



Founded in 1925

POLICE CONFERENCE of New York, Inc.

Union of Police Officers

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January 14, 2014

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Hon. Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Proposed appointment of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights
Division of the U.S. Department of Justice

Dear Senator Leahy

As the President of the Police Conference of New York, Inc., I write to oppose the nomination of Debo Adegbile to the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Police Conference of New York, Inc. is a statewide organization which was founded in 1925 and now represents 229 PBA's plus 8 regional conferences and one retired police association, with a total of 25,000 police officers throughout the State. We speak for police officers throughout New York State, and we strongly oppose this nomination.

Mr. Adegbile's reputation at the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People came largely as a result of his representation of Wesley Cook a/k/a Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was convicted of killing Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. The proof at Mr. Abu-Jamal's trial established that after wounding Officer Faulkner with two shots, he then stood over him and fired three more bullets into him as he lay on the ground, for which conduct he was justly sentenced to death. As a result of Mr. Adegbile's extensive efforts on his behalf, Mr. Abu-Jamal avoided the death penalty.

We believe those efforts on Mr. Adegbile's behalf demonstrate a lack of respect for the life and safety of the police officers who serve our country. Anyone heading the Civil Rights Division should have a balanced view that takes into consideration the rights of our police officers as well as those they come in contact with, and we don't believe Mr. Adegbile has that balance. We urge you to do all within your power to see to it that he is not appointed to run the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

THE POLICE CONFERENCE OF NY, INC.

Richard Wells
President