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Tim Paulson

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Claire Zvanski, IFPTE 21**Resolution to Save the Life of Mumia Abu-Jamal from 'Medical Neglect' in Prison**

Whereas, Mumia Abu-Jamal, award-winning journalist and former member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, who headed the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists, was railroaded to prison in the early 1980s – and languished on death row for years –for supposedly killing a white policeman while on duty as a taxi driver. Abu-Jamal’s conviction was based on fraudulent court proceedings, including a court-appointed lawyer who neglected evidence showing his innocence; a nearly-all-white jury; bought-and-paid-for witnesses; and a demonstrably biased judge. His death sentence was later overturned; and

Whereas, in 1999 a San Francisco Labor Council resolution demanded a new trial for Mumia, and endorsed the April 24th national protests in Philadelphia and San Francisco calling for a new trial and a halt to the pending execution of this clearly innocent man and political prisoner. At the time of the 1999 Millions for Mumia marches, labor organizations representing more than 4,000,000 workers, in the U.S. and around the world, had officially joined the call for a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal; and

Whereas, the SFLC resolution, adopted Jan. 11, 1999, stated that Mumia’s “struggle for justice, freedom and a new trial has been supported by a broad range of labor unions, city governments, religious and social organizations, and others who seek...human rights.” The resolution further stated that Mumia’s “1982 trial was characterized by reliance on contradictory evidence from the police, coercion, intimidation, suppression of critical evidence, illegal exclusion of African-American jurors;” and

Whereas, in recent months the world became aware that Abu-Jamal had suffered a medical emergency in March 2015 when he was on the verge of slipping into a diabetic coma and renal failure. He was also suffering from a severe skin disease, fever, body rash and open sores, itching and bleeding on his arms and legs, which went undiagnosed and untreated for months by the State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy, Pa; and

Whereas, recently prison medical officials informed Mumia that he had active Hepatitis C virus (HCV), although they have denied him treatment for this and his other medical conditions. Mumia’s lawyers have filed suit charging that prison authorities were withholding administration of an antiviral oral treatment proven to be highly successful in curing HCV, called a “silent epidemic” in the nation’s prisons; and

Whereas, supporters of Abu-Jamal believe the Pennsylvania prison system is guilty of “medical neglect,” which could possibly lead to his death. All efforts are needed to provide him with medical specialists and a treatment regimen required to restore him to full health,

Therefore be it Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council write letters to (1) SCI Mahanoy, (2) Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and (3) Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf



demanding that since these authorities have not complied with health care standards recommended by the World Health Organization, American Medical Association, and Department of Justice, and are showing no signs of ending the medical neglect that threatens the life of Abu-Jamal, that the San Francisco Labor Council calls for Mumia's release to the care of doctors and medical facilities of his choice so he can get the treatment he needs and is entitled to. Pennsylvania's prison system must not be allowed to succeed in killing Abu-Jamal by medical neglect; and

Be it Further Resolved, that given the extensive evidence of Abu-Jamal's innocence, wrongful incarceration, and now the exposure of his severe and untreated illnesses and the prison medical system's failure to diagnose or treat him properly for more than six months, we add our voices to the international call for the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council will establish an Abu-Jamal Watch Committee to monitor his health situation and suggest further support actions that may become necessary.

Submitted by David Welsh, NALC 214; Allan Fisher, AFT 2121; Alan Benjamin, OPEIU 3; Shane Hoff, 1741; Linda Ray, SEIU 1021; Carl Finamore, Air Transport Employees 1781; Marcus Holder, ILWU 10; Kathe Burick, AFT 2121; Ann Robertson, CFA; David Williams, SEIU 1021; Galina Gerasimova, AFT 2121; Alice Rogoff, CLUW; Jim Charas, SMART 1741; Tom Lacey, OPEIU 3; and Rodger Scott, AFT 2121, and unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council on October 26, 2015.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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