

Message to Our Brothers and Sisters in Hip Hop: Africa!

Jambo!

Sawubonani, omfuwethu naodadewethu,

Mon freres et mon soeurs d'Afrique!

Children of Africa!

I, from the land of our diaspora, greet you all, and wish you all success on your struggle to join hands and hearts with your brothers and sisters in Black America. Please know that our true lives are rarely seen on the West's media; our lives are brutish and short in America, and millions of us live at the bottom of the well. Hear us, and know that our struggles are more similar than you know. The media is but another weapon of war against our communities, wherever they are in the world.

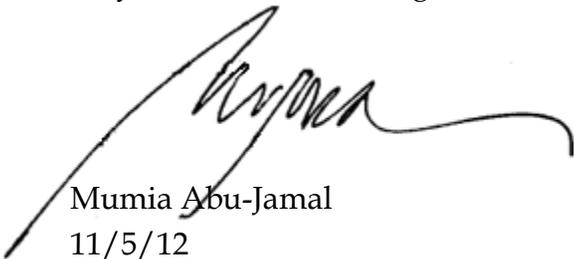
Several days ago, I read an interesting article citing the words of a great Black American scholar and leader, Dr. Vincent Harding, a man who worked with and assisted the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and helped write the last great speech of his life, not at the Washington monument, but in New York's historic Riverside Church--a year to the day when he was assassinated. Dr. Harding, on his 81st birthday, cited a West African poet's hope for tomorrow, and I hope his words reach you, who are, after all, mostly poets also. Dr. Harding said the poet said, "I am a citizen of a country that does not yet exist." I'm sure you can all hear this message, and feel the vibe that we all need to create the country, the world, that does not now exist; but which we must struggle to bring into being. That is part of our work, isn't it?

Let your rhythms and flows send energy into that creation.

I thank you,

Merci, mes amies

May the Ancestors strengthen us in this struggle,



Mumia Abu-Jamal
11/5/12