

Hello everybody:

My name is Keith LaMar, and I am currently on death row in the United States of America. I stand as yet another casualty in the careless pursuit of injustice that seems so prevalent and pervasive across the world. It is because of people like you that someone like me can hope and dream about tomorrow. I know you all have stood for decades alongside my hero Mumia Abu Jamal, who, at tremendous cost to himself and his family, has done and given so much to keep the fire of justice burning. He has been a tremendous source of inspiration and support, and I want to once again thank you all for including me in your collective cry to end capital punishment across the world. The woman in Tennessee Christa Pike, whose execution was horribly botched a few weeks ago, shares the same attorneys as I. And I am outraged and saddened by the banal brutality that is being perpetrated in the name of justice and freedom here in America. We can do better. We must do better.

Examples of this kind mean that those in power aren't listening or learning from their mistakes, and it's our job to remind them that power without wisdom, justice without mercy, equals a future without hope, and we, together, must reject this headlong race to the bottom. Not in our name, and not in the name of what's good and right in the world. We understand, as always, that the momentum is in favor of darkness, but it's important also to know that when we reach for the light we will be helped. Let's keep reaching for the light, and keep reaching for each other. That's the key to fighting a seemingly implacable force. We move the mountain by becoming the mountain, by standing with and for what's righteous and right. I'm proud to stand with you all.

There's a line in one of my favorite poems, *On Living*, by the poet Nazim Hikmet, that intones: "you can die for people—even for people whose faces you've never seen, even though you know living is the most real, the most beautiful thing. . ." I share this with you all to remind you that we share a soul connection, and though we seem separated and apart from each other, we can and must rise with the wind and allow ourselves to be moved. I am moved by your dedication and support of me, someone whose face you haven't seen, and I return in kind my solidarity and support as you unite to fight injustice across the world. If we can die for each other, we can also LIVE for each other, for people whose faces we've never seen. May you continue to find the strength and focus to carry forth the fight. And remember: WE WILL WIN.

With love and love from

Keith LaMar