

DR. OLGA WEISFEILER
56 BEECHER PLACE • NEWTON, MA 02459
PHONE (617) 431-4839 • FAX (576) 706-6944
E-MAIL OLGA@WEISFEILER.COM

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via fax and mail.

Dear Mr. Schwarzenegger

My name is Olga Weisfeiler. I am writing to you in regard of my brother, Boris Weisfeiler, a U.S. citizen who disappeared in Chile. From the Chilean press I learned about your upcoming meeting with the Chilean President Michelle Bachelet.

I am asking you to voice your concerns in regard of my brother's case.

My brother Boris Weisfeiler was a professor of mathematics at Penn State. Boris was a brilliant mathematician and an avid hiker who loved to travel around the world. One of these trips led him to travel to Chile in January 1985. He disappeared there without a trace. To this day, I have not been able to find out what happened to Boris. In 1985, the investigation in Chile was closed less than in a month: the General Pinochet's government concluded that my brother drowned while crossing the river. The new evidence surfaced several years later. It pointed to the fact that Boris, arrested by a military patrol, was brought for interrogation to Colonia Dignidad, a Nazi connected 'religious' settlement that was used by Pinochet regime as a prison and a torture center. Boris was seen there more than two years later as a prisoner. The U.S. declassified documents (2000) suggested that he was still alive for a number of years.

Almost four years after Boris' disappearance, in September 1988, I emigrated from Russia in a hope to find Boris alive and well. Since then, I am living in the Boston suburbs, while hopelessly dealing with the Chilean government, the Chilean judicial system, issues of Colonia Dignidad, etc. With the help of a local lawyer, I reopened temporarily suspended investigation in Chile in January 2000 and I have traveled to Chile every year since, while meeting there with lawyers, judges, the Chilean Government's officials, as well as with the U.S. embassy's officials. Senator Edward Kennedy and Rep. Barney Frank are the key supporters in my fight for truth and justice.

Twenty-three years after Boris' disappearance, the judicial investigation is not close to completion; it is stalled and heading in the wrong direction. Presently, the investigating Judge, Jorge Zepeda, admitted that Boris most likely did not drown while crossing rivers but may have been accidentally murdered during a drunken fight with locals or Carabineros: an assumption is well in style of that of Pinochet's dictatorship.

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The Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, while personally showing some concerns in regard of the messy investigation, refused to provide any factual support simply suggesting that the Chilean Judicial system works independently.

However, even if it is the case, the Executive can and must provide the Judiciary with the resources that are required to fulfill its obligations. The Government of Chile is under a constitutional obligation, recognized in recent years by President Lagos, to ensure that the judiciary has the necessary resources to carry out its responsibility.

If Judge (Zepeda) is so burdened with human rights cases, including the notoriously demanding Colonia Dignidad case (of which Boris' case forms a part), that he cannot adequately fulfill his obligations, then it is up to the Minister of Justice, or, failing that, the President of the Republic herself to make known the Government's concern to the appropriate judicial body - the Corte de Apelaciones of Santiago in the first instance, and, if necessary, the Tribunal Supremo - and offer to provide whatever additional resources (investigative or judicial) may be required.

I hope your intervention will encourage the Chilean authorities to take action that is more effective.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I again urge you to bring this issue up when you meet President Bachelet. Your concern and support is invaluable for making my brother's case move forward and bring closure to this matter.

Sincerely,



Olga Weisfeiler

www.weisfeiler.com/boris