

# BILL RICHARDSON

December 10, 2013

Dear Honorable President Obama,

I am writing you to join many others in support of the commutation of Jonathan Pollard's sentence to time served so he can be released. I served in the cabinet, under President Clinton, when Pollard's release was discussed 15 years ago.

In my view, there is no longer a need for a discussion today. Virtually everyone who was in a high position of government—and dealt with the ramifications of what Pollard did at the time—now support his release. They include Secretary of State George Schultz, FBI Director and subsequent CIA Director William Webster, Chairman of Senate Intelligence David Durenberger, and Chairman of House Intelligence Lee Hamilton. Furthermore, two people in high positions at the time have directly blamed the life sentence of Pollard on the affidavit filed in the case of Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger that went against the plea bargain (with Pollard and the government's commitment to *not* seek a life sentence). One of those individuals was National Security Advisor Bud McFarlane, who said the affidavit by Weinberger manifested his "unbalanced views" on Israel and caused a "great injustice" to Jonathan Pollard. Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb wrote the Weinberger had a "visceral dislike" of Israel, which was displayed in his affidavit in the Pollard case.

Many other major figures from both parties have joined the call for Pollard's release. Those include Senator Schumer and McCain, Secretary of State Kissinger, former CIA Director Woolsey, and Chairman of Senate Intelligence DeConcini. Those in the Clinton administration, who saw the classified information and have come out for Pollard's release, include Counsel to the President Bernard Nussbaum and Assistant Attorney General Phil Heymann.

Israel and Pollard have both publicly apologized for their actions. Pollard cooperated with the government and has been a model prisoner. I have dealt with cases around the world of people who are imprisoned and I have decided to add my voice to this case because I believe it is right that Pollard be released. Releasing him now is consistent with the government commitment made by the prosecutors in writing in the plea bargain.

I am aware commutations are being considered at this time. I have been discussing the case with my dear friend and confidant Jason Lyons for quite some time (he serves as a senior Jewish liaison to millions of people of the Jewish faith). Please add Jonathan Pollard to the list of those to be released.

Very truly yours,



Governor Bill Richardson

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