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Governor Edward G. Rendell  
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## For the Immediate Release of Mumia Abu Jamal

Together with hundreds of thousands of others all over the world, we demand the immediate release from custody of US journalist Mumia Abu Jamal, and the lifting of the death sentence passed on him.

Mumia has been on death row for 25 years now. The political motivation behind his verdict is obvious. As an activist against the ubiquitous racism of US society, he was sentenced in a trial that failed to meet basic legal standards. The evidence in his favor is overwhelming, and its neglect by the relevant judicial authorities constitutes a scandal in its own right.

The death penalty was abolished in Germany after the horric experience of the Nazis' reign of terror. It is an inhumane and unjustifiable arrogation of state power. In maintaining the death penalty, the US puts itself in the company of countries such as North Korea, Uzbekistan, China, Russia, and Iran.

We urgently call on the Governor of the state of Pennsylvania, Mr. Edward G. Rendell, to utilize all means available to bring about justice for Mumia Abu Jamal. That would include his immediate release from prison, the lifting of the death sentence, and appropriate compensation for the considerable part of his life that Mumia Abu Jamal has spent as an innocent man under the desolate conditions of a death cell.

This would be a victory for justice und human rights, and it might help recover, after Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, some of the United States' reputation as a democracy and a country where the rule of law is respected.

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