## ELIZABETH WARREN MASSACHUSETTS

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January 10, 2017

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

Dear President Obama,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Robert Meeropol, and his family to request that you provide a thorough review of their request that you issue a proclamation exonerating his mother, Ethel Rosenberg. Ms. Rosenberg was executed by the United States for conspiracy to commit espionage in 1953.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to my office from Mr. Meeropol outlining their call for you to publicly address their mother's conviction and execution and providing a detailed account of the case. Robert and his brother, Michael Meeropol, delivered a letter and supporting documents to the White House on December 1, 2016.

I ask that you give every appropriate consideration to the request of Mr. Meeropol and his family and provide a swift response to their concerns. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Everett Handford from my staff at (413) 788-2690. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren

United States Senator

## Dear Senator Warren,

I am writing as your constituent, to seek your support of an effort my brother Michael and I have launched calling on President Obama to address the injustice visited upon our mother, Ethel Rosenberg. (She and our father, Julius Rosenberg, were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and executed in 1953, when I was six and my brother was 10.)

I am requesting that you sign our petition at <a href="www.rfc.org/ethel">www.rfc.org/ethel</a>, join Representative James McGovern in writing to President Obama to ask him to take action, and encourage other members of the Massachusetts delegation to do the same. I also hope you will use any influence you may have to see that our request is given due consideration by the President and the outcome we desire.

Finally, I invite you to join my brother and me at a public event we are planning in Washington DC shortly after Thanksgiving, to recreate a visit we made to the same spot with our grandmother, two days before our parents were killed. We were there to try to deliver my brother's hand-written letter to Eisenhower asking for clemency for our parents. Our plea fell on deaf ears in 1953, but we hope that this time things will be different.

I am enclosing in-depth factual information, as well as a copy of the initial correspondence we sent to Valerie Jarrett's attention in the Office of Public Engagement. (We are in the process of preparing an additional package of information to go to the White House by the end of this month.) These materials will outline in detail, using documentation from government files and other third-party sources, the huge body of evidence that now shows that our mother was not a spy, and that the government knew this at the time of her prosecution and execution.

Furthermore, the documentation illustrates that a key member of our parents' prosecution team encouraged the creation of false testimony by our mother's brother, David Greenglass – the only evidence that was presented against our mother at her trial, and which led to her unjust conviction and execution. That same member of the prosecution team also had illegal ex parte communication with the trial judge.

It is especially disturbing to be contacting you about this matter after the election of Donald Trump, because the member of the prosecution team I reference above was Roy Cohn. Cohn made his political name with my parent's prosecution. He then went on to become Senator McCarthy's right-hand man, an advisor to President Nixon, and for several decades, a very influential mentor to Donald Trump.

With this history, it is no surprise that a Trump presidency threatens to revive Enemies Lists, and dangerous - even deadly - political targeting of our fellow citizens that may echo or surpass the worst of such times in our nation's past.

It's in this context that I am asking you to stand with my brother and me, in our effort to seek presidential redress for our mother's unjust conviction and wrongful execution. We have been circulating a petition calling on President Obama to take action. It has been signed by 40,000 people to date. We hope the President will issue a proclamation modeled after that which Governor Dukakis

issued in 1977 regarding Sacco and Vanzetti, a copy of which is enclosed, or take other action to right this wrong.

In June of this year, Obama reacted to Trump's hateful rhetoric against Muslims after the Pulse nightclub shootings: "That's not the America we want, it does not reflect our democratic ideals. We've gone through moments in our history before when we acted out of fear and came to regret it."

My mother's fate was one of those shameful moments. A proclamation or other action by President Obama declaring that Ethel Rosenberg's conviction was unjust and her execution was wrongful, would be a powerful repudiation of the scapegoating and witch-hunting that took place in the McCarthy Era and is on the rise again with this presidential election. Your public support of our effort, and the support of your fellow legislators, would hold the same meaning.

I look forward to your reply and hope that I can count on you, as my representative in Washington, to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Robert Meeropol 79 Plain St.

Easthampton, MA 01027

robert.meeropol@gmail.com

(413) 530-1539

P.S. The Rosenberg Fund for Children (a public foundation in Easthampton that I started and which my daughter now leads), is spearheading this exoneration campaign. On the RFC website at <a href="https://www.rfc.org">www.rfc.org</a> you can find:

- The petition at <u>www.rfc.org/ethel</u>, that includes an up-to-date signature counter
- High profile, recent media coverage about this effort, at <a href="www.rfc.org/recentpresscoverage">www.rfc.org/recentpresscoverage</a>, including a powerful, double-length 60 Minutes story from October 16<sup>th</sup> of this year; an op-ed in The New York Times; a front page Boston Globe story, WGBH radio and tv interviews with Jim Braude; and pieces on Huffington Post and a wide range of other national, regional, and local media including both The Daily Hampshire Gazette and The Republican.