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The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the more than 283,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express our vehement opposition to your offer of clemency to sixteen convicted felons involved with a wave of terrorist bomb attacks on U.S. soil from 1974-83. I would also like to express my own personal confusion and anger at this decision.

Your offer of clemency would immediately release eleven convicted felons, who conspired as members of the FALN, to plant and explode bombs at U.S. political and military targets. The remaining five would have their criminal fines waived and only two would serve any additional time. These attacks killed six people, wounded dozens and maimed three New York City police officers: Detective Anthony S. Senft lost an eye and a finger, Detective Richard Pastorella was blinded and Officer Rocco Pascarella lost his leg.

Your claim that none of these people were involved in any deaths is patently false. As members of the terrorist organization that was planting these bombs, all of them are accessories to the killings as a result of the bomb attacks. Two of the persons to whom you have offered clemency were convicted of a \$7.5 million armored truck robbery, which undoubtedly financed the FALN's 130 bomb attacks.

These are not Puerto Rican patriots—these are convicted felons who are guilty of waging a war of terror against Americans on American soil to accomplish their political objective. Why are you rewarding their efforts?

I can only assume you are again pandering for some political purpose. This time, Mr. President, it must stop before it begins.

The "human rights advocates" who are so concerned about the plight of these killers have never shed a tear for the victims. These "human rights advocates" are the same people and organizations who maintain that the United States routinely abuses the rights of its citizens and who issue reports stating that our State and local police officers are nothing more than racist thugs who enjoy brutalizing minorities. These "human rights advocates" are the same people and organizations who clamor for the release for Mumia Abu-Jamal, a convicted cop-killer, and raise money for his defense.

I do not know, Mr. President, how they decide which rights to advocate and which to ignore, but it seems that murderers and terrorists are more entitled to them than victims. Do not offer clemency to sixteen convicted felons to placate "human rights advocates."

I would also strongly urge you to reject any inclination or polling data that indicates this will generate sympathy for you or for a Democratic presidential candidate among Hispanic-Americans. As a Hispanic-American myself, I can assure you that releasing violent convicted felons before they have served their full sentences and to waive tens of thousands of dollars in criminal fines is no way to appeal to racial pride.

I sincerely hope, Mr. President, that this ill-conceived notion is consigned to the pile reserved for horrendously bad ideas. Many of the best accomplishments of your presidency stemmed from your commitment to law enforcement and to police officers. This aberration would surely eclipse all we have done to date to keep America safe.

I look forward to hearing from you about this matter.

Sincerely,

Gilbert G. Gallegos
National President