

Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement
Western Cape Provincial Parliament
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*KANTOOR VAN DIE ADJUNK SPEAKER
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER
I-OFISIYESEKELA SOMLOMOI*

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17 September 2007

**The Honourable Robert Douglas Nicholson
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
OMK1A 0H8**

RE: Douglas Gary Freeman

Dear Minister Nicholson

I am writing in support of Douglas Gary Freeman, who has lived in Canada for thirty-three years, as a principled citizen, with his Canadian wife Ms. Coelho, and four Canadian born children. He now faces extradition to the United States for the alleged shooting incident, which took place in Chicago 1969. It is alleged he shot and injured a policeman, Mr. Terrence Knox. He has been held in the Don Jail since July 2004.

Before his arrest, he was gainfully employed at the Toronto Public Library, and is known as a Mentor within his community.

Mr. Freeman's case needs support. The fact that he may not receive a fair trial upon his return to the USA is of great concern to others, and myself for a number of reasons viz.:

1. Considering the context of the crime, the period 1969 in Chicago and the rest of the USA was a time of extreme racial tension.
2. Thirty-eight years has passed and it is difficult to verify the evidence.
3. The fact that Mr. T Knox is the only eyewitness alive, and the sustaining of any legitimate case against Mr. Freeman rests solely upon the credibility of Mr. T. Knox.
4. The fact that the victim impact statement, which was used to arrest Mr. Freeman, was withdrawn and replaced with a very different statement at the hearing committee.
5. The alleged evidence has since been lost or destroyed.
6. It is alleged that Mr. Freeman was a member of the Black Panthers, he has denied this, and there is no evidence to disprove Mr. Freeman.
7. And worse, given the nature of the allegations, he may be victim to retaliatory punishment, and therefore, his treatment in the USA is of great concern.

Based on the above, I implore you to carefully consider Mr. Freeman's case, it definitely requires further investigation, and it is imperative that Mr. Freeman receives a fair hearing before the Canadian state decides to proceed with this matter.

Sincerely,



Mr. Yousuf Gabru
Deputy Speaker
Western Cape Provincial Parliament

