



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

September 11, 2015

Ms. Mireille Fanon Mendes-France
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group
of Experts on People of African Descent
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Dainius Puras
Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone
to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable
Standard of Physical and Mental Health
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Juan E. Méndez
Special Rapporteur on Torture, and
other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading
Treatment or Punishment
Geneva, Switzerland

OHCHR REGISTRY

15 SEP 2015

Recipients: *S.F.B.*
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Dear Ms. Fanon Mendes-France, Mr. Puras, and Mr. Méndez:

Thank you for your letter dated April 30, 2015, concerning Mr. Mumia Abu-Jamal, who is currently serving his sentence at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy.

As we mentioned in our letter of June 24, 2015, we have reached out to officials in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections ("the Department" or "DOC") regarding Mr. Abu-Jamal's medical condition and treatment. The DOC noted that it does not disclose the medical information of inmates in its care. However, the DOC wishes to assure you that all inmates in the Department's custody have access to the appropriate medical care, as provided in the Department's Access Health Care policy, 13.2.1. Additionally, the DOC encourages any inmates who express concerns or complaints regarding any aspect of their confinement to seek review and resolution of the issue directly through Department staff by use of the Department's Inmate Grievance System policy. See corresponding policy, DC-ADM 804, for more information. These policies are available for further review on the Department's public website at <http://www.cor.pa.gov/Administration/Pages/DOC-Policies.aspx>.

In addition, it has come to our attention that Mr. Abu-Jamal has filed a federal lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, challenging the alleged denial of necessary medical treatment for Hepatitis C. Furthermore, a class action lawsuit was recently filed in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against the DOC, claiming that the Department systematically denies medical care to inmates with Hepatitis C viral infections,

in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I, section 13 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

With respect to the allegation that Mr. Abu-Jamal has not been given a resentencing hearing in violation of Pennsylvania law, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania reviewed this claim and held that Mr. Abu-Jamal failed to establish that a procedural or constitutional violation occurred when he was resentenced to life in prison.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Harper', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keith M. Harper
Ambassador
U.S. Representative to the United Nations
Human Rights Council