

**We Demand Quality Healthcare for All Prisoners,
the Release of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and
Release of all Political Prisoners and of the Elderly in PA Prisons**

CALL AND CONTACT NOW:

Secretary of PA Corrections, John E. Wetzel
phone: 717 728-4109 email:
ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov
Governor Tom Wolf
phone: 717 787-2500 fax: 717 772-8284
email: governor@pa.gov
SCI-Mahanoy Superintendent John Kerestes
570 772 2158 ext 8102

By the Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal
April 5, 2015

We the members of the movements to free Mumia Abu-Jamal comprise one of the longest-running grassroots campaigns for any prisoner in America. Mumia survived 29 years in solitary confinement on death row until the US Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that his death sentence was unconstitutional. Unable to kill Mumia on death row, Pennsylvania officials consigned him to a “slow death row” sentence of Life without Parole, a sentence suffered by 49,000 other prisoners in the US. At age 62 Mumia is now exposed to the debilitation and vulnerability to death that is the unconscionable fate suffered by thousands of elderly in US prisons today. The neglect and assault on Mumia’s body are flagrant, unacceptable, and have the appearance of a “medical execution.” In this latest assault on his life:

- (1) Mumia reported three months ago a full body outbreak of eczema, with blisters and bloody sores. Treatment by prison doctors and staff produced a severe reaction. His skin ruptured.
- (2) Prison officials failed to properly diagnose Mumia’s growing health crisis.
- (3) On March 30, 2014 Mumia went into diabetic shock and fainted in the prison.
- (4) When taken to Schuylkill Medical Center, he had a blood sugar level of 779 - just shy of the 800 figure that registers diabetic coma. His sodium was also alarmingly high at 168, which could have resulted in death. Throughout his stay he was shackled to his bed.
- (5) Simultaneously, Mumia is reported to have kidney stones that he will probably have to painfully pass in his already weakened condition.
- (6) Mumia is being denied regular visits by his loved ones. Family visits have been subject to arbitrary changes of policy by the PA Department of Corrections.

(7) On April 1, 2015, Mumia's family reported that he was shaking uncontrollably, had labored breathing, and in a very bad condition. Yet, in spite of his delicate condition, Mumia was transferred back to the prison. We see this as an attempt to sever Mumia from the widespread attention he has garnered during this health crisis, and to shut down the movement's vigil at the hospital.

Clearly all this constitutes a form of abysmal physical neglect that approximates torture. Such abuse provokes and prolongs acute pain. It debilitates and kills.

Therefore, we say "Enough!" and make the following demands on the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections:

1. **Allow daily visits by Mumia's family, friends, and attorneys.** Their support and protection in this time of vulnerability should not be restricted.
2. **Allow Mumia's choice of specialist doctors to examine and schedule treatment for him – NOW.** Neither the prison staff nor the Schuylkill Medical Center has a diabetes specialist. There is precedent in Pennsylvania for this. Prisoner, John E. du Pont, an heir to the du Pont chemical fortune, was allowed care by private doctors during imprisonment. Mumia deserves the same.
4. **We demand the release of all of the elderly in prison, age 55 and over.** Of all states, Pennsylvania has the second highest number of prisoners serving Life Without Parole sentences and thus a rapidly rising number of elderly under its supervision. In 1980 there were 370 elderly people in PA's state prisons, now there are over 8,000. Among these are political prisoners, who include the MOVE Organization members who have been in prison now for nearly four decades. Studies confirm that released elders constitute no threat to any part of society. For those counting costs, the care of the elderly in prison is nearly twice that of a person under 50. They can more compassionately *and* more affordably be treated outside the prisons in communities of care for the elderly, which we all pledge to renew and rebuild.
5. **We call for a full investigation of prison healthcare in Pennsylvania.** The state's medical services have been so neglectful –even abusive – that its entire healthcare operations warrant independent review. The unexpected and unexplained sudden death of Phil Africa last year, while he was under prison medical supervision, is but one of many examples of the physical jeopardy, even mortal danger, faced by prisoners undergoing the system's healthcare procedures.
6. **Mumia is innocent and should never have been incarcerated. We demand his immediate release.**

We call upon John Wetzel of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania - **Release Mumia Abu-Jamal now!**

Begin Release Today of all Pennsylvania prisoners over 55!