

RICHARD E. NEAL
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

AT-LARGE WHIP



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

December 21, 2016

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The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

I write to you today to urge your full and fair consideration to the request of brothers Robert and Michael Meeropol. The sons of Ethel Rosenberg, have requested your direct intervention in issuing a presidential proclamation regarding the injustice done to their mother during her prosecution for conspiracy to commit espionage. I echo their request on the basis of fairness and justice.

As history has revealed, Ethel Rosenberg was not the actor in concert that was portrayed by the U.S. government. Indeed, a significant body of evidence points to the use of perjured statements to leverage the target of the investigation, Ethel's husband Julius. There is no doubt by scholars or the family of Mr. Rosenberg's culpability. However the government's conduct in securing his conviction was violative of both ethical standards and the rule of law.

To let stand a conviction based on perjury, improper judicial ex-parte communication and witness tampering is fundamentally antagonistic to the principals of our justice system. Regardless of the passage of time, it is worth taking a second look at what a growing chorus of supporters of the Meeropol's believe was a terrible injustice carried out on their mother by our government.

In light of this significant body of evidence, I strongly urge you to proclaim the improper treatment of Ethel Rosenberg and her offensive treatment by our government to obtain what we could have without her sacrifice—the just conviction of her husband. It is important we set the record straight as we have done time and time again when our system of justice makes an error of such significant consequence.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

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