



July 19, 2016

Dear Mr. President,

Jonathan Pollard was granted parole after thirty years in prison. In every administration in which I served from George H. W. Bush to yours, Pollard's case was reviewed and arguments were consistently made by the intelligence community that he should not be released. The argument that he would compromise sensitive intelligence might have made sense in the early years after his conviction and imprisonment. But thirty one years later the same argument is being made to justify a curfew on him that prevents him from going to a morning minyan (prayer service) or from being out late in the evening. The same argument is being used to prevent his freedom of movement and travel. If after thirty one years, he is still considered an intelligence risk, then there is something profoundly wrong with the way we conduct and operationalize our intelligence.

Pollard committed a crime and he has paid for it. I have no sympathy for what he did, but there should now be a rule of reason. There is no justification at this point to prevent him from being integrated back into society. I urge you to review how he is being treated and, at a minimum, to end the curfew that limits his ability to function and live a more normal live.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ross  
Counselor, Washington Institute for Near East Policy