

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2008

The Honorable Michelle Bachelet President of Chile Palacio de La Moneda Santiago, Chile 6772208

Dear President Bachelet:

We are writing as we have in the past to urge the Chilean government to renew its focus on the case of Boris Weisfeiler, the American citizen who, as you know, disappeared in Chile in 1985. While we have appreciated your willingness to meet with Professor Weisfeiler's relatives and in other ways to demonstrate that your government places a high priority on resolving the case, we remain frustrated over the lack of any significant progress in the case, despite the years of work on it. We believe at this point that there are two crucial changes in the way the case is being investigated that, if adopted, could help move the investigation forward in a positive direction.

First, we urge you to permit the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to cooperate fully with Chilean investigators. While we would of course expect the Weisfeiler investigation to continue to be supervised by representatives of your government, we believe very strongly that allowing an active role for FBI personnel has the potential to yield valuable new findings about the case. We urge you to take whatever steps are necessary, consistent with the obvious need for Chilean authorities to have ultimate control over any activities that are undertaken as part of the investigation, to allow active involvement by the FBI.

Secondly, while there has been discussion in the past of having the Defense Council of State (CDE) take an active role in the Weisfeiler case, we have not to date seen any significant involvement by the CDE. Given the fact that this is an important international human rights case, and one that is a high priority for the United States government, we believe that giving the CDE an active role would accomplish two important goals. First, it would allow for an expansion in the amount of resources that are devoted to the case. Secondly, it would serve as a public signal that your government places an especially high priority on seeking a final resolution of this case, which in turn could generate valuable information or evidence of which investigators may not currently be aware. It would also be helpful if the CDE were to cooperate directly with the FBI, and we urge you to take the steps that are necessary to bring about that cooperation.

We urge you to take these actions, and to instruct your government to do all it can to help achieve a final determination as to Boris Weisfeiler's fate. Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to your response.

U.S. Representative Barney Frank	V.S. Representative John Peterson
U.S. Representative Edward Markey	U.S. Representative Rush Holt
U.S. Representative John Olver	Bill Shuster U.S. Representative Bill Shuster
U.S. Representative James McGovern	U.S. Representative Tim Holden
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