



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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**GILBERT G. GALLEGOS**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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August 14, 2000

Mr. Moe Biller  
President, American Postal Workers Union  
AFL-CIO Headquarters  
1300 L Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear President Biller:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 290,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express my outrage and disgust at the passage of a resolution supporting convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal at your most recent convention.

I cannot understand why the American Postal Workers Union, which, like us, represents rank-and-file employees, would support a murderer. In fact, Abu-Jamal's victim was a rank-and file law enforcement officer and a member of FOP Lodge #5 in Philadelphia. I can only assume that the membership did so out of ignorance of the facts or that they were misled by this killer's propagand machine. I want to set the record straight and strongly urge the APWU to refute its resolution supporting Danny Faulkner's murderer.

Abu-Jamal was convicted in 1982 for the murder of 26-year-old Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel J. Faulkner and was sentenced to death by a jury he personally helped select. Since his conviction, Abu-Jamal has assembled an impressive array of celebrity spokespersons and cynically directs them to raise money and stage benefits on his behalf. Using false and misleading information, he has convinced many people and organizations that he, not Danny Faulkner, is the victim of injustice. Nothing could be further from the truth.

His conviction is based on the sworn testimony of five eyewitnesses and overwhelming forensic evidence. The murder weapon, a firearm owned and registered to the killer, was found at the scene a few feet from Abu-Jamal, who wore an empty holster.

Following his conviction, the murderer alleged that his 1982 trial was unfair and unconstitutional. With his celebrity supporters, death penalty opponents and a variety of radical organizations in tow, Abu-Jamal launched an international fund-raising and public relations effort to demand a new trial and win his release. The APWU is merely his most recent dupe.

Under Pennsylvania's Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA), Abu-Jamal was entitled to one PCRA hearing, which he was granted in 1995. His public relations campaign was so effective that the State of Pennsylvania granted him an unusual second in 1996 and then an unprecedented third PCRA hearing in 1997. The effectiveness of his media campaign, however, was insufficient to eclipse the overwhelming evidence against him in the courtroom. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court dismissed his claims of unfairness and unconstitutionality on all three occasions, most recently in their 1998 decision. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected his appeal in 1990 and again in October 1999.

While he has not yet exhausted his appeals, we know that Mumia Abu-Jamal was justly tried, convicted and sentenced to death by a jury of his peers. The decision of a jury, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States will not and cannot be dismissed on the say-so of celebrities, the concerts of rock stars or even the resolutions of fellow unions. You are either grievously wrong in supporting this killer, or grossly misinformed about the facts and evidence in this case.

This resolution casts grave doubts on your leadership as well as posing serious questions as to the legitimacy of the APWU as a labor organization. On behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police, the families of slain law enforcement officers and the honored memory of the 15,139 officers killed in the line of duty, I insist that you repudiate the resolution supporting this murderer.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you.

Sincerely,

Gilbert G. Gallegos  
National President