



Ship Clerks' Association, Local 34

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION

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Governor Wolf:

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) has been defending Mumia Abu-Jamal, America's most prominent political prisoner and an award-winning journalist, for over thirty years. In 1999, our union shut down all West Coast ports and led a demonstration of 25,000 people in San Francisco to demand Mumia's freedom. Why? Because he was framed and almost killed by the Philadelphia Police Department which at the time was being investigated by the federal government for corruption.

When Judge Leon Tucker, Mumia's only black judge, ruled that he had a right to appeal, that Ronald Castille who had been Philly DA who prosecuted Mumia could not also be an appellate judge in his case. It's unconstitutional to take two bites out of the same judicial apple. Now the PA Supreme Court has essentially ruled that Maureen Faulkner and the FOP have no basis to interfere with who will prosecute the defendant, a former Black Panther and MOVE member. Mumia is innocent and the hidden boxes of his files that were "discovered" in the DA's office building not only prove that but show that documents were withheld in order to frame him. On trial here are the police, prosecutor, racist Judge Albert Sabo, known as the "hanging judge" and the PA judicial system that acted like an antebellum slave patrol and a kangaroo court railroading Mumia to death row.

In defense of Mumia have been trade unions from around the world, as well as Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Tutu, Angela Davis and now Colin Kaepernick. It's time for the state of Pennsylvania to acknowledge this travesty of justice and free Mumia! Given the raging Covid-19 pandemic in prisons and Mumia's compromised immune system and age 66, justice demands that he be released if not for prosecutorial misconduct then for a compassionate release.

Sincerely,

Keith Shanklin
President, ILWU Local 34