Thousands in Pennsylvania prisons face a death sentence by Hep C

Don’t let them die in jail

At least 8,000 people incarcerated in Pennsylvania prisons have Hepatitis C, a deadly disease that can destroy the liver. So do another 45,000 people in Philadelphia.

None of these people have to die. New medications, like Sovaldi and its successor, Harvoni, offer a 95 percent cure rate. But their maker Gilead Sciences charges $84,000 for a 12-week treatment with Sovaldi—$1,000 per pill. Harvoni is even more expensive.

This criminal profiteering isn’t new for Gilead. It made billions off the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Gilead’s former chairman is the lying war criminal Donald Rumsfeld.

Mumia fights back

Among those with Hep C is the world renowned political prisoner, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Framed for killing policeman Daniel Faulkner, he has spent over 34 years in prison, most of which were on death row. Mumia filed suit in federal court demanding life-saving treatment for himself and all other sick prisoners.

At a hearing last December, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections attorney Laura Neal tried to submit an altered affidavit from Dr. Paul Noel, the prison system’s chief medical officer. It was also admitted that the DOC’s “interim protocol” to treat prisoners with Hep C was to wait until they are near death before administering life-saving drugs.

Free Mumia and the MOVE 9!

Philadelphia is known internationally as the city where cops and the Pentagon dropped a bomb on the MOVE house, killing six adults and five children on May 13, 1985. No police officers or elected officials were ever prosecuted for this crime.

In contrast, the MOVE 9 defendants have spent nearly 38 years in prison. They were blamed for killing officer James Ramp, who was probably shot by fellow cops during the siege of the MOVE house in Powelton Village in 1978. MOVE members Merle Africa and Phil Africa have died in prison.

Mumia Abu-Jamal and the MOVE 9 must be freed! All people with Hep C must be treated! Call, fax or write Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to demand that life-saving medications be given to all those with Hep C.

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