

MORDECHAI ELIAHU
FORMER CHIEF RABBI OF ISRAEL & RICHON LEZION

מ ר ד כ י א ל י ה ו
הראשון לציון והרב הראשי לישראל לשעבר

בס"ד, כ"ו כסלו, נר ב' לחנוכה תשס"ז
26 Kislev, 5767 December 17, 2006

To The Dear Rabbi Pesach Lerner,
who is occupied with and engaged in seeking the release of The Honorable Gentleman Jonathan Pollard, may G-d watch over him and protect him.

In response to the question that others have asked you, namely whether the mitzvah of Pidyan Shvuyim, the redemption of a captive, is relevant in the case of Jonathan Pollard:

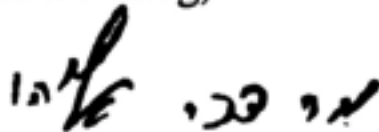
Indeed, those who question if Pollard's case is the mitzvah of Pidyan Shvuyim, should themselves be asked how it is that they could have any doubt. It is clear and obvious that working for the release of Jonathan Pollard is a great mitzvah and it is the obligation of all the Nation of Israel no matter where they may be, to do everything that they can to assist and to aid with all of their strength and all of their means to work to extricate and free the Honorable Gentleman Jonathan Pollard, may G-d watch over him and protect him, who sacrificed himself, for the good of, and in order to save, all of the nation of Israel.

Not only is the case of Jonathan Pollard the mitzvah of Pidyan Shvuyim, it the highest form of the mitzvah; it is a case of Pidyan Shvuyim for one who was 'mosser nefesh le'man Am Yisrael' (one who sacrificed himself for Am Yisrael). Jonathan Pollard not only risked his life for Israel, he has endured 22 years of affliction and mistreatment in American prisons for the sake of Am Yisrael.

The mitzvah of Pidyan Shvuyim devolves upon Jonathan Pollard and it is a compulsory Torah command for all of the nation of Israel, both in the Land of Israel and in the Diaspora, to utilize every way to influence those who have the power to release him from prison and set him free.

May it be that we shall merit to see him here in the land of Israel speedily and soon. Amain Ken Yihi Ratzon!

With Blessing,



Mordecai Eliyahu

Former Chief Rabbi of Israel and Rishon LeTzion