JUSTICE FOR MARK CURTIS!

This photo was taken of Mark Curtis just after his release from the Des Moines City Jail, March 5, 1988, where he was beaten by police. They framed him for attempted rape, burglary and assault on the police. As they beat him, they told him the real charge: "You're a Mexican lover, just like you love those colored." They knew he was a political and union activist. He was arrested soon after leaving a meeting protesting a government immigration raid in which 17 of his coworkers at the Swift packinghouse were arrested.

Mark was convicted September 14. The jury was not allowed to hear about the police interrogation and beating, the record of lying and brutality by the cop who accused him, misconduct by the prosecutor, and illegal FBI spy files kept on Mark. The assault charge was dropped just before the scheduled October 10 trial.

Mark Curtis is now in jail. No bond is available while he appeals the conviction that carries a 25 to 35 year mandatory sentence. This beating, frame-up and conviction is a blow against all union members and political activists.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE FOR MARK CURTIS

Excerpts from some of the protest messages sent after the conviction of Mark Curtis

PIRI THOMAS, Poet, author, and activist - "As a brown man, I stand aghast but not surprised at the travesty of justice in the case of Mark Curtis... There is no doubt the world is watching the court system in Des Moines, Iowa."

ANGELA SANBRANO, Executive Director, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador - "An important element in the frame-up of Mark Curtis was the decision to bar from the courtroom the fact that Mark became an FBI target because of his activities as a leader of CISPES... CISPES will continue to do whatever it takes until he is free, all the charges are exposed and defeated, and those who attacked him are punished."

LORETTA ROSS, Director, Women of Color Programs, National Organization for Women Action Center - "What is there to say but keep on fighting. Justice may be slow, but truth will prevail."

LARRY REGAN, President, United Steelworkers of America Local 1014 - "I received word this afternoon of Mark Curtis's conviction on trumped-up sexual abuse and burglary charges. On behalf of the 4000 members of United Steelworkers local 1014, I protest this deliberate attack on a union activist, and demand justice for Mark...As of today, we will set up a support committee for Mark Curtis, and plan a plant gate collection soon, as Mark will need money now more than ever. I encourage other unions to do the same, and endorse any efforts to collect money for Mark's defense."

PETER MAHLANGU, North American Representative, South African Congress of Trade Unions - "We protest the frame-up and unjust conviction of Mark Curtis, the committed fighter against apartheid, against racism, and against the oppression and exploitation of working people anywhere in the world...You can count on our support in this important battle until victory - which is certain - has been won."

ROSA PARKS, veteran civil rights leader - "I join with many leaders and human rights activists who want justice for Mark Curtis and for those responsible for abusing his civil rights and physically attacking him."

CARROLL NEARMYER, Iowa State President, American Agricultural Movement - "Mark Curtis is another victim of an unfair court system...I have witnessed time and time again the unfair court system in relation to farmers... [It] works for rich people and not the common person seeking justice."

ROBERT WATTERS, President, Local 100-A, United Food and Commerical Workers Union, Chicago, Illinois - "The racist approach taken by the Des Moines police department and the arguments used by the prosecuting attorney should not have convicted Mark Curtis."

HECTOR MARROQUIN, Mexican-born member of Socialist Workers Party who won recent victory in 11-year struggle for permanent residency - "The "criminal justice" system fully earned its name in Mark's case... I intend to place the victories in my fight, and my energies and solidarity, to the service of winning real justice in Mark's struggle."

OSWALDO NUNEZ, Vice President, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of Canada - "We find it incredible that the victim of a police action be the one to be found guilty. You can count on our support in the continuing struggle."

FRIENDS OF MARK CURTIS IN BRITAIN - "Hundreds of Irish and Black people, striking miners and print-workers on this side of the Atlantic have fallen victim to the "justice" that Mark has experienced. Frame-ups and unfair trials cannot stop the truth from getting out, and this is what will count in mobilizing the broadest outrage at Mark's conviction."

MERLE HANSEN - "After setting through two days of the trial of Mark Curtis, studying much that has been written about it and talking with trusted friends who also set in on the trial, I felt that ample evidence and simple logic supported a verdict of not guilty. That is not the way it turned out...Are the courts always fair? They represent who owns political power. When Darrell Ringer went before the judge in Kansas, he was told, "When you come into this court against the bank, you are wrong." ... It may well turn out to be one of the more famous frame-ups in a long line of political frame-ups that should not exist in a country that professes liberty and justice for all."

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