

April 18, 2011

Chuck Canterbury  
President  
National Fraternal Order of Police  
328 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear President Canterbury,

I am writing in response to your letter regarding the resolution passed at the California Federation of Teachers Convention seeking to reopen the Mumia Abu-Jamal case.

Throughout the more than 10 years that I was president of the United Federation of Teachers in New York City, members on occasion would put forward resolutions pertaining to the case of Mr. Abu-Jamal. There was never enough support to get the resolution even considered, much less adopted, by either the UFT's executive board or delegate assembly. Likewise, this issue has never been raised in our local affiliate in Philadelphia, the city of the case in question.

The American Federation of Teachers has 1.5 million members in 3,500 separate local affiliates. This is a case that has been in the public eye since 1982. We have taken the last few days to search the record, and except for this isolated action in California, we cannot find another incidence in which the AFT or any of our other affiliates have adopted a similar resolution. If such a resolution ever were to be raised at our national convention, I'm confident it would be soundly rejected.

No one should condone violence against law enforcement officers.

As head of the New York City Municipal Labor Committee for almost a decade, I worked very closely with police officers, firefighters and other first responders. We had common agendas, including working together to improve the conditions that allowed our members to do the very best for the public we served, and securing due process and economic justice for our members. We worked together, bargained together, marched together and attended rallies together. My respect for them is immense.

American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

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Randi Weingarten  
PRESIDENT

Antonia Cortese  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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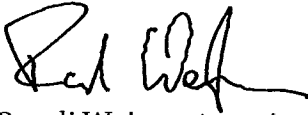
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We deeply appreciate our sisters and brothers in the FOP who have stood solidly with us and other public employees when some have sought to divide us, and for the work they do every day on behalf of all of us.

I hope that we will continue to work together in the future, as we have in the past, to protect the rights and voices of our members. I further hope that this isolated, and in my judgment, unfortunate resolution won't impede the work we must do going forward on behalf of all working Americans, or detract in any way from the enormous respect we have for law enforcement and other first responders.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randi Weingarten  
President

RW : MP : tvj

Cc: Richard Trumka, President, AFL-CIO  
Joshua Pechthalt, President, California Federation of Teachers