



BILL SIKSAY, MP
Burnaby-Douglas

The Honourable Vic Toews, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

March 20, 2006

Dear Mr. Toews,

I am writing today to call your attention to the situation of Mr. Gary Freeman who is currently challenging an extradition request by the United States based on an incident that took place in Chicago in 1969.

Mr. Freeman was arrested just over a year ago in Toronto. It is alleged that he is Joseph Pannell, a former member of the Black Panther Party in Chicago who fled to Canada to avoid standing trial for shooting a white police officer, Mr. Terrance Knox. Mr. Knox was shot in the arm, and is the only living witness.

This incident occurred during the height of intense racial unrest in Chicago and many other American cities. During this time, young black males, particularly those involved in the fight for equality and ending racial discrimination, feared for their lives in encounters with the police. Mr. Freeman came to Canada to start a new life, as he believed he would not receive a fair trial in 1969 Chicago.

Mr. Freeman has lived an upstanding life in Canada for over thirty years. He is married and has raised four children. He has built a life in Canada and has strong ties to his Canadian community.

Given the situation in Chicago in 1969, and the lack of evidence and witnesses available for a fair trial 35 years after the fact, I believe every consideration should be given to Mr. Freeman in the hope that he might remain in Canada.

I look forward to your earliest response on this important matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Siksay, MP
Burnaby-Douglas

cc. Alexa Mc Donough, MP Halifax

WLS/svd/CEP232

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