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UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I urge you to commute the sentence of Jonathan Pollard, who has served over 26 years in prison on a life sentence for criminal activities that would warrant a prison term of far less than life.

As you know, Israeli President Shimon Peres is visiting the United States this week. As President Peres has said, it would be viewed as a humanitarian gesture for you to grant Mr. Pollard clemency.

Commuting Mr. Pollard's sentence does not imply any doubt about his wrongdoings. I believe that Mr. Pollard's actions were criminal and contrary to U.S. national security interests. He has admitted to and expresses remorse for his actions. However, I also believe that Mr. Pollard's time in prison has been sufficiently long both for punishing him for his actions and deterring future, similar offenses. Most importantly, individuals found guilty of similar activities on behalf of allies like Israel have served far shorter sentences.

The Secretary of State at the time of Mr. Pollard's arrest, George Shultz, as well as former Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb, former CIA Director James Woolsey, former Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dennis DeConcini, and numerous other prominent former national security officials and members of Congress favor Mr. Pollard's release. Former Attorney General Mukasey has argued based on his legal experience that, given the nature of Mr. Pollard's actions, "a life sentence can only be considered utterly disproportionate to the crime."

Together with other leading members of Congress who share my feelings, I hope you will use your constitutional power to commute the sentence of Mr. Pollard.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN

Member of Congress