



**International
Federation
of Journalists**

PHILIPPE LERUTH
President

ANTHONY BELLANGER
General Secretary

2 February 2018

**Governor Tom Wolf / Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120 USA**

Dear Governor Wolf,

The International Federation of Journalists, which represents 600,000 journalists in 141 countries, is deeply concerned about the situation of Mumia Abu-Jamal, both in terms of his state of health and the ongoing legal process initiated by his defense to review his case.

While we welcome the decision of the federal justice system to enable him to access treatment to eradicate his hepatitis, we are very worried about the consequences of the refusal by the prison authorities to allow his transfer to hospital - the only competent place to cure the skin disease of which he suffers and deal with the follow-up of the evolution of the cirrhosis of the liver. This refusal is an abuse of rights and amounts to inhumane behavior. This is why we ask you to intervene as soon as possible.

With regard to the ongoing legal process in the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, we ask you - with due respect for the independence of justice system - to follow, carefully the unfolding proceedings to help ensure that the rights of prisoners, those of Mumia Abu-Jamal and many others are respected.

In particular it is important that in connection with the new jurisprudence of the Supreme Court which now forbids the same magistrate to be involved in the review of an appeal in a case for which he was previously involved in a death sentence the rights of the prisoner are upheld. (ref. *Terrance Williams vs. Pennsylvania* case).

Rest assured, Mr Governor, of our determination to support our colleague in his courageous fight for his health and his right to defend his innocence.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Bellanger
General Secretary

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