

## "Letter from Loretto"

Hello again from the Federal Correctional Institution at Loretto, PA. On May 9, a "Day of Action," many dozens of you contacted your members of Congress, in Washington and in the districts, on my behalf. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and support. I don't know if your hard work will result in additional halfway house time, but at the very least you've given me great hope, and for that I am eternally grateful.

I am especially indebted to my wonderful wife Heather; Firedoglake's Jane Hamsher, Brian Sarenstein, and Kevin Gozstola, and my awesome cousin Kip Reese for organizing the event; and to Medea Benjamin and my friends at Code Pink.

One thing about which I'm especially proud is that the my case and the cause of banning torture forever crosses ideological lines, and that was proven on May 9. Torture is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is not exclusive to liberals or conservatives. It is an American issue, an issue about which we can never cease our work. It's up to people like all of us to make sure that torture never rears its ugly head in American policy again. On May 9 we had members of peace groups working with members of the Tea Party. Occupy Wall Street protesters worked with

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Supporters from Liberty University. You are a model for America! Stopping torture and ensuring Americans' civil liberties is so much more important than esoteric ideological differences. Thank you for pulling together and for helping me.

We're already seeing some results of your hard work. I've received strong support from Reps. Jim Moran of Virginia, Lloyd Doggett of Texas, and Carolyn Maloney of New York. I know in my heart that there will be more positive news to come. Brad Thacker of Lakewood, CO put my feelings into words when he wrote me last week saying,

"I know that together - the thousands of people who are lobbying for your freedom, and the millions who are struggling for a just world - can prevail if we keep up the fight and never give up. In times like these it's the collective struggle that gives me strength, the knowledge that I am not alone, that together we strive for a better country and a better world, where justice, truth, and fairness prevail."

I couldn't have said it any better.

I also wanted to thank all of you who donated money to send my son Max and daughter Kate to summer camp. I can't

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tell you how grateful Heather and I are. Max, who is nine, has struggled with my incarceration, and he has suffered from chronic nausea since I got here. It was heartbreaking when he whispered to me during a visit a few months ago, "Dad, are you a PRISONER here?" (I had told the kids that I had lost a fight with the FBI, so I had to go to Pennsylvania for two years to teach bad guys how to get their high school diplomas.) I had to say yes. Summer camp will undoubtedly distract him and make the time go a little more quickly.

Finally, I wanted to thank my friend, cellmate, and former colleague Dave for helping me get through the past 15 months. Dave became my best friend and biggest supporter here. He was a voice of reason during the several times when I've found myself on the brink of losing my temper, and he was a skilled first set of eyes for my Letters from Loretta. Dave was moved into solitary confinement three weeks ago after a dispute with a pedophile. That's a story for another time. An administrator told me that I won't see him again. The good news is that the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals found that his District Court judge improperly manipulated his sentence. The sentence was thrown out, and he will again have his day in court. I wish him godspeed.

Thanks again for everything, friends. Sincerely,

John