Dear Secretary Wetzel,

I write in this season of rebirth and renewal with the prayer that you will allow – as his supporters have demanded – the life-saving independent medical examinations and follow-up treatment required for the survival of inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mr. Jamal is in desperate need of immediate assessment by an outside endocrinologist and a dermatologist. He should also immediately be placed on an appropriate diabetic diet.

The events of the past two weeks, and your own transferring him to an outside hospital, show the dire nature of Mumia’s current condition. His return to the prison infirmary caused an immediate deterioration in the alarming sugar count level that was going down while he was hospitalized. It is clear that Mr. Jamal urgently needs ongoing medical attention from independent specialists, doctors his own supporters are willing and able to pay for. We simply ask for you to enable such treatment to take place.

God Bless you and yours during this Holy Season.

Desmond M. Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus
Cape Town, South Africa