

Sample Letter to Parole Board

Regarding: 2008 Parole of Eight Prisoners:

Debbie Sims Africa #006307, Janet Holloway Africa #006308, Janine Phillips Africa #006309, Michael Davis Africa #AM-4973, Charles Sims Africa #AM-4975, William Phillips Africa #AM-4984, Delbert Orr Africa #AM-4985, and Edward Goodman Africa #AM-4974

Board of Probation and Parole
Attn: Inmate Inquiry
1101 South Front Street, Suite 5300
Harrisburg, PA 17104

Dear Members of the Board,

Please parole Chuck, Debbie, Delbert, Eddie, Janet, Janine, Mike, and Phil Africa this year. They have caused no major disciplinary problems over the past three decades. They have spent most of their lives in prison; please allow them to be a part of, and contribute to, society as free citizens.

There are many people around the world, who have different reasons for supporting parole for these 8 prisoners.

--The sentencing judge stated publicly that he did not have the faintest idea who shot the one bullet that killed Officer Ramp. Nine people cannot fire one bullet.

--Many supporters of parole feel that Officer Ramp was actually shot by police "friendly fire," because it would have been ballistically impossible for MOVE to have shot Ramp, who was across the street from MOVE's house. Because of MOVE's position in the basement, bullets coming from there would have had an upward trajectory, yet the medical examiner testified that the bullet entered Ramp's "chest from in front and coursed horizontally without deviation up or down." Even the authenticity of official ballistics are in dispute. At a pre-trial hearing, in open court, the Judge allowed the prosecutor to literally use a pencil and eraser to change the medical examiner's report to conform with the medical examiner's testimony about the bullet's trajectory.

--This theory about the bullet's trajectory *could have been tested*, but the city illegally demolished MOVE's house that *very day*. Police did nothing to preserve the crime scene, inscribe chalk marks, or measure ballistics angles. A few days prior, a Philly judge had signed an order barring the city from destroying the house; this order was violated. In a preliminary hearing on a Motion to Dismiss, MOVE unsuccessfully argued that destroying their home prevented them from proving that it was physically impossible for MOVE to have shot Ramp.

--Yet, other supporters of parole cite the average 10-15 year sentence given for third-degree murder. MOVE prisoners have now served 2-3 times this sentence. Isn't 30 years enough? Merle Africa, who has died in prison, and these surviving eight have already paid a terrible price for what happened on that day.

In the past, as a condition for parole, MOVE prisoners were unfairly required to renounce MOVE and their deeply held religious beliefs. I am concerned about this and other such optional stipulations that the Parole Board may require, which I believe are unfair, and which many legal scholars identify as a violation of First-Amendment rights. I am also concerned about two other possible stipulations.

First is the "taking responsibility" stipulation, which forces a prisoner to admit guilt in order to be granted parole. These MOVE prisoners have always maintained their innocence; it is unfair and unconstitutional to require this of them.

Second is the "serious nature of offense" stipulation. MOVE spokesperson Ramona Africa articulates why this is illegal: "because the judge took this into consideration and when the sentence was issued, it meant that barring any misconduct, problems, new charges, etc. this prisoner was to be released on their minimum. To deny that is basically a re-sentence."

Please do not require these optional stipulations.

I do ask that you please grant parole to these eight prisoners so that, after 30 years, they can go home to their families.

Respectfully,
(YOUR SIGNATURE)
Your Name
Your Address

DEMAND PAROLE FOR MOVE POLITICAL PRISONERS

CALL !

Chairperson Catherine C. McVey of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole at **(717) 787-5699** and get everyone you can to call.

Demand parole for MOVE political prisoners!

The MOVE 9 are members of the MOVE Organization who have now been unjustly imprisoned for over 30 years for the murder of police officer James Ramp stemming from the 8/8/78 attack on MOVE headquarters. There is ample proof and knowledge that police "friendly fire" killed Ramp and not MOVE as the system wants people to believe.

-No reason why MOVE people should not receive parole.

-They have excellent prison records and have kept down racial and gang violence in prison, helped inmates fight drug addiction, mother & fathers establish relationships with their children on the outside, & have been an overall positive influence on the prison population staff and inmates.

-These points can be used as well when you speak to Chairperson McVey.

So call this Thursday and let's tie up the phone lines in support of the MOVE 9

If you are a Facebook member, blog about who you speak to and the response on the Cause page for 'Free the MOVE 9' (and join the cause!). This way we can keep track of the lies these people tell and coordinate our response. Network on other sites, such as MySpace, as well.

Make calls from PARC www.parc.2truth.com/ in Old Town Eureka, CA if you need to!

Link for flyer: <http://abu-jamal-news.com/docs/m9.pdf>

Wallpaper your community, call into radio programs, write letters to the editor.

For those of you who cannot phone, PLEASE WRITE.

Last year we had an outpouring of letters that showed the breadth and depth of Revolution! Keep it coming.

Along with Chairperson Catherine C. McVey, the other eight Parole Board Members are Charles Fox, Michael L. Green, Jeffrey R. Imboden, Matthew T. Mangino, Benjamin A. Martinez, Gerard N. Massaro, Judy Viglione, Lloyd A. White.

It is best for individuals to personally send a letter to Chairperson McVey, and if folks have the resources, to also send a copy to each of the other eight board members, at the same address.

[name of Board member]
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(717) 787-5699

However, if individuals lack the resources, the letter can be sent to:

**The MOVE Organization
PO Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA, 19143**

We will then send a copy of your letter to all Board Members and also each of the eight MOVE prisoners (so they can present the support letters to their interviewers). These next few weeks are crucial. Please spread the word and help in any way you can!

Check out Philly IndyMedia for articles, interviews, protests...

<http://phillyimc.org/en/node/71304>

<http://phillyimc.org/en/taxonomy/term/237>

Phone call and send copies of letters to the Senators and House Reps for the state of YOUR RESIDENCE.

On the BACK is a SAMPLE LETTER to the PENNSYLVANIA PAROLE BOARD

Feel free to personalize your letter, but please keep it polite and respectful.