

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION

JUSTICE FOR JONATHAN POLLARD

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Jonathan Pollard is presently serving a life sentence for passing classified information to a nation friendly to the United States. In contrast, whereas Abdelkader Helmy, an Egyptian born American citizen was sentenced to just 46 months in prison for selling the Iraqis 420 pounds of material used in Stealth Aircraft, along with missiles and rockets. Samuel Morison, an analyst at the U.S. Navy's ultra secret Naval Intelligence Support Center, was sentenced to two years for selling classified photographs of Soviet Naval Vessels. Navy Ensign Steve Babs received only a two year prison term for illicitly transmitting code indices and a document on electronic warfare to South Africa;

And, in addition, even many convicted of spying for hostile nations have received prison sentences significantly less than Pollard's. For example, William Holden Bell was sentenced to eight years for providing information on antitank missiles and radar technology to a Polish agent, and even those convicted of spying for the Soviet Union have received sentences considerably less than life imprisonment.

Yet, although never accused nor convicted of treason, Jonathan Pollard is serving an unprecedented life sentence in solitary confinement, with no realistic chance for parole, for passing classified information to an allied country.

For nearly three thousand years "Justice, justice shall you pursue" has been the cornerstone of Jewish ethics. Therefore, we call upon the President and the Justice Department of the United States Government to recognize that the punishment meted out to Jonathan Pollard has been unduly harsh. His incarceration reflects a clear excess of punishment in comparison with that given to others sentenced for similar actions, and we therefore call for the commutation of Jonathan Pollard's sentence to the five and a half years he has already served.