



City of Cambridge

27.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 1, 1998

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The City Council recently passed a resolution requesting that Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright do all within her power to impress upon the Peruvian Government the importance of providing Lori Berenson an open and fair proceeding in a civilian court without further delay; and

WHEREAS: Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Rhoda Berenson, Lori Berenson's parents, will be visiting Cambridge on June 3, 1998 to continue their efforts to obtain an open and fair trial for their daughter; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council extend it warmest greetings to Mark and Rhoda Berenson and welcome them to the City with continued best wishes for the success of their journey and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution for presentation to Mark and Rhoda Berenson at a reception hosted by Councillor Triantafillou to be held in the Ackerman Room on June 3, 1998 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 1, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

...ing to murder, and his elders respond with: ho-
hum. And then they are horrified when he turns to mur-

...marched before a principal, who would have taught him...
one of life's great lessons: Shut up. He would have

Jeff Jacoby

Please, Mr. President, do not forget our daughter, Lori Berenson

RHODA BERENSON and MARK BERENSON

When President Clinton gives the commencement address at Massachusetts Institute of Technology on June 5 and congratulates the graduates of the class of '98, he should not be forgetting Lori Berenson, class of '91, who was denied due process and has languished in a Peruvian prison for the past two-and-a-half years.

As a student at MIT, Lori studied problems of wealth and land distribution in Latin America and subsequently traveled there to further investigate the effects of poverty. At the time of her arrest she was working as a journalist with assignments from two American publications. She had

been researching articles on women's rights and poverty in Peru and had interviewed several members of Peru's Congress and government.

After her arrest she was "tried" in secret by a military tribunal and sentenced by a hooded "judge" while a gun was pointed at her head. She was convicted of treason and sentenced to life in prison with no parole.

Lori Berenson has consistently maintained her innocence and insists that Peru provide her an open, fair trial in a civilian court or grant her immediate release.

Winter is returning to the Peruvian Andes where Lori lives in an all-concrete cell of a maximum security military prison, without heat or running water. Temperatures drop well below freezing at night and do not rise much above freezing inside the

sunless prison, located 12,700 feet above sea level.

She is allowed out of her small cell only one hour a day. Last winter, even with win-

She is languishing in a Peruvian prison.

ter coat, gloves, and eight blankets, the effect of the weather was still bone-chilling. She suffers from repeated throat infections, chronic laryngitis, and hands that have been deformed by the effects of altitude and weather.

In the words of Amnesty International, "it is unacceptable for hundreds of political

prisoners like Lori Berenson not to be able to exercise their basic human right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal."

Former President Jimmy Carter, on behalf of the Carter Center for Human Rights, has expressed similar concerns. Moreover, in its annual reports on Peru, the US State Department has repeatedly condemned the Peruvian antiterrorism laws that permit civilians to be tried by secret military tribunals. These laws violate international law to which Peru is a signatory.

Last December, 55 senators and 180 representatives, including the entire 12-member Massachusetts congressional delegation, sent letters to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright calling on our government to do "everything in [its] power" to achieve justice for Lori.

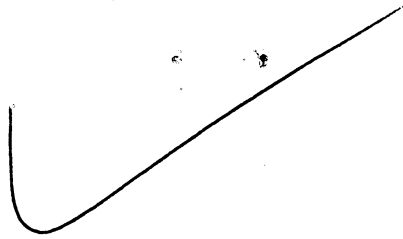
President Clinton has spoken forcefully on behalf of political prisoners of other nations with success. There is no reason to believe he cannot do the same for Lori Berenson, an American who Amnesty International has declared is also a political prisoner. In fact, Congress has already given the president power to act in situations such as this with an act called "Release of Citizens Imprisoned by Foreign Governments."

America cannot permit the perpetuation of such injustice. Clinton must act immediately to secure Lori Berenson a fair trial or demand her release. He should not by his inaction permit her to suffer any longer.

Rhoda and Mark Berenson, the parents of Lori Berenson, live in New York City.

Globe 5/28/98

27



Resolved, that
Kt.

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passed a resolution requesting that ~~the~~ Secretary
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~~the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation~~
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of providing Lori Berenson an open & fair proceed-
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Lori Berenson's parents, will be
visiting Cambridge on June 3, 1998
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an open & fair trial for their
daughter

~~Whereas, City Councilor Katherine Triantafyllou~~
~~will be~~

Now therefore be it resolved that the
City Council extend its warmest
greetings to Mark & Rhoda Berenson &
welcome them to the city with
continued best wishes for the
success of their journey ~~at a~~
further that a suitably engraved copy of this
resolution be presented to them at a reception
to be held in the Athenaeum Room on June 3, 1998

for 5-6 p.m., hosted by
City Councilor Katherine Triantafyllou



Friday, May 22, 1998 11:36:07 AM

Telecommunications Item

From: Thatcher W. Kezer

Subject: Telecom Bill Advances in Senate

To: Telecommunications

FYI



MMA's Tower Language Advances in Senate

May 22, 1998

*Thatcher W. Kezer III, Legislative Analyst
Massachusetts Municipal Association*

The Senate took up the telecommunications tower bill (H. 5355) on May 14, which was passed by the House last month. The House bill creates a panel, appointed by the Governor, to decide disputes over the siting of telecommunication towers between the telecommunication companies and cities and towns.

Senator Michael Morrissey amended the House bill with language being advocated by the MMA. The Senate amendment removes the House language that creates the siting panel and replaces it with language that would remove the telecommunication companies as public service companies, thereby not allowing them to appeal to the DTE.

The next step in the process is for the Senate to engross the bill and send the changed bill back to the House for its concurrence. The House is unlikely to accept the changes and a conference committee will have to be named to work out the differences.

Still pending in the House is a bill sponsored by Local Affairs Chair, Representative Marie Parente (H. 5353). Rep. Parente's bill contains the same language removing the telecommunication companies as public service corporation but has additional language that refers to procurement processes. The Parente bill is on the House Calendar awaiting a third reading.

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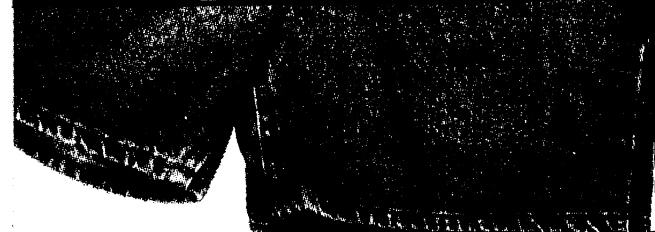


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Consent Order #27

696R

Councillor Triantafillou re: extend warm greetings to Mark and Rhoda Berenson and wish them success in their efforts to obtain an open and fair trial in Peru for their daughter Lori.

In City Council June 1, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED