

February 1, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC
20500

Dear President Obama:

We, the undersigned former national security, law enforcement, and military professionals and diplomats, are writing to you to ask that you pardon former CIA officer John Kiriakou. Mr. Kiriakou pleaded guilty in 2012 to one count of violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1981. He admitted to giving the name of a former colleague to an author who was writing a book and looking for former CIA officers to interview. The reporter then passed the name, unbeknownst to Mr. Kiriakou, to the American Civil Liberties Union. Mr. Kiriakou served 23 months in prison and lost his federal pension.

We believe that a pardon is appropriate in this case for a number of reasons:

First, Mr. Kiriakou is a highly decorated, 14-year CIA counterterrorism veteran who has spent his entire adult life in public service, including more than two years as a senior aide to then-Senator John Kerry. He was the leader of the team that captured al-Qaeda terrorist Abu Zubaydah in Faisalabad, Pakistan in 2002 and was twice the victim of assassination attempts overseas by terrorist groups. He is the recipient of 12 CIA Exceptional Performance Awards, the Sustained Superior Performance Award, the Meritorious Honor Award with Medal, and the Counterterrorism Service Medal.

Second, Mr. Kiriakou is an anti-torture whistleblower who spoke out against torture because he believed it violated his oath to the Constitution. He never tortured anyone, yet he is the only individual to be prosecuted in relation to the torture program of the last decade. The interrogators who tortured prisoners, the officials who gave the orders, the attorneys who authored the torture memos, and the CIA officers who destroyed the interrogation tapes have not been held professionally accountable, much less charged with crimes. Please, Mr. President, do not allow your legacy to be one where only the whistleblower goes to prison.

Third, there is precedent for leniency. President Clinton pardoned Samuel L. Morison, the only person, up to that time, convicted of espionage for leaking classified information to the press, in 2001. Mr. Morison had passed a classified photo to Jane's Defense Weekly magazine in 1995.

Finally, if you are considering a pardon for former CIA Director General David Petraeus, please understand that his crime was almost identical to Mr. Kiriakou's. In fact, according to his indictment, General Petraeus provided the names of some 10 undercover CIA officers to his girlfriend. A pardon for Mr. Kiriakou would be fair and appropriate.

We urge you to take action in this matter, Mr. President. Please do not let this injustice stand. Pardon John Kiriakou.

Respectfully,

Ambassador Patrick Theros, United States Foreign Service (retired)
Ambassador Thomas J. Scotese, United States Foreign Service (retired)

Bruce Riedel, Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Council (retired)
Dr. Morton Halperin, PhD., Departments of State and Defense and National Security Council (retired)
Dr. Marcus Raskin, National Security Council (retired)

Carmen Medina, Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Elizabeth Riedel, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Ray McGovern, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Dr. Charles Murphy, PhD., Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Barry Eisler, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Patrick Hamilton, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Marshall Vone Bowly, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Fulton T. Armstrong, Central Intelligence Agency and Senate Foreign Relations Committee (retired)
Jeanette Weiler, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Basil E. Trikas, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Heather MacVeigh Ward, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Tresa R. Roth, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Laurance Baschkin, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Wylma C. S. Robinson, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
John Andrew Bennett, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Luis A. Falcon III, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Philip Giraldi, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
James Francis, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
A. N. C., Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Gene Coyle, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Jan Coyle, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)

Thomas A. Drake, Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency (retired)
James Frank Smith, JD, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Robert D. Petti, Central Intelligence Agency (retired)
Dr. Kenneth M. Pollack, PhD., Former employee, Central Intelligence Agency
Lindsay Moran, Former Operations Officer, Central Intelligence Agency
Daniel Gabriel, Former Operations Officer, Central Intelligence Agency
Rachel E. Kraemer, Former Intelligence Officer, Central Intelligence Agency
Brian Montgomery, Former Intelligence Officer, Central Intelligence Agency
Larry C. Johnson, Former U.S. Department of State and Central Intelligence Agency
Robert David Steele, Former Operations Officer, Central Intelligence Agency
Lynn A. Larkin, Former Operations Officer, Central Intelligence Agency
J.A., Central Intelligence Agency (retired)

Graham E. Fuller, Former Operations Officer, Central Intelligence Agency and Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council
Elizabeth Murray, Deputy National Intelligence Officer for the Near East, National Intelligence Council (retired)
David MacMichael, National Intelligence Council (retired)

BG Steven Xenakis, United States Army (retired)
COL Lawrence Wilkerson, United States Army (retired)
COL Nicholas P. Vamvakias, United States Army (retired)
COL Ann Wright, United States Army (retired)
COL Douglas W. Curtis, United States Army (retired)
LTC James E. Stoucker, United States Air Force (retired)
LTC Edward Degnan, United States Air Force (retired)
CDR Malcolm C. White, United States Navy (retired)

William Binney, Technical Director, National Security Agency (retired)
Edward Loomis, National Security Agency (retired)
J. Kirk Wiebe, Senior Intelligence Analyst, National Security Agency

Dr. Stephen Bowers, PhD., Defense Intelligence Agency (retired)
Dr. Steven Sampson, PhD., Defense Intelligence Agency (retired)
Mark Weiler, Former Defense Intelligence Agency Officer

Coleen Rowley, Special Agent and Minneapolis Division Legal Counsel, Federal Bureau of Investigation (retired)
Dr. Walter Clements, PhD., Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (retired)

Peter Van Buren, Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State (retired)
Donald F. Roberts, Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State (retired)
Douglas Hartley, Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State (retired)
Thomas M. DeFord, Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State (retired)

Hon. John R. Atwood, Justice, Maine Superior Court
Jesselyn Radack, Former Ethics Officer, U.S. Department of Justice