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March 12, 2009

Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Via Fax: 202.647.2283.

Dear Secretary Clinton,

My name is Olga Weisfeiler. I am writing regarding my brother, Professor Boris Weisfeiler, a U.S. citizen who disappeared in January 1985 during his hiking trip in southern Chile. Declassified State Department and CIA records indicate Chilean security forces possibly mistook him for a political agent and detained him. The Pinochet government at the time stated my brother drowned while crossing the river--an explanation for his disappearance that State Department investigators, and the Judge currently investigating his disappearance, have discounted and rejected for years.

Now, almost twenty-five years later Boris Weisfeiler remains the only U.S. citizen among 1,100 Chileans who disappeared during the Pinochet dictatorship. All of them, with the exception of my brother, are designated as human rights victims by the Chilean government. Despite hundreds of the US declassified documents, which strongly indicate that Weisfeiler's disappearance and apparent execution constituted a human rights crime perpetrated by agents of the Pinochet regime, the Chilean Government has yet to classify Boris Weisfeiler's disappearance as a human rights violation.

To this day, I have not been able to find out what happened to Boris; I live in the dark about his fate; I still do not have my brother's body, or knowledge of the location of his grave. Indeed, I cannot even be sure if he is dead or alive. Some of the US declassified documents suggested he might have survived in captivity for a number of years.

During the years of my continued pursuit to learn the truth of my brother's fate, I have repeatedly appealed to the Chilean and the United States political, judicial, and military authorities. Numerous Congressional letters, signed by prominent U.S. Senators and Congressmen, have been sent to the Chilean President to no avail; some of those official letters have gone unanswered by the Chilean government.

In 2006, the Legal Attaché office opened its own investigation into Weisfeiler disappearance. However, the FBI has no legal authority in the investigation of the case of disappearance of this US citizen and investigating Judge, Jorge Zepeda, is blocking full FBI participation. Nor has the Chilean government of President Bachelet requested FBI support for government agencies that could, and should, be involved in investigating of this crime.

Given that almost two and one-half decades have passed since Boris disappeared, and nine years have passed since the Chilean legal system assigned a judge to investigate and prosecute this crime, I believe that a full FBI investigation is my only hope to uncover the truth.

March 12, 2009

Therefore, Secretary Clinton, I am writing to specifically request that you intercede with the Chilean government of President Bachelet, and diplomatically demand the following: that Boris Weisfeiler's disappearance be officially classified as a human rights violation; and that the government accept FBI investigative participation for its own agencies--the CDE, and the Interior Ministry's Human Rights Office--and use that participation to convey to Judge Zepeda the need for FBI support for his judicial efforts as well.

I hope your concern and support will help to move my brother's case forward in Chile and contribute to bringing closure for my family and me on Boris' fate. He is a U.S. citizen disappeared at the hands of the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile. He deserves his government's full support. He deserves to be found.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "O. Weisfeiler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Olga Weisfeiler

Cc: U.S. Ambassador Paul Simons
Consul General Chris Bendsen
Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Congressman Barney Frank

For more information www.boris.weisfeiler.com