

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 17, 2015

Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet
President of the Republic of Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile, 6772208

Dear President Bachelet:

More than thirty years have passed since the disappearance of Boris Weisfeiler, a U.S. citizen who went missing while on a hiking trip near Parral in January 1985. Despite an abundance of evidence that he was “disappeared” at the hands of the security forces, as well as a recent indictment in the Chilean courts, his fate remains unresolved. But unlike the cases of over 1,000 Chileans who also remain disappeared, his case has yet to be designated as a human rights crime.

In 1990 the Rettig Commission on Truth and Reconciliation placed Weisfeiler’s disappearance in the “undecided” category – understandable at the time because the hundreds of U.S. documents generated by the U.S. Embassy during the first 5 years after his disappearance, remained classified and unavailable for the commission’s evaluation.

Those records were, however, available to the most recent human rights commission, the *Comisión Asesora para la calificación de Detenidos Desaparecidos, Ejecutados Políticos y Víctimas de Prisión Política y Tortura*—a Commission created during your first term as President of the Republic of Chile. Yet this commission also failed to designate the Weifeiler case as a human rights violation. It appeared that members of the commission did not thoroughly review the available documentation because exactly one year after the Commission issued its final report, Judge Zepeda indicted eight former Carabineros and Army officers for aggravated kidnapping and complicity in Boris Weisfeiler disappearance. It is our understanding that Judge Zepeda is planning to close investigation soon and move to the accusation phase of the judicial process. Given these circumstances and additional available evidence, it is our hope that you would review the Weisfeiler case and if the facts warrant it— invoke your executive authority to officially classify Boris Weisfeiler’s forced disappearance case as a violation of his human rights, and expand the investigative and other resources that would be applied to his case once such a designation is made.

We know that you are aware of the circumstances of the Weisfeiler case, and that you have met with his sister, Ms. Olga Weisfeiler, during one of her many trips to Chile to find her brother, and to pursue justice for the

violations of his human rights and, indeed, his life. Under your political leadership, Chile has established itself as a world-class advocate for truth and justice for human rights crimes committed during the military dictatorship. We thank you in advance for any help that you can provide to resolving the case of Boris Weisfeiler so that his family can find a bit of closure. They, and all the families of the victims of the Pinochet regime' atrocities, deserve justice and accountability for their loved ones.

Sincerely,



Senator Elizabeth Warren



Senator Edward J. Markey



Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III