



1968  2012

# RESISTANCE: THE BEST OLYMPIC SPIRIT

# John Carlos Doreen Lawrence & Janet Alder



# SEIZE THE TIME

"How can you ask someone to live in the world and not have something to say about injustice"

*John Carlos*



The most iconic image of the Olympic Games and the Black Power movement captured the mood, the anger and resistance of 1968.

1968 was the year the great civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, was assassinated. Across the US cities burned when the preacher of non-violence was gunned down in Memphis. 1968 was the year that marked the beginning of the end of the Vietnam War when the 'Tet Offensive' stunned the military might of the US. 1968 was the year when black workers in the car plants of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler got organised in the Detroit area launching the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement. 1968 was the year of the Prague Spring and, in France, the biggest General Strike in history. 1968 was a year of global resistance.

In Mexico City 1968, as students were mowed down by state troops, Tommie Smith took Gold, winning the 200m race in a world-record time of 19.83 seconds. Peter Norman took Silver with 20.06 seconds and John Carlos, Bronze

with 20.10 seconds. As the stars and stripes rose and the Star-Spangled Banner played, Tommie Smith and John Carlos bowed their heads and raised their fists in defiance.

Both athletes stood shoeless, wearing black socks representing the black poor of the ghettos. Tommie Smith wore a black scarf to represent black pride while John Carlos wore beads in memory of those who were lynched or killed, hung and tarred. With his tracksuit top unzipped, John Carlos expressed solidarity with workers in struggle. The Australian medalist, Peter Norman, wore the badge of the Olympic Project of Human rights in support of the two Americans.

Now, as the Olympics approach in London in 2012, the globe is engulfed in a deep recession. Unemployment rises as whole countries teeter on the brink. Impoverishment and insecurity deepens while the rich wine, dine and threaten to set the world aflame with wars and environmental destruction. Our rulers scapegoat the poor and immigrants, fueling fascists, while

families seek justice for those loved ones killed at the hands of the racist police.

But there is resistance. The Arab Revolutions have inspired 'Occupy' movements around the world from New York to London to Madrid. Workers are organising, striking and fighting from Mahalla to Wisconsin; from Athens to Rome.

**This is your chance to hear the John Carlos story.**

On the night, John Carlos will be joined by **Doreen Lawrence**, mother of Stephen Lawrence, murdered in a racist attack in 1993 and **Janet Alder**, sister to Christopher Alder who was left to die in Hull Police station by racist police in 1998.

**This will be a powerful night to remember. DON'T MISS IT!**

Admission: **Free**

**Initiated by:** RMT activists on London Underground. Supported by The Fire Brigades Union

For further details contact:

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# MONDAY 21 MAY

# 6pm, Friends House, Euston