

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

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July 1 2019

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: **Sholam Weiss**, Full Pardon/ Commutation

Dear Mr. President,

I sent a letter to the White House Counsel last year in support of a commutation of sentence for Sholam Weiss. I am now writing you directly to add that I believe a *full pardon* is warranted in his case.

Sholam Weiss is currently serving an extreme 835-year sentence (imposed *in absentia*), primarily for money laundering. He has already served 18 years (a 20 year sentence when including goodtime credits). Restitution has been fully satisfied, he is in poor health, and all of his co-defendants have long been released. These facts alone warrant a commutation. A full pardon is further warranted because he has been imprisoned illegally since 2002 in violation of an extradition treaty.

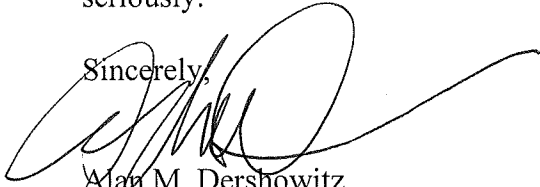
Mr. Weiss was extradited from Austria in 2002 on the basis of assurances from the Department of Justice (DOJ) that he would get a full re-sentencing. After extradition, the DOJ refused to honor those assurances. Austria has continually sent protests to the United States, requesting presidential clemency to fulfill the international obligations.

Mr. President, you have been universally praised for freeing United States citizens illegally detained abroad. In this case, we have a U.S. citizen illegally detained in the United States, despite the protests of Austria. Had Shalom Weiss been re-sentenced upon his extradition in 2002 (under new sentencing laws, still mandatory, put in place in 2001) the highest sentence he would have received would be 30-37 months.

A full pardon will not bring back the years Mr. Weiss has wrongly spent in prison, but it may at least restore him to a more normal life at the age of 65, without the enduring

hardships associated with his sentence (e.g. probation, fines and right to vote). It will also be a resounding statement to Austria and to the DOJ that America takes its promises seriously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM Dershowitz', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan M. Dershowitz  
Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law Emeritus