

National Black Church Initiative

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National Black Church Initiative Supports Mumia Abu-Jamal's Release from Death Row

He Should Never Have Been Placed on Death Row

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans dedicated to the eradication of racial disparities around the world, is urging all religious communities to join together in the promotion of peace. Our Black leadership partners - 66,000 churches nationwide – are called upon to use the full force of our combined 100,000 churches to support justice for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a living symbol of the criminalization of the Black male, was released from death row on December 7th when Philadelphia District Attorney R. Seth Williams, the first Black DA in both the city of Philadelphia and the state of Pennsylvania, announced that prosecutors would no longer be seeking the death penalty for him. Rather the prosecutors will release him into the general prison population with the hope that their fellow criminals will finish the 30 year process of taking Mr. Abu-Jamal's life. The irony of a Black man faithfully carrying out the wishes of a racist criminal justice system should not be lost on any one.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, the “world's most famous death row inmate” was unjustly convicted of the 1981 murder of a Daniel Faulkner, a White Philadelphia police officer despite a mountain of evidence that he was not guilty of the crime. The jury deliberated for just 3 hours before convicting him. Why was the judicial system so eager to lock Mumia up. Perhaps it was because he was a member of the Black Panther Party.

Perhaps it was because he was an activist journalist uncovering unpleasant truths about systematic abuses of power in Philadelphia. Perhaps it is because everything about the man including his name—Mumia means Prince and is the name of anti-colonial African nationalists—exudes defiance. It is certainly because he is a strong Black man. And in America, the role of the judicial system is to emasculate strong Black men.

The Black community must fortify Mumia's strength as he enters the next phase of his struggle. Our collective political mobilization has forced this corrupt judicial system to refrain from subjecting him to the legalized lynching that we call the death penalty but an innocent man still remains in prison on a life sentence without the possibility of parole. The National Black Church Initiative will be working to effect the exoneration of this noble leader of the Black community. Join us in this struggle.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.