sort of nonsense were tolerated in Britain.

But look at the evidence against Jamal, and the non-evidence against Stone.

Jamal's death sentence was overturned in 2001 on a technicality, which prompted one newspaper to say he should now be allowed to rot in darkness. By and large I am opposed to the death penalty, and I agree with that sentiment one hundred percent. So why don't you drop Mumia and allow him to rot in darkness?

As I said, there are now two websites devoted to the case of Michael Stone: ismichaelstoneguilty and michaelstone.co.uk.

Take a little time and visit them both, then forget all this lunatic fringe police conspiracy garbage about innocent, framed Mumia. Forget all this crap about *racism*; this isn't about slavery or the Holocaust or any of those other red herrings, this is about one man who lost it and gunned down a police officer while he was making a lawful arrest.

Visit the Michael Stone websites, and support a worthy cause; if you want to write to him, his prison number is A5082AC, and he is in Full Sutton high security prison.

What happened to Mumia Abu-Jamal could happen to anyone who carries a gun loaded with high velocity bullets and uses it in a moment of madness.

What happened to Michael Stone could happen to anyone at all. Including you.