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Cop's Widow Reacts to Third Circuit Court of Appeals Granting Convicted Murderer Mumia Abu-Jamal A New Sentencing Hearing

(Thursday, March 27, 2008) **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**—Maureen Faulkner, widow of slain Philadelphia **Police Officer Danny Faulkner**, released the following statement in response to today's U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals' decision granting **Mumia Abu-Jamal**—the man convicted in 1982 of cold-bloodedly gunning down her husband—a new sentencing hearing:

"Today, after 26 years of waiting, my family and I can finally say that Mumia Abu-Jamal is officially a 'murderer.' No longer can Abu-Jamal's minions pronounce that he was wrongly convicted or that his trial was unfair in any way. While Abu-Jamal's life may be spared due to a legal technicality—the wording on a standardized jury form—all of his arguments about judicial bias, prosecutorial misconduct and police malfeasance have been rejected as lies and nonsense by the second-highest and most impartial court in the land. In the end they have ruled that Abu-Jamal is a common killer who is *guilty* of murdering my husband. While we still hope to one day see Mumia Abu-Jamal executed for the heinous and cowardly crime he committed, we are heartened by the decision made today by the Third Circuit Court, bringing my family and me one giant step closer to the end of this painful journey. There will undoubtedly be more appeals and more ridiculous claims made by Abu-Jamal and his band of attorneys, but we are committed to staying the course until we are finally afforded the closure promised to us by a jury 26 years ago."

Maureen Faulkner—along with co-author **Michael Smerconish**—recently penned the *New York Times* best-selling book, ***Murdered By Mumia: A Life Sentence Of Loss, Pain and Injustice*** (The Lyons Press), as a vehicle to definitively present the facts of the case along with her personal side of the story.

Adds Smerconish, "The federal courts have firmly rejected every single argument advanced over a quarter century by Abu-Jamal as to his proclaimed innocence. Now, he will never get out jail. I am disappointed only in that this decision rejects the jury's wish as to sentencing based on a technicality. The idea that life or death for a cop killer should rest on how many words removed 'mitigating' was from 'unanimous' on the jury form is asinine."

Both authors' proceeds from the book were donated to the nonprofit organization, **Justice For Police Officer Daniel Faulkner**, which provides educational grants to Philadelphia children whose parents were the victims of murder.

To interview Maureen Faulkner and Michael Smerconish please contact Khuong Phan at Mouth Public Relations, 212-260-7576 or Khuong.Phan@MouthPublicRelations.com.

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