



December 17, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the American Israeli Action Coalition (AIAC), we respectfully call upon you to grant clemency to Jonathan Pollard.

AIAC is a non-partisan, non-political, issue-oriented NGO which was formed in Israel to represent the united voice of the more than 250,000 American Jews living in Israel, on issues of significance to Israel and Jews the world over, as well as American-Israeli relations.

Among AIAC's recent activities was the sponsorship and implementation of a U.S.-style Presidential debate in Jerusalem – in English – between senior representatives of the U.S. Presidential nominees. This was the very first time that such an event was ever held in Israel, and was a material factor in the very large turnout of American voters living in Israel.

Mr. President, you have been a great friend of the Jewish people in general, and Israel in particular. We remember with great appreciation your recent trip to Israel to participate personally in the 60th anniversary of its establishment as a free and democratic homeland of the Jewish people, and your stirring speech in the Knesset in which you reiterated America's unending friendship with – and its love and affection for – Israel and its citizens. Mr. President, we believe that there was not a dry-eyed American in Israel that day.

Mr. President, the entire world knows that the United States is a country of morality, ethics, honor and decency. However, Mr. President, kindly permit us to state with all respect that there exists today a blot on America's reputation but, thankfully, one which you can easily remove. The blot is the continued incarceration of Jonathan Pollard in a federal penitentiary for 24 years, which you, Mr. President, can reverse by granting him clemency.

Jonathan has repeatedly expressed his remorse, both publically and privately, for his actions. Jonathan's incarceration for 24 years is far longer than that of any other person in American history that has been found guilty of such conduct. Furthermore, Jonathan's incarceration has caused him to incur severe, life-threatening illnesses such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Join the Coalition: visit www.aiacoalition.org and sign up today!

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No United States interest would be served by Jonathan's continued incarceration. He is not a threat to society and his long stay in prison certainly serves as a deterrent to anyone else contemplating similar actions.

Mr. President, Israel, at the urging of the United States, has released more than 1,000 Muslim terrorist prisoners as a "gesture" to the Palestinian Authority. Surely, the United States can release one prisoner – Jonathan Pollard – as a return gesture to the Jewish people, as a concrete example of America's humanity, decency and compassion.

Mr. President, AIAC respectfully urges you – as one of the last acts of your noble presidency – to grant immediate clemency to Jonathan Pollard. Such an act would be welcomed by the Jewish people, as well as people of good will worldwide.

Respectfully yours,

Harvey Schwartz
Chairman

Aaron S. Tirschwell
Director