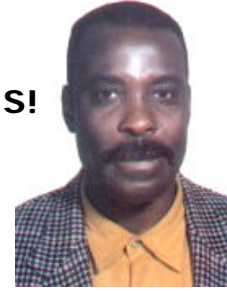


# Unity Bulletin

*The voice of "Rank & File United", USWA Local 8751*

## **DEFEND MARCUS JEAN - DROP THE RACIST, ANTI-UNION FRAME UP CHARGES!**

## **STAND WITH THIS UNION BROTHER - YOU COULD BE LAIDLAW'S NEXT VICTIM!**



It's bad enough that Laidlaw, in its desperate attempt to survive its economic crisis, has their hand in our pockets at every turn – cutting pay, denying time and flat rates, speed ups, etc. They totally disregard our union and seniority rights and generally act as though there is no union. Unjust discipline, suspensions and firings are the basis of their corporate reorganization. Drivers are victimized by "guilty until proven innocent" phony investigations. Just ask Antonio Rodrigues, 13 year veteran driver terminated last Friday on false charges.

### **Laidlaw Practices**

#### **Bush-Style Labor Relations**

Now they have dramatically increased the stakes in their union busting. They are practicing their own corporate version of "Homeland Security". Translated: "Union Job Insecurity." Taking their cue from arch anti-union bigot George Bush, they proclaim "you're either with Laidlaw Corporate policy or with the terrorists". It's outrageous but true. Readville driver Marcus Jean is their first victim. Marcus has been fired and is now facing criminal charges of threatening to "blow up the building"!

On January 30 Marcus was involved in a minor disagreement with another driver about a blocked bus parking space. NO BIG DEAL!

Asst Terminal Manager Diane Kelly talked to him about it and the matter was closed - no warning, no discipline. The next day Terminal Manager Rick McLaughlin, in a provocative and harassing manner, tried to further interrogate Marcus about this incident all over again.

This is a gross violation of his union rights. The matter was closed. Marcus objected. He called McLaughlin on his racist discrimination and refused to submit to unjust management

Harassment - company conduct in clear violation of his contract rights.

Marcus stood his ground and argued his point but never threatened McLaughlin or anybody else. Period! Laidlaw then went to the police, and cynically exploiting the post Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> climate, claimed that Marcus repeatedly threatened to blow up the building and that he posed a serious "terrorist" threat to the property and employees.

### **What Racist, Anti-Union Lies!**

Witnesses in the trailer that day are prepared to testify to the truth. Laidlaw's star "witness" Diane is "no longer with the company". Word is McLaughlin fired her for an alleged assault against him. Marcus's case takes place in the context of literally dozens of cases against McLaughlin's harassment, intimidation and threats against drivers at Readville. He has made it a standard practice to falsely accuse drivers of threatening him. Last month General Manager Timilty and Anti "Labor Relations" boss Martis met with the union local and international in Readville to hear some of the many complaints.

### **Gov't, Police, Courts - Hands off our Union!**

While Laidlaw's wild charges are a racist disgrace, it is even more appalling that the police and the courts are seriously prosecuting this case. Laidlaw appeared before the Clerk Magistrate with not one witness to back up McLaughlin's lies. McLaughlin's testimony was absurd! Laidlaw's new Anti "Labor Relations" chief John Martis told the clerk that McLaughlin was given his "marching orders" from corporate bosses to prosecute this case.

Government attacks on our unions represent a threat to all labor. The

**Solidarity with  
Marcus Jean!**

**West Roxbury  
District Court**

**9:00 AM on**

**Friday  
March 15th**

Teamsters, AFSCME, SEIU and even our own local have had to fight against this management tool. Years ago, the corporations used to hire armed goon squads, Pinkertons, to attack the union. Now they get the government to do their dirty work free of charge. Bush's Homeland Security will only make matters worse.

### **Part of National Racist Anti - Immigrant Hysteria**

There is a national wave of government directed anti-immigrant hysteria sweeping the country. Racist profiling and denial of civil liberties are an attack on all of our rights. Whether it's Arab people detained without charges, immigrant workers arrested and facing federal charges at Logan airport, or victims of racist violence all over the country, we must stand in solidarity with those fighting for justice. The message the government sends is clear when they set loose the sadistic police in the Abner Louima case while at the same time prosecuting an innocent Haitian worker like Marcus.

### **Don't Let This Injustice Go Unanswered**

Workers throughout the region will rally to our cause. (continued on back)

**(Marcus Jean continued)**

This criminal corporate behavior is a threat to every union in the country. Union Busting and Racism under the guise of "protecting homeland security" must not go unanswered. Activists from the coalition Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) have helped *USWA 8751 Rank and File United* establish the Marcus Jean Defense Committee to organize the campaign to win justice for our brother. The Committee has secured the top criminal attorney in the region, people's lawyer Barry Wilson, to represent Marcus. We are launching a full scale, all out defense campaign to mobilize support. We need to pack the court at every appearance, get endorsers, have picket lines, press conferences, and letter campaigns to the DA to drop the charges. We need to be in the union halls, community meetings, churches and on the internet to spread the word far and wide.

**We Need Your Active Participation Now!! Come to the next meeting of the Marcus Jean Defense Committee. Let's remember and act on the old Union slogan, "An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!"**



...Already, our State workers are in a valiant struggle to gain justice. We need sound pensions, decent wages and adequate health care. Bush's national strategy of tax cuts to the rich and welfare for the military industrial complex will only hurt us and bring further misery for all...

**This is why I am endorsing the A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) coalition national April 20th march in Washington D.C. to say no to war and racism and no to Bush's war budget. I urge everyone to join me in this effort.**  
**Sally Davies, President AFSCME Council 92**

**Next Meeting of "Rank & File United" & the Marcus Jean Defense Committee**

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**284 Amory St. Jamaica Plain**  
 (the "Brewery", between Green & Boylston Sts.)

Sponsored by **Labor's ANSWER**  
[www.iacboston.org/LaborsANSWER](http://www.iacboston.org/LaborsANSWER)



*In honor of International Women's Day*

**Tell Gov. Swift & the politicians:**

**No More Cuts!  
 Restore the Budget!  
 Housing & Healthcare,  
 not Warfare**

**Friday, March 15  
 Mass. Statehouse  
 4:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Sponsored by the Women's Fightback Network**  
[www.iacboston.org/WFN](http://www.iacboston.org/WFN)

partial list of endorsers: Lyn Meza (VP IUE-CWA Local 201\*), Simmons College Feminist Union, Mass. Welfare Rights Union, International Action Center, Cape Cod Coalition for Peace & Justice, United American Indians of New England, Rainbow Flags for Mumia, Palestine Right to Return Coalition (AFAwda-MA), Disabled Peoples Liberation Front, Lesbian Avengers, Community Church of Boston, State Rep. Pat Jehlen (Somerville), Rachel Nasca (member AFSCME L. 3650, Harvard \*), Lana Habash, MD (family physician), Boston Women's Fund, Jean McGuire (Exec. Dir. METCO), Union of Minority Neighborhoods, Jamaica Plain Action Network (JPAN), Rev. Elizabeth Ellis (St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dorchester), Mass. NOW \*for ID only



**Stand Up for Peace & Self-Determination for Palestine!**

**Tell Bush: Stop the Israeli massacres & mass round-ups of Palestinian people!**

**Saturday, March 16  
 1:30 PM**

**Park St. station, Boston**

**Sponsored by International A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism)**  
[www.internationalANSWER.org](http://www.internationalANSWER.org)