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July 25, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Jonathan Pollard

Dear Mr. President,

I write to you in order to join the long list of Members of Congress, former administration officials, Nobel Laureates, diplomats and religious leaders asking that you grant clemency for Jonathan Pollard. This letter does not seek to diminish the significance of his crime, nor does it wish to dispute the conditions under which the sentence was originally passed. The purpose of this letter is to advocate that Mr. Pollard be held to the same standards of punishment for his actions as others convicted of similar crimes.

Mr. Pollard is the only person in U.S. history to receive a life sentence for disclosing classified information to an American ally. In fact, he is the only American citizen convicted of such a crime to be sentenced to more than 14 years in prison. Currently, the punishment for such a crime is set at a maximum of ten years.

Having spent over 25 years in incarceration, seven of which were spent in solitary confinement, and having expressed remorse for his crimes, it is my humble opinion that Mr. Pollard has served sufficient time – both in terms of punishment for his crimes and in terms of deterrence to would-be perpetrators. I therefore ask that you consider asserting your constitutional authority to grant clemency for Mr. Pollard.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Warmest wishes,

Robert Wexler

President, S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace