



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

1-800-451-2711 • 615-399-0400 • FAX 615-399-0400

GILBERT G. GALLEGOS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JERRY W. ATNIP
NATIONAL SECRETARY

March 2, 2000

Mr. Jim Nicholson, Chairman
Republican National Committee
310 First Street, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

Mr. Richard Costello, President of Philadelphia Lodge #5 of the Fraternal Order of Police, recently wrote to Chip DePaulo, Manager of the Republic Convention. President Costello outlined his concern with the convention being held at the First Union Center in light of their tacit support by the Center management for cop-killer Mumia Abu Jamal. I am equally concerned that the Republican National Committee will be holding its convention at the Center.

Mumia Abu-Jamal has become the "poster child" of those liberal fringe groups who disrespect police officers and are against the death penalty. The death penalty has been supported by your party. While I respect differing views on the death penalty, I don't respect the militant views of those who support Jamal. Based on the correspondence I have received from around the world on behalf of Jamal, I am convinced that many—including Jamal himself—are racist and bigoted.

Jamal's case has been reviewed by various courts in Pennsylvania and the United States Supreme Court. All have agreed that he, in fact, received a fair trial and a just sentence. This is despite his acrobatics and disruptive actions in court during his trial and at hearings. However, if you listen to those who support him, they refuse to hear the truthful facts.

President Costello requested that the Republican Convention be moved from the First Union Center to an alternate site. The reason is that management allowed the band Rage Against the Machine to play at the Center. This notorious group does not disavow violence but, in fact, supports violence against police officers. By allowing the group to perform, First Union was tacitly sanctioning violence against police officers and supporting cop-killers.

Quite frankly, I don't believe in supporting those persons or businesses who do not support and disparage police officers. I believe First Union and Rage Against the Machine unfortunately fit into that category.

The Republican Party has long supported police officers and the criminal justice system. I would hope that you continue with your support by moving the Convention to another site. Having hosted and operated national conventions, I realize this would be difficult for the party. However, despite the difficulties, I think it is important to stand for "what is right" rather than convenience. I am confident the Republican Party will stand up for what is right.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Gilbert G. Gallegos
National President