

## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS SM

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein President

January 28, 2011

Dear Mr. President,

Along with the petition of many others, it is my respectful request that you exercise your power of clemency in commuting Mr. Jonathan Pollard's prison sentence to time served to date.

As you know, Mr. Pollard is serving his 25<sup>th</sup> year of a life sentence (seven of which were spent in solitary confinement). His sentence is based upon one count of passing classified information to an ally without intent to harm the United States—an offense that normally results in a two- to four-year sentence. Mr. Pollard pled guilty under a plea agreement which he fully complied with, but which was ignored by the sentencing judge.

In no way do I or any law-abiding citizen condone espionage, nor is there any underestimating the gravity of Pollard's crime. Yet it is considered by many, including myself, that Mr. Pollard's punishment is severely unbalanced and (as a number of federal judges have noted) an excessive miscarriage of justice.

Spiritual leaders from all faiths and leading national figures publicly support the release of Mr. Pollard. These distinguished people include: former Assistant Secretary of Defense Korb; Rev. Hesburgh president emeritus of Notre Dame; Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP; Federal Judge Leighton; former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani; former U.S. Solicitor General Theodore Olson; and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.

Perhaps of special note is that former CIA Director James Woolsey and former head of the Senate Intelligence Committee Senator Dennis DeConcini, who have seen the classified information in discussion, are in similar support of Mr. Pollard's release at this time.

Following two and a half decades of harsh prison life, Mr. Pollard is now in poor health. He has repeatedly expressed his remorse for his actions and, by all accounts, has been a model prisoner worthy of reconsideration.

I, along with many others, beseech you now to extend your presidential mercy and power to commute Mr. Pollard's sentence to the long twenty-five years he has already served. Thank you in advance for this consideration and compassion.

Very truly yours, Yestrel Eckstein

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein

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