

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3805**

March 6, 2006

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

Dear President Bachelet:

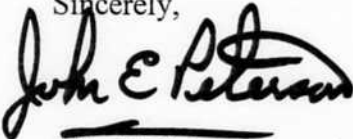
This letter is sent to you with dual intentions. First of all, I would like to extend the most sincere congratulations to you regarding your successful bid for the Chilean Presidency. If the need should arise, please do not hesitate to contact my congressional offices to assist you with any matters which we may be of service.

I am also writing to urge a renewed focus on the case of Dr. Boris Weisfeiler, a professor of mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University, who disappeared in Southern Chile while hiking in January 1985. During your time of service as the Minister of Defense, you had discussed this case with Dr. Weisfeiler's family. Now that you have been elected as President of Chile, I strongly urge that your government provide access to all information and relevant files pertaining to the disappearance of Dr. Weisfeiler. The release of further documentation would be extremely helpful to the investigation of this case which was reopened in the Chilean courts during January 2000 and has subsequently experienced very few developments.

I wish to advocate my strong support of resolving the investigation of Dr. Weisfeiler's disappearance. As you may be aware, evidence suggests that he was arrested by General Pinochet's security forces and taken to the torture center of Colonia Dignidad. Additionally, Paul Shafer, who founded the torture and detention center, had recently been arrested and deported to Chile, yet the fate of Dr. Weisfeiler remains unknown. It is my hope that government officials from the United States and Chile can work in a collaborative effort toward bringing about a full account of Dr. Weisfeiler's fate. The sister of Dr. Weisfeiler, other family members, former students, and friends have not given up on resolving this case. For more information regarding this case, you may refer to the website <http://weisfeiler.com/boris/> which Dr. Weisfeiler's sister has dedicated countless hours to create in the hopes of uncovering new details regarding her brother's disappearance.

I respectfully request that you take the actions necessary in order to resolve this case. I hope that you will consider this request as taking another step in order to right the misguiding of the Pinochet era of the past. I would very much appreciate your kind review of this matter.

I thank you in advance for your assistance with this important issue.

Sincerely,  
  
John E. Peterson  
Member of Congress

JEP:ad