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March 7, 2008

Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Rice:

I am writing to you in regard to the stalled investigation in Chile into the disappearance of my brother, Prof. Boris Weisfeiler. As you may be aware, Professor Weisfeiler is the one U.S. citizen among 1100 disappeared Chileans from the Pinochet era. He has been missing since January 1985 when he disappeared on a hiking trip. Declassified State Department documents make it clear that he was disappeared at the hands of the Chilean security forces who mis-identified him as a subversive.

At present time, the situation with this investigation is extremely grave: the judge in charge of the investigation, Jorge Zepeda, is, inexplicably, refusing to take even the most minimal steps to advance the investigation. I fear that the case of Boris Weisfeiler, a U.S. citizen, will never be fully investigated and I will never know the truth of my brother's fate.

Regrettably, since I initiated the judicial investigation eight years ago in December 2000, there have been no developments in the investigation, led by the Chilean judiciary. Because of reluctance of the investigating judge, Jorge Zepeda, to investigate military/Military Intelligence and Colonia Dignidad involvement, the investigation is simply stalled. U.S. declassified documents contain number of leads of which Judge Zepeda seems unwilling to pursue. He has not even bothered to translate key documents that are important for the case.

In August of 2006, the FBI opened its own investigation into Prof. Weisfeiler's disappearance and possible murder. At the time, I was hoping the FBI's investigation would help to move case forward. Nevertheless, due to the position, taken by Judge Zepeda, the legal attaché's office cannot participate in this investigation, and Judge Zepeda is not accepting any of the FBI/U.S. embassy assistance.

To avoid many more years of the fruitless non-existent investigation, I believe Judge Jorge Zepeda should be removed from the case immediately.

Thankfully, the US embassy is now solidly behind my efforts and is helping in many ways; but even with such a support the situation remains hopeless.

For this reason, I am writing to ask you to intercede with the Chilean government. If you were to express your concern, even briefly, to President Bachelet regarding the inactivity of the Chilean judicial authorities and lack of attention by the government to the unresolved case of a U.S. citizen, this would empower the government to take certain steps to intervene and press the investigations forward.

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The most important single request you could make is for assurances that assistance of the FBI/U.S. embassy will be fully accepted and utilized.

In the order to remove the judge, the U.S. embassy needs to file to the Ministry of Foreign Relation complain and request the designation of another Ministro en Visito. I believe our U.S. ambassador will tell you that such a move is long overdue. I am hoping you will assist with this task also.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "O. Weisfeiler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the word "Sincerely,".

Olga Weisfeiler