

Justice for Police Officer Daniel Faulkner
P.O. Box 11677
Philadelphia, PA 19116

January 14, 2014

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senate Judiciary Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 224
Washington, DC

Dear Senators,

The past week has been a tumultuous one for my family and me. On Tuesday, I was stunned and disappointed to learn that President Barack Obama had made the disgraceful decision to nominate Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. On Wednesday January 8, 2014, Debo Adegbile came before you to answer your questions and to justify his decision to aid Mumia Abu-Jamal when Jamal was attempting to evade the death sentence imposed upon him in 1982 by a racially mixed jury that was handpicked by Abu-Jamal himself while acting as his own counsel.

For over three decades my husband's murder has had a profoundly negative impact on Danny's fellow law enforcement officers, several generations of our family and me. Danny was an exceptional officer with a reputation among his colleagues for being personable, compassionate, fair and professional. To this day, many of his fellow officers remain my close personal friends and all still bear the raw emotional scars of loss. One of the last acts Danny performed as a law enforcement officer was to take a young black child to Jefferson Hospital. She had been raped by a family member and, as one might imagine, she was traumatized and frightened. Danny assured her that he would stay with her and protect her from any further harm until the doctors arrived. This was the man that Abu-Jamal murdered only hours later. Over the decades, Danny's fellow police officers waited for justice. They got instead endless legal tricks and posturing from Mr. Adegbile and his race-focused subordinates. Officers who knew Danny, and who like him put their lives on the line every day, must now witness Adegbile, a man proud to have chosen to aid the murderer of their friend, singled out for honors and high office by the government of the United States. It is an abomination to now reward Mr. Adegbile as if he had done something wonderful.

Mr. Adegbile relied on the often used excuse that defense attorneys frequently represent unsavory people to conveniently white wash his decision to voluntarily represent Mumia Abu-Jamal. He further stated that he chose to represent Abu-Jamal solely because he felt his civil and constitutional rights had been violated. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, spokesmen from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, an organization headed and controlled by Mr. Adegbile, have openly and emphatically expressed what an “absolute honor” it was to represent a hate-filled, clearly guilty, remorseless cop killer. And while some may suggest that Mr. Adegbile did not make these comments himself, he made no attempts to temper or stop them.

Based on his past actions, his poor decision making in choosing to help a clearly guilty cop killer evade justice and his inability to rein in his subordinates who openly espouse their affection for this cop killer, it is my assertion that there must be other far better choices available to fill this important position. I would also argue that Mr. Adegbile’s decision to lead the attempt to free the killer of a law enforcement officer should preclude him from holding any public position now and in the future.

As the widow of Officer Daniel Faulkner, I am formally petitioning to come before you and testify; both as a citizen of this country and as the voice of my voiceless husband.

Sincerely,

Maureen Faulkner

