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Via e-mail and postal service

The Honorable Bertrand Delanoë
Maire de Paris
Hôtel de Ville
75000 Paris

Le Conseil de Paris
Hôtel de Ville
Place de l'Hôtel de Ville
75196 Paris

Re: Mumia Abu-Jamal, death row, Pennsylvania
Letter from Philadelphia officials, October 17, 2006

Dear Mayor Delanoë, and the Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council:

This is written on behalf of my client, Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is on death row in Pennsylvania. I initially met some of you, including Mayor Delanoë, on October 4, 2003 during the ceremony in the Hôtel de Ville when Mr. Abu-Jamal was publicly recognized as an honorary citizen of Paris.

The October 17, 2006 letter sent to you on behalf of some Philadelphia political figures is appalling since it contains material misrepresentations and errors. Their demand that the honorary citizenship of Mr. Abu-Jamal be revoked is an affront not only to the citizens of Paris, but is insulting to people around the globe who are opposed to the death penalty and human-rights abuses. We ask that you reject such offensive demands.

Mr. Abu-Jamal has been on death row for nearly a quarter of a century. At the time of the 1981 arrest he was a prominent journalist¹ who was known as the "Voice of the Voiceless." The authorities thought that by sentencing my client to death, his outspokenness against governmental wrongs and corruption would be silenced. To the contrary, he continues to speak out against injustice, and his death-row commentaries are heard weekly on radio stations throughout the world. The authorities are on a quest to do all possible to still Mr. Abu-Jamal's pen² and voice. They want him to die, silently, in prison. We will not allow that to occur.

The Philadelphia officials are attempting to deceive you, because they have no power over the death sentence. As pointed out in Mr. Abu-Jamal's enclosed letter, these people "are merchants of death who wish to trick you into their campaign" to not only kill my client, but also "to wipe [his] name from the face of the earth." Their deal "is

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1. In late 1980 at age 26, Mr. Abu-Jamal was elected chair of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists. He was named "one of the people to watch in 1981." (*Philadelphia Magazine*, Jan. 1981.) His writings have appeared in a number of prestigious publications, including the *Yale Law Journal*.
 2. From death row Mr. Abu-Jamal has written five books that are in print in various languages: *Live from Death Row* (1995); *Death Blossoms: Reflections from a Prisoner of Conscience* (1996); *All Things Censored* (2001); *Faith of Our Fathers: An Examination of the Spiritual Life of African and African-American People* (2003); and, *We Want Freedom: A Life In the Black Panther Party* (2004).

but another lie, a devil's bargain that they are powerless to grant under any stretch of American or international law."

Amnesty International, in calling for a new trial, observed: "This is not about an issue affecting the life of just one man. This is about justice—which affects us all. And justice, in this case, can only be served by a new trial." (Amnesty Int'l, *A Life in the Balance—The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal*, Feb. 17, 2000 (AI Index: AMR 51/001/2000).) The report concluded that the proceedings under which my client was tried, convicted and sentenced to death "failed to reach the minimum international standards of justice . . . Amnesty International therefore believes that the interests of justice would best be served by the granting of a new trial to Mumia Abu-Jamal." The Amnesty findings were highly publicized, yet ignored by the same Philadelphia officials who now are insisting you revoke Mr. Abu-Jamal's honorary citizenship.

If the officials were truly concerned about justice, why have they not sought to help me in seeking a new and fair trial for Mr. Abu-Jamal, who is a symbol for political prisoners around the world including those facing the death penalty? Why have they not communicated with the courts or me if they were sincerely against the death penalty and cared about justice? Why do the politicians not oppose the racism in this case? Why is there no outrage about the human rights violations from which my client has suffered for nearly 25 years? Why do they falsely report even about the number of wounds?³ Why are the reported political affiliations of two of the officials misstated?⁴

We are in active litigation before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia, with extensive ongoing briefing. (*Abu-Jamal v. Horn*, U.S. Ct. of Appeals Nos. 01-9014, 02-9001 [death penalty].) Oral argument before a three-judge panel should occur in the early 2007. The issues are of enormous constitutional consequence since they go to the essence of Mr. Abu-Jamal's right to a fair trial, due process of law, and equal protection of the law, guaranteed by the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. They include:

- Whether Mr. Abu-Jamal was denied the right to due process of law and a fair trial because of the prosecutor's "appeal-after-appeal" argument which encouraged the jury to disregard the presumption of innocence and reasonable doubt, and err on the side of guilt.
- Whether the prosecution's exclusion of black citizens from sitting on the jury violated Mr. Abu-Jamal's right to due process and equal protection of the law.
- Whether Mr. Abu-Jamal was denied due process and equal protection of the law during a post-conviction hearing because of the bias and racism of Judge Albert F. Sabo, who was overheard during the trial commenting that he was "going to help'em fry the nigger."
- Whether the death penalty was lawfully imposed in this case because of the judge's improper and misleading jury instructions.

That the federal court has agreed to consider issues which concern Mr. Abu-Jamal's right to a fair trial is a great milestone in this struggle for human rights. This is the first time that any court has made a ruling that could lead to a new trial and freedom. Nevertheless, Mr. Abu-Jamal remains in great danger.

3. The deceased was shot once in the face, not five times as claimed by the Philadelphia officials in their letter. (Postmortem Report, Office of the Medical Examiner, Dec. 11, 1981; autopsy photographs, Dec. 9, 1981.)

4. Jannie L. Blackwell is a Democrat, and Brian O'Neil is Republican, rather than the reverse as they state.

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My client is a powerful symbol in the international campaign against the death penalty and for political prisoners everywhere. Our goal is to see that the many wrongs which have occurred in this case are righted, and Mr. Abu-Jamal is granted a new trial. At the conclusion of that trial we want him freed.

This is a sensitive time in the legal proceedings with my client's life hanging in the balance. We do not need politicians so transparently exploiting the situation for their own agendas. Their letter demanding that the honorary citizenship of Mumia Abu-Jamal be revoked, must be rejected in the interest of justice and humanity.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Yours very truly,



Robert R. Bryan
Lead counsel for Mumia Abu-Jamal

RRB/bm

Enclosure: Letter from Mumia Abu-Jamal to Hon. Bertrand Delanoë and Conseil de Paris, Oct. 30, 2006

cc: Jean Vuillermoz, Président du groupe communiste au Conseil de Paris
Le Collectif Unitaire 'Ensemble, sauvons Mumia Abu-Jamal'

10/30/66

MONSIEUR LE MAIRE
CITÉ DE PARIS
HÔTEL DE VILLE

MY DEAR MONSIEUR LE MAIRE
AND CITY COUNCILLORS OF PARIS:

I'm informed that you and your colleagues received an insulting and somewhat threatening letter assuring you that my trial was fair, and my conviction and death sentence was just.

As for the fairness of the trial I invite you to read the Amnesty International report on my case to determine for yourselves if the trial or subsequent appeals were even remotely fair.

Only in America could a trial judge say (in the presence of a sworn court reporter), "I'll help them fry the nigger," and be considered fair.

Only in America could a state supreme court justice, Ren Castillo, serve as chief prosecutor on direct appeal, and also sit as an appellate judge on the same case, and not recuse himself. What a fair appeal!

The trial featured lies, just as the threatening letter to you did.

If the trial was truly fair, why would the

PHILADELPHIA LETTER PROPOSE A DEAL?
THAT "DEAL", BY THE WAY IS BUT ANOTHER
LIE, A DEVIL'S BARGAIN THAT THEY ARE
POWERLESS TO GRANT UNDER ANY STRETCH OF
AMERICAN OR INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THE LETTER-WRITERS ARE MERCHANTS OF
DEATH WHO WISH TO TRICK YOU INTO THEIR
CAMPAIGN TO NOT ONLY KILL ME, BUT TO WIPE
MY NAME FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

WHY ELSE WOULD THEY CARE ABOUT A SMALL
STREET IN ST. DENIS? OR AN AWARD OF
CITIZEN OF HONOR FROM THE CITY OF LIGHT?

THE EMPIRE THINKS IT IS MASTER OF
THE WORLD AND CAN TELL ALL WHAT TO DO.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOU TO TELL THEM,
"NO."

Merci, *Mumia Abu-Jamal*