



Civic Studies &
the Center for Race and Democracy present:

John Artis, Fred Hogan, and author Jeff Beach

Wednesday, October 24 from 12:00 - 1:15

Location: Center for the Humanities at Tufts, 48 Professors Row

Students who are interested in attending should RSVP to Danuta Forbes (Danuta.Forbes@tufts.edu)

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was a professional boxer and social justice activist who spent nearly twenty years in prison for murder convictions that were later overturned. Carter and **John Artis** were arrested in 1966 and charged with committing three murders at the Lafayette Bar in Paterson, New Jersey. Despite inconsistencies in testimony and conflicting evidence, Carter and Artis were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. While in prison, Carter published *The Sixteenth Round: From Number 1 Contender to #45472* (1974). Musician Bob Dylan read the book and visited Carter in prison in 1975, leading to the composition of his song "Hurricane," which raised public awareness of Carter and his case.

Investigator **Fred Hogan** secured the recantation of the two identifying witnesses and notified the *New York Times*, which published a front page story on the case. In March 1976 the New Jersey Supreme Court overturned the convictions of both Artis and Carter. At a second trial in December 1976, prosecutors argued that Carter and Artis were motivated by racial revenge, and they were again convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Carter and Artis appealed their conviction with the assistance of members of a Canadian commune. On November 7, 1985, Judge H. Lee Sarokin of the United States District Court in Newark overturned the second conviction and ruled that the prosecutors had withheld evidence and violated the defendants' constitutional rights. The judge declared that the prosecution's case was "predicated upon an appeal to racism rather than reason, and concealment rather than disclosure." Carter and Artis were released the next day. There is a movie called *The Hurricane*, starring Denzel Washington, which tells the story, and this year Hogan and author **Jeff Beach** published a book on the case entitled *Justice on the Ropes*.

Lunch will be served.

