



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

AARON D. KENNARD
Executive Director

January 9, 2014

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

Dear President Obama:

I write on behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the more than 3,000 Sheriffs nationwide to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Mr. Debo Adegbile to head the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice.

We have serious concerns regarding Mr. Adegbile's past leadership at the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, specifically LDF's controversial defense strategies in the representation of Mumia Abu-Jamal for the 1981 slaying of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner.

Furthermore, the Administration has continued its pattern of ignoring the law enforcement community when considering issues that directly impact us. Notwithstanding pledges by Attorney General Eric Holder to be more open and transparent regarding Department of Justice decisions, neither NSA nor any other law enforcement organization of which we are aware was consulted regarding this nomination. It is tremendously disappointing that the Administration would continue to exclude a community that works each and every day to keep our citizens and our communities safe.

Accordingly, the National Sheriffs' Association strongly opposes the nomination of Mr. Adegbile to lead the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. Moreover, we again urge you to include the law enforcement community in the Administration's deliberations regarding decisions at the Department of Justice.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director