

The Lesson Behind the First Step Act

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# FEATURES

18 Teves 5779 // December 26, 2018

HAMODIA

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## The LIFE-SAVING LETTER That Was SPURNED

These officials, who include a Director of the CIA; a National Security Advisor; two chairmen of the Senate Intelligence Committee; a Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence, and an Assistant U.S. Secretary of Defense, note that "at the parole hearing, the government relied heavily on a stale, largely discredited, 28-year old classified memorandum written by former Secretary of Defense, Casper Weinberger, without any scrutiny or rebuttal."

Although their letter to the president was written prior to the recently published new declassifications of the Weinberger Document, they did point out that "The unreliability of the 1987 Weinberger document was known to and ignored by the Parole Commission. Worse, the favor of Mr. Pollard."

They further protest his release on parole.

These anti-appealing of damage aiding Ben American American Constitutive executive We thereof an unjustly commute A similar attorneys well. (A co Obama in president on the Pre

May 31, 2015  
Senator Charles Schumer  
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Schumer:

We the undersigned write to seek your urgent intervention to resolve an on-going travesty of justice. We refer to the case of Jonathan Pollard.

In a 1999 letter to constituents you wrote that Pollard's sentence for passing classified information to an ally was disproportionate and even harsher than those who spied for enemies of the US: "The question in the Pollard case is whether the punishment fits the crime. With the information we have to date, it appears that Mr. Pollard's sentence is inconsistent with that of other Americans convicted for similar offenses and in fact is harsher than sentences meted out to individuals convicted of spying for enemy nations."

In your letter, you indicated that you were hopeful that a resolution to the case would shortly be achieved. Another 16 years have passed since then and Pollard continues to languish in prison.

The most recent episode of injustice to Mr. Pollard occurred last August when the US Parole Commission turned down conditional release for Mr. Pollard by citing a blatant lie provided by the government.

The lie was exposed by eight former senior US officials, all of whom have first-hand knowledge of the case and of the classified file. In a November 14, 2014 letter to President Obama (copy attached) they decry the failed parole process and call on the president to use his constitutional powers of executive clemency to correct a severe injustice by commuting Mr. Pollard's sentence to time served.

They write: "The Parole Commission decision document mischaracterizes Mr. Pollard's actions and makes a patently false claim upon which it bases its denial of parole... [The Commission's statement] is false, and not supported by any evidence in the public record or the classified file. Yet it was this fiction that the Parole Commission cited to deny parole."

absolutely required at this time to repair a serious breach in the fabric of our justice system, as much for our own sake as for his. We thank you in advance for your positive response to ensure equal justice for all Americans.

Chaim Benin Ehrenfeld  
Rav

HaRav David Finkelshteyn  
Rosh Yeshiva  
Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem

Chacham Yosef Harari-Rafal  
Rosh Yeshiva  
Yeshiva Ateret Torah

HaRav Aaron M. Schechter  
Rosh Yeshiva  
Yeshiva Chaim Berlin

HaRav Moshe Wolfson  
Mashgiach, Mesivta Torah Vodaath  
Rav of Emunas Yisrael

HaRav Yisrael Belsky  
Rosh Yeshiva Mesivta Torah Vodaath,

HaRav Chaim Yaakov Tauber  
Bobover Dayan

HaRav Yosef Yisrael Eisenberger  
Dayan of New Square

HaRav Usher Anshil  
Belzer Daya

HaRav Yaakov Yechezkia Greenwald  
Pupa Rebbe

HaRav Yisrael Hager  
Rav of Vlnhitz

Jonathan Pollard

PAGES 8-13

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

אֱלֶקָה דְּמַאִיר עַנְנֵי - אֱלֶקָה דְּמַאִיר עַנְנֵי - אֱלֶקָה דְּמַאִיר עַנְנֵי.

בְּזָכוֹת הַצְדָּקָה שְׂאֵנִי נוֹדֵב לְכַבוֹד הַתָּנָא  
רְבִי מַאִיר בְּעַל הַנֶּס, זְכוּתוֹ יִגַן עֲלֵינוּ.



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