



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
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JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6 January 2014

The Honorable Barack H. Obama II
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express our extreme disappointment, displeasure and vehement opposition to the nomination of Debo Adegbile to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

As word of this nomination spreads through the law enforcement community, reactions range from anger to incredulity. Under this nominee's leadership, the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People *volunteered* their services to represent Wesley Cook, better known to the world as Mumia Abu-Jamal—our country's most notorious cop-killer. There is no disputing that Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner was murdered by this thug. His just sentence—~~death~~—was undone by your nominee and others like him who turned the justice system on its head with unfounded and unproven allegations of racism.

We are aware of the tried and true shield behind which activists of Adegbile's ilk are wont to hide—that everyone is entitled to a defense; but surely you would agree that a defense should not be based on falsely disparaging and savaging the good name and reputation of a lifeless police officer. Certainly any legal scholar can see the injustice and absence of ethics in this cynical race-baiting approach to our legal system.

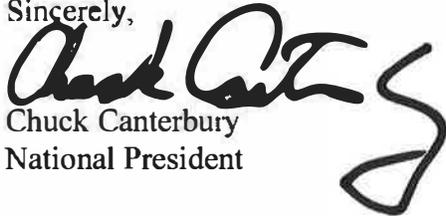
The Administration did not consult the FOP during the decision-making process for this nomination. In fact, to our knowledge, none of our nation's law enforcement organizations were consulted despite a recent pledge by your Attorney General to be more open and transparent with the men and women we rely on to keep us safe. This nomination can be interpreted in only one way: it is a thumb in the eye of our nation's law enforcement officers. It demonstrates a total lack of regard or empathy for those who strive to keep you and everyone else in our nation safe in your homes and neighborhoods—sometimes giving their lives in the effort.

We believe that law enforcement and minority communities need to build even greater bonds of trust and mutual respect. Yet, your Civil Rights Division, under the direction of Thomas E. Perez and Roy L. Austin, Jr., has increasingly built obstacles to this goal with its aggressive and punitive approach towards local law enforcement agencies. Your nominee will certainly exacerbate that growing division and distrust.

Standing up and fighting against racism wherever and whenever you find it is a brave and admirable endeavor; sometimes standing up against racism entails opposing and exposing cynical opportunism disguised in the name of justice. We will make every effort to point this out in our opposition to this nomination and will do everything we can to defeat it in the Senate.

It is our hope that, in the future, you and your Administration will consider candidates with records of fairness and respect to all Americans when selecting nominees for leadership positions at the Justice Department or anywhere else in your administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chuck Canterbury
National President