

2 December, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to you today to ask that you pardon former Central Intelligence Agency officer and anti-torture whistleblower John Kiriakou.

Mr. Kiriakou was convicted of violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1981 when he confirmed the name of a former CIA colleague to a journalist who was writing a book. The journalist, on his own volition, provided the name to a human rights organization. The name was never made public, and even the Justice Department conceded at the time that there was no harm to the national security.


The New York Times, the Boston Globe, and the St. Louis Post Dispatch all wrote in 2012 that Mr. Kiriakou was charged not for revealing a former colleague's name, but for blowing the whistle on the CIA's Bush-era torture program. Quite simply, he revealed that a crime having been committed by the CIA, and a criminal charge was the result.

Mr. President, you wrote in the Christian Science Monitor in 1981 that the language in the Intelligence Identities Protection Act was so broad as to be unconstitutionally vague and was "an inappropriate standard for determining criminal liability." You believed correctly that the law, as passed, would do more harm than good, curtailing journalistic scrutiny of CIA programs and discouraging CIA officers from reporting crimes. Since then, Mr. Kiriakou has been the only person charged with violating the IIPA for speaking to the media, and his action was altruistic.

We urge you, Mr. President, to right this wrong, and to pardon John Kiriakou.

Respectfully,

Gary Johnson, former Governor of New Mexico


[Gary Johnson \(Dec 2, 2024 08:22 MST\)](#)

Jesse Ventura, former Governor of Minnesota

