

JAMES M. WILLIAMSON
17 PERRY STREET, CA. 02139

Thursday, February 18, 1999

Dear Member of the Cambridge City Council
and Citizen of Cambridge:

I would like to share with you the enclosed letter sent by Congressman Michael Capuano - and joined by Congressman Joseph Moakley - to President Clinton on behalf of Lori Berenson on the eve of President Fujimori of Peru's visit to the White House on Friday, February 5.

At a "Human Rights Candidates' Forum" organized by a coalition of human rights activists at the Senior Center prior to the Democratic Party primary this past fall, then Mayor Capuano joined nearly all of the candidates in expressing strong support for justice and the timely release of Lori.

Since his election and inauguration as our new Congressman, Mike Capuano has already followed through on his pledge with this letter which will hopefully be one step further toward galvanizing the support and leadership of the entire Massachusetts Congressional Delegation on this important issue.

Lori Berenson should not have to suffer unjustly any longer, without a trial, in a Peruvian prison - it is time for all our efforts and support to be translated into results!

I thank Congressmen Capuano and Moakley for their support and for further initiatives to bring that day closer. Sincerely, James M. Williamson

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2108

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

February 3, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We hope that you will use the opportunity of Peruvian President Fujimori's visit to the United States next week to once again remind him of our continuing concern over Lori Berenson.

Ms. Berenson has been imprisoned for over three years and has yet to receive due process of the law. As you well know, Ms. Berenson was convicted by a hooded judge in a military court; she was not permitted to converse with her lawyer, nor was she able to confront her accusers and the evidence they presented against her.

Furthermore, Ms. Berenson has suffered cruel and inhumane treatment while serving her life sentence. At Yanamayo prison, she endured exposure to sub-zero temperatures and malnourishment. In order to combat her ailing physical health, Ms. Berenson was moved to a prison at a lower altitude this past November, but the Peruvian government has placed her in solitary confinement. Amnesty International has issued an urgent appeal on her behalf. While she is recovering physically, solitary confinement has consequently placed her mental health in jeopardy.

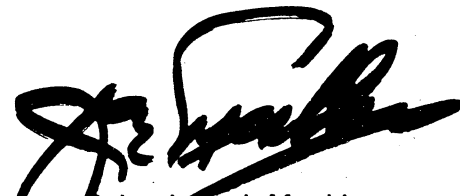
Mr. President, we ask that you insist the Peruvian government make a concerted effort to improve Lori's prison conditions. We further ask that you convey to President Fujimori that continued imprisonment of Lori Berenson without a fair and open trial will not be tolerated.

We appreciate your help in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



John Joseph Moakley
Member of Congress

Cc: Samuel Berger, National Security Adviser
Madeline Albright, Secretary of State
Edgar Embrey, Foreign Service Officer

MEC:mm

Consent Communication #48

A communication was received from
James M. Williamson, transmitting
a letter regarding the Lori Berenson
imprisonment case.

In City Council February 22, 1999

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