



**International  
Federation  
of Journalists**

**PHILIPPE LERUTH**  
President

**ANTHONY BELLANGER**  
General Secretary

2 February 2018

**Governor Tom Wolf / Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120 USA**

Dear Governor Wolf,

The International Federation of Journalists, which represents 600,000 journalists in 141 countries, is deeply concerned about the situation of Mumia Abu-Jamal, both in terms of his state of health and the ongoing legal process initiated by his defense to review his case.

While we welcome the decision of the federal justice system to enable him to access treatment to eradicate his hepatitis, we are very worried about the consequences of the refusal by the prison authorities to allow his transfer to hospital - the only competent place to cure the skin disease of which he suffers and deal with the follow-up of the evolution of the cirrhosis of the liver. This refusal is an abuse of rights and amounts to inhumane behavior. This is why we ask you to intervene as soon as possible.

With regard to the ongoing legal process in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, we ask you - with due respect for the independence of justice system - to follow, carefully the unfolding proceedings to help ensure that the rights of prisoners, those of Mumia Abu-Jamal and many others are respected.

In particular it is important that in connection with the new jurisprudence of the Supreme Court which now forbids the same magistrate to be involved in the review of an appeal in a case for which he was previously involved in a death sentence the rights of the prisoner are upheld. (ref. *Terrance Williams vs. Pennsylvania case*).

Rest assured, Mr Governor, of our determination to support our colleague in his courageous fight for his health and his right to defend his innocence.

Yours sincerely

**Anthony Bellanger**  
General Secretary

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**International Federation of Journalists, International Press Centre**

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## **Mumia must be freed**

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists, meeting in Angers, France from June 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 passed the following resolution unanimously,

**recollecting** that for 34 years, our colleague, the Afro-American journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has been imprisoned in the State of Pennsylvania, charged with the assassination of a policeman in Philadelphia on 9 December 1981, which he has always been denying;

**considering** that he was condemned to the death penalty in 1982 upon completion of a racist and unfair legal procedure during which his constitutional rights were literally dntrodden;

**observing** that despite a large number of legal and judiciary irregularities during the procedure, he has never obtained it revision to defend his innocence;

**noting** that Mumia Abu-Jamal, called “the voice of the voiceless”, has spent 10964 days (i.e. more than 30 years) on death row;

**further noting** that the international mobilisation has saved him twice from being executed (in 1995 and 1999) by the Pennsylvanian authorities;

**having in mind** that as a result of the mobilisation he could leave the death row in December 2011 as ruled by the U.S. Supreme Court;

**having in mind** that our colleague had his death penalty reduced to life imprisonment without parole eligibility;

**aware** that according to this ruling, Mumia Abu-Jamal is doomed to die in Mahanoy’s prison while he has been claiming his innocence for more than three decades;

Under these circumstances, Congress **calls upon** the IFJ Executive Committee to demand his release and the possibility to exercise his profession of journalist. More precisely, the Executive Committee is urged to make an appeal to the governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, and the President of the United States, Barack Obama.