

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6 January 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama II President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express our extreme disappointment, displeasure and vehement opposition to the nomination of Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

As word of this nomination spreads through the law enforcement community, reactions range from anger to incredulity. Under this nominee's leadership, the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People *volunteered* their services to represent Wesley Cook, better known to the world as Mumia Abu-Jamal—our country's most notorious cop-killer. There is no disputing that Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner was murdered by this thug. His just sentence—death—was undone by your nominee and others like him who turned the justice system on its head with unfounded and unproven allegations of racism.

We are aware of the tried and true shield behind which activists of Adegbile's ilk are wont to hide—that everyone is entitled to a defense; but surely you would agree that a defense should not be based on falsely disparaging and savaging the good name and reputation of a lifeless police officer. Certainly any legal scholar can see the injustice and absence of ethics in this cynical race-baiting approach to our legal system.

The Administration did not consult the FOP during the decision-making process for this nomination. In fact, to our knowledge, none of our nation's law enforcement organizations were consulted despite a recent pledge by your Attorney General to be more open and transparent with the men and women we rely on to keep us safe. This nomination can be interpreted in only one way: it is a thumb in the eye of our nation's law enforcement officers. It demonstrates a total lack of regard or empathy for those who strive to keep you and everyone else in our nation safe in your homes and neighborhoods—sometimes giving their lives in the effort.

We believe that law enforcement and minority communities need to build even greater bonds of trust and mutual respect. Yet, your Civil Rights Division, under the direction of Thomas E. Perez and Roy L. Austin, Jr., has increasingly built obstacles to this goal with its aggressive and punitive approach towards local law enforcement agencies. Your nominee will certainly exacerbate that growing division and distrust.

Standing up and fighting against racism wherever and whenever you find it is a brave and admirable endeavor; sometimes standing up against racism entails opposing and exposing cynical opportunism disguised in the name of justice. We will make every effort to point this out in our opposition to this nomination and will do everything we can to defeat it in the Senate.

It is our hope that, in the future, you and your Administration will consider candidates with records of fairness and respect to all Americans when selecting nominees for leadership positions at the Justice Department or anywhere else in your administration.

11/

Chuck Canterbury National President





1450 Duke Street, Suite 207, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Joseph Summerill 4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 360 Washington, DC 20008 (202) 237-2000 ioseph@summerill.net January 8, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I write to you today as the President of the Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA), an association of elected sheriffs representing our nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more serving over 100 million Americans. I write to express our opposition to the nomination of Debo Adegbile to lead the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Having reviewed his past engagement in legal and law enforcement related issues, we have concerns over his involvement with the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the fact that the organization volunteered to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal. The murder of Officer Daniel Faulkner by Mumia Abu-Jamal was in itself a tragedy, but the subsequent overturning of the death sentence he received for the murder was due to the manipulation of the justice system by the Legal Defense Fund.

More importantly, in what appears to be a consistent and purposeful pattern, MCSA was not consulted on this nomination in advance of the announcement to provide our members with the opportunity to pose questions and concerns in order to get to know the nominee. We have found this lack of consultation to be the case across the law enforcement stakeholder community and are extremely discouraged by this continual pattern of deliberate exclusion. We have participated in several meetings with Attorney General Eric Holder where he pledged to be more open and transparent about Department of Justice decisions, a pledge that is not consistent with this nomination.

As you know, our nation's law enforcement officers are the frontline defense for protecting our communities and keeping the public safe. The

continued exclusion of the law enforcement community from the nominations process flies in the face of those that serve to protect our country.

As a result of this nomination, I respectfully request that our Executive Board be given the opportunity to meet with Vice President Biden while in town January 20-22, 2014 for our annual winter meeting. The Vice President has proven to be a champion of law enforcement throughout his career and has continued that role while serving our country in your Administration. My hope is that a meeting will generate a greater understanding of the sacrifices our nation's law enforcement officers make on a daily basis and will facilitate a larger dialogue on how our association can work with the Administration on a more open and transparent process for nominations and other policy decisions affecting the day to day operations of our agencies.

Sincerely,

Donny Youngblood

President, Major County Sheriffs' Association

Sheriff-Coroner, Kern County (CA)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Association of New York City

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON Executive Director

January 8, 2014

The President of the United States The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to express our strongest possible opposition to the nomination of Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

NAPO is deeply concerned that under Mr. Adegbile's leadership, the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People volunteered their services to defend Mumia Abu-Jamal, a convicted copkiller. Abu-Jamal was convicted of murdering Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner in 1982. Mr. Adegbile worked tirelessly to free this unrepentant cop-killer. The nominee's efforts led to the overturning of the just sentence Abu-Jamal received for murdering a valuable member of the law enforcement community.

NAPO firmly believes Mr. Adegbile's history makes him an inappropriate choice to lead DOJ's Civil Rights Division, and we vehemently oppose this nomination. We urge you to reconsider the nomination, as Mr. Adegbile has not shown respect for members of law enforcement who put their lives on the line everyday to keep our nation safe.

If NAPO can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson Executive Director

cc: The Vice President

The Attorney General Hon. Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee Hon. Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

P.O. Box 2456, West Covina, California 91793-2456 (866) 803-8678 www.natlnarc.org

January 9, 2014

Barack H. Obama President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the 60,000 law enforcement officers represented by the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition, I write to you to convey our profound disappointment and utter dismay that you have nominated such a polarizing figure as Debo Adegbile for the position of Assistant Attorney General to lead the Civil Rights Division for the United States Department of Justice.

Our members, as well as many other law enforcement officers across the country, are angered and insulted by this nomination. His proactive support for convicted cop killer Wesley Cook, AKA: Mumia Abu-Jamal, which included fabricating a baseless and unproven defense while also defaming the victim, Police Officer Daniel Faulkner, raises serious questions about your nominee's judgment, especially considering the important position to which he has been nominated.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted of murdering Officer Faulkner, but with the help of Debo Adegbile, this case of murder was turned into a perverse case of assault against law enforcement, our constitution and our justice system. Such reprehensible conduct and poor decision making should disqualify anyone from being considered to lead the Civil Rights Division, for it is that person who will be responsible for ensuring that justice is fairly administered to all people, victims and defendants alike. The leader of the Civil Rights Division must be someone who has a record of bringing people together, not dividing and provoking them; someone who can be respectful and responsive to everyone, not just those whom they represent or support.

Protecting civil rights is a fundamentally important issue. Unfortunately, bringing a leader with the history your nominee carries into the mix will do nothing more than add to the challenges that already exist in this area. Adegbile's nomination will do little to build support in the law enforcement community - a critical partnership that is necessary to achieve meaningful civil rights progress.

Law enforcement is a challenging and dangerous job. Each and every day, law enforcement officers across our nation provide lifesaving services and often risk their lives to protect our citizens and our communities. Thousands of police officers have given their lives, many while protecting people they didn't even know. They were just doing their jobs and we should all be thankful for them. Conversely, those who tarnish the memories of those unselfish officers and their noble profession in the way that it was directed by your nominee in his defense of Abu-Jamal should not be rewarded or promoted to positions of authority.

We vigorously oppose the nomination of Debo Adegbile. There are many other well-respected and qualified candidates who will make some real contributions to our justice system as the Assistant Attorney General leading the Civil Rights Division. Given the opportunity, we would be glad to submit names of qualified candidates you should consider for that job.

Mr. President, nominate someone who will be able to gain the confidence of people whose jobs routinely put them in the center of civil rights issues; a person who can foster trust, build consensus and who will rely upon our constitution and laws as guides to achieve justice, not the abuse of it.

Sincerely,
Bob Bushmon

Bob Bushman

President, NNOAC

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



AARON D. KENNARD Executive Director

January 9, 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 Sheriffs nationwide to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Mr. Debo Adegbile to head the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

We have serious concerns regarding Mr. Adegbile's past leadership at the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, specifically LDF's controversial defense strategies in the representation of Mumia Abu-Jamal for the 1981 slaying of Philadelphia Police Office Daniel Faulkner.

Furthermore, the Administration has continued its pattern of ignoring the law enforcement community when considering issues that directly impact us. Notwithstanding pledges by Attorney General Eric Holder to be more open and transparent regarding Department of Justice decisions, neither NSA nor any other law enforcement organization of which we are aware was consulted regarding this nomination. It is tremendously disappointing that the Administration would continue to exclude a community that works each and every day to keep our citizens and our communities safe.

Accordingly, the National Sheriffs' Association strongly opposes the nomination of Mr. Adegbile to lead the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. Moreover, we again urge you to include the law enforcement community in the Administration's deliberations regarding decisions at the Department of Justice.

Respectfully yours,

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard

Executive Director

Justice for Police Officer Daniel Faulkner P.O. Box 11677 Philadelphia, PA 19116

January 14, 2014

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate Judiciary Committee Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 224 Washington, DC

Dear Senators,

The past week has been a tumultuous one for my family and me. On Tuesday, I was stunned and disappointed to learn that President Barack Obama had made the disgraceful decision to nominate Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. On Wednesday January 8, 2014, Debo Adegbile came before you to answer your questions and to justify his decision to aid Mumia Abu-Jamal when Jamal was attempting to evade the death sentence imposed upon him in 1982 by a racially mixed jury that was handpicked by Abu-Jamal himself while acting as his own counsel.

For over three decades my husband's murder has had a profoundly negative impact on Danny's fellow law enforcement officers, several generations of our family and me. Danny was an exceptional officer with a reputation among his colleagues for being personable, compassionate, fair and professional. To this day, many of his fellow officers remain my close personal friends and all still bear the raw emotional scars of loss. One of the last acts Danny performed as a law enforcement officer was to take a young black child to Jefferson Hospital. She had been raped by a family member and, as one might imagine, she was traumatized and frightened. Danny assured her that he would stay with her and protect her from any further harm until the doctors arrived. This was the man that Abu-Jamal murdered only hours later. Over the decades, Danny's fellow police officers waited for justice. They got instead endless legal tricks and posturing from Mr. Adgebile and his race-focused subordinates. Officers who knew Danny, and who like him put their lives on the line every day, must now witness Adgebile, a man proud to have chosen to aid the murderer of their friend, singled out for honors and high office by the government of the United States. It is an abomination to now reward Mr. Adgebile as if he had done something wonderful.

Mr. Adegbile relied on the often used excuse that defense attorneys frequently represent unsavory people to conveniently white wash his decision to voluntarily represent Mumia Abu-Jamal. He further stated that he chose to represent Abu-Jamal solely because he felt his civil and constitutional rights had been violated. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, spokesmen from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, an organization headed and controlled by Mr. Adegbile, have openly and emphatically expressed what an "absolute honor" it was to represent a hate-filled, clearly guilty, remorseless cop killer. And while some may suggest that Mr. Adegbile did not make these comments himself, he made no attempts to temper or stop them.

Based on his past actions, his poor decision making in choosing to help a clearly guilty cop killer evade justice and his inability to rein in his subordinates who openly espouse their affection for this cop killer, it is my assertion that there must be other far better choices available to fill this important position. I would also argue that Mr. Adegbile's decision to lead the attempt to free the killer of a law enforcement officer should preclude him from holding any public position now and in the future.

As the widow of Officer Daniel Faulkner, I am formally petitioning to come before you and testify; both as a citizen of this country and as the voice of my voiceless husband.

Sincerely,

Maureen Faulkner

PHILADELPHIA
POLICE OFFICER DANIEL FAULKNER
MURDERED Dec. 9, 1981

Let us not forget those who made the



ANTHONY F. WIENERS
President

ORGANIZED 1896 MEMBERSHIP OVER 30,000 732-636-8860 FAX 732-636-0172 1-888-4NJSPBA 1-888-465-7722

Nem Jersey State

Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc.

158 Main Street

Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

January 14, 2014

The Honorable Robert Menendez United States Senator 528 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the 33,000 member New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, I am writing to strongly urge you to reject the nomination of Debo Abegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Division of Civil Rights.

Mr. Adegbile's activism and defense of convicted cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal makes him an inappropriate and offensive choice to join the office of the Attorney General in such a high profile and important position. Mumia Abu-Jamal murdered Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner in 1982 (his conviction has been repeatedly upheld on appeal) and his horrific actions have left a scar on Philadelphia and the law enforcement community throughout New Jersey and the nation ever since. There are few cold blooded cop killers who yield as much disgust amongst law enforcement officers as Mumia Abu-Jamal and Mr. Adegbile's efforts to overturn his sentence disparages the memory of Officer Faulkner.

We join our national organization, the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), in vehemently opposing Mr. Adegbile's nomination to lead the Division of Civil Rights. When a person commits himself so passionately to a man who murdered a cop, he must be disqualified from leading an agency that is responsible for defending the civil rights of the oppressed and the defenseless. The New Jersey State PBA urges you to reject this nomination and ask that you express our overwhelming opposition to the White House.

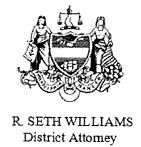
As always, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

The Honorable Robert Menendez United States Senator Page 2 January 14, 2014

Sincerely,

Anthony F. Wieners State President

c: William J. Johnson, Executive Director, National Association of Police Organizations The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

THREE SOUTH PENN SQUARE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107-3499
215-686-8000

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee 437 Russell Senate Building United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee 135 Hart Senate Office Building United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

I write to express my opposition to the confirmation of Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General to lead the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Mr. Adegbile has impressive credentials. His decision to champion the cause of an extremist copkiller, however, sends a message of contempt to police officers who risk their lives every day to maintain the peace. I believe he is ill-suited for a pivotal role in the Justice Department.

As acting director of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund (LDF), Mr. Adegbile chose to inject his organization into the notorious case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, a convicted murderer who executed a Philadelphia police officer in cold blood. Although Abu-Jamal was already well-represented and had large cash funds at his disposal, Mr. Adegbile volunteered the LDF to act as lead counsel during the defendant's appeals.

Evidence at trial established that this was not some case of random street crime. Abu-Jamal was a supporter of the "MOVE" organization -- an anarchist group that explicitly advocated violence against police.

In December 1981, Abu-Jamal gunned down Daniel Faulkner, a twenty-five-year-old police officer who was in the process of a routine traffic stop on a Philadelphia street. Abu-Jamal shot Officer Faulkner once in the back and then stood over him and shot at him three more times before firing a

final shot into the officer's face, killing him. Immediately following the incident, Abu-Jamal stated that he hoped the officer died.

Abu-Jamal made every effort to turn the trial into political theater. He repeatedly interrupted the proceedings, insulted the judge, and chanted the name of MOVE leader John "Africa." During the appeals, his supporters attempted to intimidate the judge by massing in front of his home in a residential neighborhood. Worst of all, they have maintained a three-decade-long campaign of verbal abuse against Officer Faulkner's widow, Maureen, who simply wanted justice for her dead husband.

His lawyers, who have included Leonard Weinglass, echoed these tactics in their legal maneuvers. Despite the overwhelming evidence of guilt, they have consistently attempted to turn reality on its head, arguing that Abu-Jamal was framed and that it was he, rather than Officer Faulkner, who was the victim of racism. The LDF perpetuated these allegations when it took over Abu-Jamal's case. Although Abu-Jamal's death sentence was eventually overturned on the basis of new procedural rules invented after his trial, his murder conviction has been upheld -- and his lawyers' bogus racial claims have been consistently rejected in both state and federal court.

Aside from being patently false, moreover, these claims are personally insulting to me. As an African-American, I know all too well the grievous consequences of racial discrimination and prejudice. I also know that Abu-Jamal was convicted and sentenced because of the evidence, not because of his race. And I have continued to fight for the jury's verdict because it was the just result.

Given all of the laudable objectives of the NAACP, it is telling that Mr. Adegbile chose to devote his resources to this particular cause rather than the many legitimate battles that called for his formidable abilities. Of course, in our system even a radical cop-killer like Mumia Abu-Jamal is entitled to legal representation. That does not mean, however, that those lawyers who elect to arm him in his efforts are suitable to lead this nation's highest law enforcement offices. To select such a lawyer, among all those qualified for the position, speaks volumes to police officers and their families.

In light of this troubling history, I am most concerned by Mr. Adegbile's nomination and would ask that you oppose his confirmation. Thank you very much for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

R. Seth Williams

District Attorney of Philadelphia

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee US Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

While I would have preferred to do so personally, I'm writing this letter appealing to your sense of right and wrong, good and evil as you consider the nomination of Debo Adegbile to be the next head of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. Thirty three years ago my husband, Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner, was violently murdered by a self-professed "revolutionary" named Mumia Abu-Jamal. I was twenty four years old. While most of my friends spent their summer at the Jersey Shore, I sat in a hot steamy courtroom and watched in horror and disbelief as the man who murdered my husband tried to turn the courtroom into a political stage where he could spew his hatred and contempt for this country and our judicial system. At the moment my husband's blood stained shirt was displayed by the evidence handler, Mumia Abu-Jamal turned in his chair and smirked at me; demonstrating his contempt for law enforcement.

Thankfully, a racially mixed jury that was selected by Abu-Jamal while representing himself, found him guilty. The following day they sentenced him to death for the brutal act he committed. That's when my second nightmare began. For three *decades* my family and I endured appeal after appeal – each rooted in lies, distortions and allegations of civil rights violations. And year after year, judge after judge, the conviction and sentence were unanimously upheld. Then, thirty years after the fact, my family, society and I were denied justice when three Federal District Court judges who have found error in every capital case that has come before them, overturned the death sentence. Today, as my husband lies thirty three years in the grave, his killer has become a wealthy celebrity. He pens books and social commentaries critical of our country. He regularly uses his nearly unlimited access to the prison telephone to do radio programs, has cable TV in his cell and is permitted to hold his wife, children and grandchildren in his arms when they visit.

Old wounds have once again been ripped open and additional insult is brought upon our law enforcement community in this country by President Obama's nomination of Debo Adegbile. While publically demonstrating that he doesn't even know my husband's name, Mr. Adegbile fains sympathy and caring for my family and me. In reality, Mr. Adegbile was a willing and enthusiastic accomplice in Mumia Abu-Jamal's bid to cheat us of the justice we waited so many years for. Mr. Adegbile freely chose to throw the weight of his organization behind Mumia Abu-Jamal, and he has publically stated that *he* would get Mumia Abu-Jamal off death row. Mr. Adegbile holds Mumia Abu-Jamal, a remorseless unrepentant cop killer, in high esteem. We know this because attorneys working under Mr.

Adgebile's supervision have stood before public rallies held in support of my husband's killer and openly professed that it was "an extreme honor" to represent the man who put a hollow based bullet into my husband's brain as he lay on the ground, wounded, unarmed and defenseless. And while Mr. Adegbile and those who support his nomination will undoubtedly argue that he did not personally make such statements, he did nothing to counter or stop them.

In the end, like so many attorneys before him, Mr. Adegbile's allegations of civil right abuse rang hollow. Mumia Abu-Jamal's death sentence was overturned not because of civil rights abuse as alleged by Mr. Adegbile, but because three judges with a persona dislike for capital punishment conveniently determined that the wording in a standard form given to the jury *might* have confused them. While Debo Adegbile may be a well-qualified and competent litigator, through his words, his decisions and his actions he has clearly and repeatedly demonstrated that he is not the best person to fill this important position. Certainly there are others with similar qualifications that would be better choices. I would argue that Mr. Adegbile's decision to defend a cop killer should preclude him from holding any public position.

Your decision means a lot to me personally. The thought that Mr. Adegbile would be rewarded, in part, for the work he did for my husband's killer is revolting. Throughout my long ordeal I have frequently been labeled a racist by many who support my husband's killer simply because he is black and I white. I have also been asked to throw my name, my voice and my support behind political candidates from both parties. In each case I have declined. I have always believed that my husband's death and my quest for justice transcends politics and race. From my heart, I'm asking you to do the same thing. Set aside any partisan feelings you have and do the right thing today when you vote on Mr Adegbile's confirmation. Please spare my family and me from further pain.

Sincerely,

Maureen Faulkner