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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

March 11, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing you in regard to your scheduled meeting later this month with Chilean President Sebastian Piñera in Santiago, Chile. It is my hope that during your meeting you will request that President Piñera do everything in his power to facilitate the resolution of the case of Boris Weisfeiler, an American citizen who disappeared on a hiking trip in Chile in January 1985.

Although an initial investigation by the Pinochet government shortly after his disappearance concluded that he accidentally drowned in the Nuble River, the State Department and the Weisfeiler family have received a large amount of compelling evidence suggesting that he was abducted and probably killed by people connected with Chilean security forces at the time. Mr. Weisfeiler is the only American citizen remaining unaccounted for among the approximately 1,100 individuals who disappeared under the Pinochet regime.

For many years, the United States Government and Members of Congress have asked Chilean officials to thoroughly investigate the evidence that has been uncovered and commit to whatever additional investigation is needed to finally resolve the case. Last year, 54 Members of Congress sent a letter to President Piñera in support of these steps. Although there have been encouraging developments, including the appointment by the Policía de Investigaciones de Chile (PDI) of a "Human Rights Brigade" investigation team, the fact unfortunately remains that the work of this team remains stalled. This lack of progress may partly result from the unwillingness of Chilean authorities to accept technical assistance in the investigation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which has been offered on several occasions.

It seems clear, however, that whatever progress has been made has been a result of pressure from the United States government and concerned American citizens. It is my genuine hope, therefore, that during your meeting with President Piñera you will reiterate – just as President Bush did during his meeting with Chile's then-President Ricardo Lagos in 2004 – the fact that the United States remains concerned about the resolution of the case of the last disappeared American from the Pinochet-era, and that we stand ready

to provide, within the bounds of U.S. and Chilean law, whatever support and investigative assistance will contribute to the resolution of this 26 year old case.

Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.


BARNEY FRANK