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Correspondence
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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington D.C. 20500

June 22, 2014

Dear Mr. President,

I respect you enough to view your policies candidly, without being swayed positively by your race nor negatively by your track record. I'd like to think I'm not a hotheaded Republican who blindly nit-picks everything you do in search of mistakes. To clear the table of the more ridiculous notions, I do believe you were born in Hawaii and I believe you are trying to help the United States. In fact I happen to support a few of your actions as President: "My Brother's Keeper" Program, your space policy aimed towards a Mars expedition by 2030s (as stated in your April 2010 speech at JFK Space Center), and your approval of Operation Neptune Spear despite the risk involved and your own VP's dissuasion. I commend you for these promises and accomplishments, Mr. President. That being said, I condemn your numerous lies and blunders that fill the rest of your six years in office.

I do not write this letter with the intention of attacking you. I understand—and try to remind my Conservative friends when they get carried away in their diatribes—that it is extremely difficult to lead a nation, and errors are inevitable. But, Mr. President, I feel obligated to send you this note, to remind you of mistakes which have piled too high and tasks which you have neglected that can still be fixed. Even though some diligent employee is probably reading this and you will most likely never see this letter, no matter. I need to know that I didn't sit quietly while so much wrong remained unchecked around me. That's not the American way.

To start, I must mention the brewing war in Iraq. I'm sure you are aware of the ISIS Sunni terrorists who swarm the country, slaughtering Iraqi soldiers, sieging cities, and destroying within months whatever small success we managed to bring over a decade of aimless war and occupation. As a Conservative Libertarian, I understand your hesitancy to interfere in foreign affairs and your aversion to war when possible. But sir, that policy is enforced in order to respect other nations' sovereignty and to not impose our agendas—no matter how sincere—on their independent lives. The Iraqi military has, however, *directly requested help*, specifically the use of

our air power. And while I agree with you inasmuch as negotiations should ideally precede battle (as you said in your CNN interview yesterday), that does not excuse turning a deaf ear to the Iraqi soldiers' request. As I write this, ISIS Jihadists mass-execute those of them who haven't yet fled the country and destroy their infrastructure. In September 2013, you had the CIA provide weapon support to the Syrian rebels, many of whom were radicals with the same goals as any Al Qaeda terrorist. I do not see the sense in your decision. In an interview with NPR last month, you said that they were fighting back against a "government that was killing its own people and violating human rights in the most profound way, and they wanted to do something about it." But you didn't show much resolve when those human rights violations came to the forefront this past autumn. Despite your "red line" promises, you failed to follow through and thus made the United States appear weak and irresolute. All you did was help facilitate a bloody war between two despicable sides rather than fuel any headway towards peace. But when the Iraqi government requested aid against ISIS, for some reason, you did not provide weapons and instead urged futile negotiations. You yourself said in yesterday's CNN interview, "We gave Iraq a chance." Why not push to support the Iraqi military against the onslaught of terrorism? American soldiers are not at risk; Iraq is asking for *artillery*, not troops. You are simply choosing inaction when action is necessary and straightforward. Why can we arm terrorists but not Iraqi soldiers? Why can't you show the same backbone as when you ordered the strike on bin-Laden? It is your duty, Mr. President.

On a similar note, may I remind you of the deplorable human rights violations in North Korea, where echoes of the Nazi concentration camps play through my head. It disturbs me immensely that the nation who preaches regret for their inaction during World War II to curtail the genocide shows the same indifference today with North Korea. How can you, or any American for that matter, turn a blind eye to the atrocities taking place there? Stalin-like purges are frequent occurrences, Saddam Hussein-style executions (e.g. mortar-shell and flame-thrower), and the Fascist idolization of Kim Jong Un are enough to demonstrate—something needs to be done. I am not advocating invading the country and occupying it for ten years with vague goals in mind (George Bush showed us that is not a good idea...). Even if you would just send a Navy SEAL team or the Delta Force to either capture Kim Jong Un or assassinate him. I don't believe in capital punishment, but he needs to be stopped from further crimes against humanity. Something must be done; I'm afraid it *is* that simple, Mr. President.

I've mentioned the SEALs, which brings me to my next point. While friends of mine mention Benghazi as one of your worst scandals, I have to draw your attention to what I believe is much worse. VP Biden—and afterwards, you—betrayed the American heroes of SEAL Team 6 after they followed your orders to kill Usama bin-Laden. Neither the SEALs nor the Delta Force are meant to be flaunted and exposed in the wake of their missions. *They were never there.* But

you let leak that it was SEAL Team 6 who took out the Al Qaeda leader, and less than four months after the fateful strike on UBL, they were ambushed and killed in a well-coordinated attack. If you think that the two are unrelated and your slip was not to blame, I offer you this quote taken from a *Washington Times* article, dated August 9, 2013. Karen Vaughn, the mother of Aaron Vaughn, one of the members of SEAL Team 6, described her son's reaction to your leak, "I never heard Aaron this concerned and worried in his entire life... He called me and said, 'Mom, you and Dad have to take everything down [from Facebook and Twitter referencing SEAL Team 6]. Biden has just put a huge target on everybody.' " He and his fellow SEAL team members were killed soon afterwards. Mr. President, please have the sense and respect to stop hanging out the SEALs and Delta Force to dry. While it may advance your political image, it is reckless and harmful to the troops who trust you as their commander and chief. I'm not even going to mention the backup you denied off-duty Navy SEALs Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty who defended the American embassy in Benghazi till they were killed. Unfortunately, I have limited time and paper, and must carefully pick which of your many scandals I address. (I hope you don't feel slighted by my not mentioning the NSA; as my Big Brother, I'm sure you'll understand.)

On the lighter side of things, you also neglected a golden opportunity to "create jobs" as you love to do—or at least *hope* to do. You delayed the building of the Keystone Pipeline this April, stating that it would *only* create a few thousand jobs (even though people criticized your estimate to be off by tens of thousands). The minor environmental risk is small compared to the economic benefit the project would bring the country. If you're willing to gamble the entire nation's healthcare system on your sloppy Affordable Care Act, why not try this small program which would bring good honest work to several thousand Americans? Are you afraid of good old-fashioned capitalism, Mr. President?

Now that I've mentioned Obamacare, sir, I have to ask, *why did you lie to the American people?* You repeatedly assured us that we could keep our old insurance plans even if they didn't follow your new guidelines, and then you reneged on that promise. I don't have to explain further, Mr. President. A lie is a lie, and presidents have been impeached for less than this. As I've tried to show you, you've done so much more.

Returning to more present and pressing issues, two people come to mind whom you abandoned after they served this country. Pakistani Doctor Shakil Afridi provided DNA proof that helped us locate and take down bin Laden—and he has remained in prison since. How can we leave him to the wolves after such invaluable assistance to such a great accomplishment? And yes, I'm aware that in March, his prison time was reduced by ten years. But that's too little, too late, and he still has twenty-three years left to serve. Get him his freedom. It's the very least he deserves after what he did for us. You're breeding hatred of America and her leaders by betraying the people who serve us, whether SEALs, Pakistani informers, or Marine veterans.

Yes, Mr. President, may I remind you of Andrew Tahmooressi—a Marine sergeant who suffers from untreated PTSD after his two tours in Afghanistan—who has been locked away in a Mexican jail for the past four months on gun charges. Just last month, you were on the phone with Mexican President Enrique Nieto and you did not even mention Andrew's predicament, did not even try to help this man out of prison. Do you feel he deserves to be imprisoned indefinitely, handcuffed naked to a bed till his ankles bleed (punishment for an escape attempt), because of his carrying guns into Mexico "illegally"? You didn't seem to mind arming the Cartel with automatic assault rifles in the failed ATF sting operation Fast and Furious. Or is it his loyal service on the battlefield that makes him so expendable? You didn't seem to be bothered by the dying men and women in the Walter Reed Veterans Hospital, cooped inside the moldy, unheated, insect-infested Building 18, denied care and left to die through a variety of incidents that most definitely could have been avoided if you or your administration gave a damn about the people you are sworn to protect. Clearly, Mr. Obama, you do not.

I stick up for you in political debates, and urge far-right Conservatives to not be so hateful of you. I do not hate you, Mr. President. I am disappointed in you.

In conclusion, let me say that I hope you'll repair these problems that you've either created or ignored. In your defense, you did inherit a mess. But in all honesty, you've made it much worse. Again, I don't have the time to go into detail about healthcare, the rising debt, or worsening race relations. All I'll say is please, sir, don't hurt this country.

It would mean a lot to me if you responded to this letter personally; it would assure me that you do truly care about the American people, something that I find more and more difficult to believe. But I do understand that you are a busy man, and unlike many of your critics, I understand that you are a human being trying his best.

I hope you find clarity and success, and eventually, peace of mind. I know it must be exhausting to be the President. But please, sir, fix this.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Shmuel Pernicone

P. S. *Gimme Shelter* is one of my favorite songs, too. I see you have good taste.

Shmuel Pernicone

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