

DR. OLGA WEISFEILER
56 BEECHER PLACE • NEWTON, MA 02459
PHONE (617) 969-9714 • FAX (775) 418-1990
E-MAIL OLGA@WEISFEILER.COM

January 6, 2010

To the Human Rights Truth
and Reconciliation Commission

Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Olga Weisfeiler. I am the sister of Professor Boris Weisfeiler - the only United States citizen among the 1100 Chileans disappeared during the Pinochet dictatorship. My brother disappeared while on a hiking trip on January 4, 1985, in southern Chile where the Nuble and Los Sauces rivers converge in the VIII Region. Hundreds of formerly secret U.S. documents make it clear that he was a victim of government repression—intercepted, kidnapped, tortured, and disappeared by either a Carabinero and/or Army patrol that had been sent to “search” for a reported stranger in the area. Those documents, however, were not available to the Rettig Commission at the time it completed its truth commission report in 1991. For that reason, I am submitting them to you today as part of this overview of the Weisfeiler case, with the expectation that my brother’s disappearance, finally, will be categorized as a human rights crime—a crime that continues to demand justice and accountability.

Basic Facts

Unlike so many Chileans who disappeared, my brother was not involved in any political activity. It was just his usual yearly trip “for relaxation”. He disappeared at the end of a 10-day solo hiking trip in the South of Chile. The location of Boris’ disappearance is just a few miles away from his final destination, San Fabian/San Carlos, from where he expected to take a bus to Santiago to return to the United States and to his university, the Pennsylvania State University, to resume teaching there. The location is also in proximity to the property of Colonia Dignidad.

Boris’ backpack was found on a riverside, on January 14 or 15, ten days after his disappearance about 2 km down the Nuble River. Most of Boris’ belongings were intact and dry inside of his backpack, including a tourist visa, issued at the Santiago airport, a U.S. driver’s license, a credit card, a used portion of a plane ticket to Santiago stamped “DEC 25 84 [...] AIRPORT CHILE,” and a note from the Pennsylvania State University confirming that Boris Weisfeiler was mathematics professor there. Missing were his passport, return portion of a round-trip plane ticket, money, camera, and film. Boris’ camera and his film however, were never reported as missing. (1) (2) (22)

According to a local person who found a backpack, "The tracks of two different people were leading up to the side of the personal effects, and also going away from it." (1) U.S. Embassy investigators came to suspect that members of Carabinero or an army patrol placed Boris' backpack where it had been found to fabricate a drowning theory.

On February 4, 1985, Boris Weisfeiler "was declared presumably dead by the Court of San Fabian Chile." The judge issued a statement that Weisfeiler's death was "probably result of accidental drowning." No body has ever been found. (3)

The U.S. Embassy submitted my brother's name to the original 1990-91 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Only basic background information was given to the Commission. (20) Nearly all of the documentation gathered by the U.S. Embassy during a five-year investigation and contained in large Weisfeiler file, was classified as secret by the U.S. Department of State and therefore not made available to the members of a Chilean Commission for evaluation. At the Commission's request, I submitted copies of legal documents, a letter, and a permission to investigate. (45) (46)

That apparently was not enough to define Boris's disappearance as a human rights crime. "The Commission determined that the evidence in Weisfeiler's case was insufficient to declare that his disappearance was caused by agents of the GOC." (4) A letter from the Rettig Commission dated July 30, 1993, informed me of its decision while stating that there was not enough evidence/information to conclude that the crime was violation of human rights. (5)

Evolution of Evidence

Since the Rettig Commission ended its work in 1991, substantial new information regarding Boris Weisfeiler's disappearance has become available.

In October 1997, an informant made a statement to the radio talk host Prof. Ricardo Israel and to then Senator Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo reporting on my brother's arrest by a military patrol and his execution, presumably committed inside of Colonia Dignidad and by Colonia officials. The informant, who called the show on air, and then met privately with Ricardo Israel and Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, wrote a statement at that time describing how security officials had detained and beaten my brother believing him to be a spy. The informant stated that Boris was taken to Colonia Dignidad and subsequently executed. (6) (48)

Two years later, the only evidence in the case, the backpack, disappeared. In September 1999, Weisfeiler's belongings, found in January 1985 and stored as evidence in the San Carlos Court during past 15 years, were presumably sold at a court's auction; a certificate of sale was issued. Despite the judge's 1985' order to the police "to turn over to the consular section Weisfeiler's personal effects at the appropriate time," neither the U.S. Embassy nor I was informed by the Court or asked for permission to hold a sale. Those belongings were the only evidence of Boris's presence and disappearance in the area. It is not clear where the objects that

found in the backpack, such as Boris' documentation, maps he carried, list with addresses/phone numbers of his relatives and friends, his medication, and keys went. Those items vanished as well. (7)

This clearly illegitimate sale of evidence might be connected to the fact that by then, the informant had come forward publicly known, and the fact that in September 1998, I hired Chilean attorney, Hernan Fernandez Rojas and he started to collect information in the San Carlos' area. The case investigation was reopened in the Chilean Courts in early January 2000, just a few days before the 15th anniversary of Boris' disappearance.

The most important evidence in the case, however, surfaced on June 30, 2000, when, in the aftermath of Gen. Pinochet's arrest in London, the Clinton Administration declassified thousands of the documents concerning repression during the Chilean military dictatorship. Those documents included more than 400 U.S. cables, memoranda, and reports related to Boris Weisfeiler's disappearance in Chile and the U.S. Embassy's investigation of his case—the one case of a disappeared U.S. citizen during the Pinochet era. Hence, hundreds of documents related to my brother's disappearance that were not available to the original Rettig Commission are now available for the Commission's review. Indeed, my brother's case could well be the most documented disappearance in Chile during the Pinochet era.

The Declassified U.S. Documentation

The declassified U.S. Embassy records contain ample evidence that Carabinero and army patrols—agents of the Chilean State—were at the place and time of Boris' disappearance, participated in the extensive "search" for Boris who a peasant had reported as a stranger in the area and a "possible extremist," and were implicated in my brother's disappearance and murder. (43) (44)

Even though my brother was not involved either in the Chilean political life or in any opposition movement, the Chilean military regime clearly considered him as the enemy of the State – a "political extremist," a "subversive," or "a Russian spy" – the assumption supported by the witnesses' statements and by Carabineros themselves, according to the U.S. documents. Unbeknown to him, Boris was hiking in an area that Chilean military authorities considered a security zone because of its proximity to the Argentine border and to the German enclave, Colonia Dignidad, which was collaborating with the Chilean military and the secret police during the dictatorship. (38)

In 1985, according to the Embassy's cable, the U.S. Consul investigating the case "was told that Carabineros were frightened by the possibility that a 'political extremist' might have crossed Argentine border into Chile undetected." They also accused a peasant who had befriended Boris, Jose Lopez, of "letting a 'political extremist from Argentina' to pass." (8)

A declassified Embassy cable on the Carabineros' interview in 1988, stated, "The higher ranking Carabineros made evident their sentiment that Boris Weisfeiler was something more than a mere tourist." (9)

General Rodolfo Stange went even further. He contemplated an imposter theory, assuming that "real Weisfeiler had never traveled to Chile but instead a Chilean dissident might have entered the country with Weisfeiler's complicity" and documentation. (41)

Boris' U.S. passport, issued by U.S. consulate in Madrid, Spain, after an original passport was stolen there, stated Boris Weisfeiler was born in USSR. (50) The Soviets, who had supported the government of Salvador Allende, were considered an enemy of the Pinochet's military regime.

Furthermore, the U.S. declassified documents show plenty of evidence of the subsequent and massive cover-up not only by local Carabinero officers but also by the military high-ranking commanding officers in attempts to conceal the crime and mislead the U.S. Embassy officers investigating Boris' disappearance. General Juan Alegria, Gen. Oscar Torres, Gen. Jorge H. Portillo, Gen. Rodolfo Stange, Gen. Gabriel Ormeno, Colonel Claudio E. Blamey Pizarro, and others were involved in cover-up, as well as some of Pinochet's government officials whom the U.S. Embassy contacted for assistance, including Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jaime Del Valle.

According to the U.S. declassified documents, facts were misrepresented, witnesses pressured and perhaps even eliminated, evidence destroyed, reports delayed, U.S. diplomatic notes and other Embassy's requests were not answered for prolonged periods of time, if at all.

Let me point out to some of the facts and evidence contained in the declassified documents.

Evidence and witnesses

As early as January 1985, there were conflicting reports about footprints allegedly found by Carabineros on the riverside in pitch darkness leading to the water edge and supposedly left by a stranger. The Embassy officers investigating the case were never able to establish for sure who found those footprints, where and at what time of the day or night they were found, or if those footprints ever existed at all. Chilean officials appeared to be using the footprints to suggest Boris went into the river and drowned.

The Carabineros, who participated in the search party, claimed they found footprints. (1) At their interview in February 1988, each Carabinero, however, provided different account on the time and place of such a find, or of the pattern of the footprints. (36)

Local witnesses, as U.S. records show, were pressured to confirm Carabineros' story of footprints leading to the water edge. Jose [Checo] Lopez Benavidez, a local shepherd, in whose shelter Boris' spent his last night before he disappeared, according to the U.S. cable, "indicated first that on January 4, 1985 he saw footprints which went to the cableway and then doubled back

towards the confluence of the two rivers." "Another source told conoffs [consular officers] that Lopez told him that in fact he never saw footprints but was pressured by Carabineros to testify that he did." The cable continues, "There are number of indications that both Jose and Luis Lopez were under considerable pressure from the Chilean Carabineros to confirm official story and to minimize independent contact with consular officers." (3)

In 2002, another local man living near a cableway, Osman Fuentes Lopez claimed that in January 1985 he found footprints of a stranger, yet did not see the person himself. He, however, showed us how that stranger was standing in one particular spot overlooking the river, probably in search for a crossing point; he said. He said that only later on he learned that the "stranger" was in fact an American. That story was even more confusing then any other previous Carabineros' statements. (10)

As mentioned above, Boris' backpack was reportedly found on the riverside of the Nuble River on January 14 or 15 1985, ten days after Boris' was last seen. The Carabinero officials informed the U.S. Embassy of this discovery a week later, on January 21 or 22. On January 24, U.S. Vice Consul, Edward [Ed] Arrizabalaga, arrived to the area, opened the judicial inquest "No. 3. 302-3," and examined Boris' personal effects.

All of the facts related to this discovery were unclear from Carabineros' statements and reports. Carabineros claimed that Boris' backpack was found by them about 8-10 km down the Nuble River, it was wet, probably washed ashore, and the name on the Pennsylvania driver's license was not visible. (11)

Clearly that was false: a copy of that license, made by the U.S. Consul in January 1985, shows that Boris Weisfeiler's name is fully legible. Also undamaged were "Restos de factura de compras con su tarjeta de credito," listed in the Carabinero's report. (2)

Furthermore, investigating magistrate Gilberto Cornejo referred to the distance to where a backpack was found as "1800 m." (12) A trapper, Aladino Contreras Garrido, testified in January 1985 that he found a backpack "about 1 mile downstream from the mouth of Los Sauces River, some distance from the water edge" and brought it to the Police station. Carabineros never were able to prove if the backpack indeed was washed ashore or if it was wet when it was found; no test for water damage to the backpack was ever conducted nor a report on it submitted by Carabineros. The U.S. declassified documents, however, contain a copy of a note written during a telephone conversation with Consul [Ed] Arrizabalaga after he examined Boris' personal effects, "Backpack should have sunk heavy things inside; Ed told things found just a few days ago; not wet, nor moldy smelling." (2)

The initial judicial investigation into Weisfeiler disappearance was short and abrupt. Ten days after its opening, on February 4, 1985, Boris Weisfeiler was declared presumably dead by accidental drowning. It was evident that U.S. Embassy officers were not satisfied with the official (drowning theory) explanation of Boris' disappearance; the Embassy pressured the Carabineros' officials for continued investigation and search for my brother.

In an attempt to close the case and convince the U.S. Embassy that Weisfeiler did in fact drown, Carabineros needed to find a body. Local Carabineros suggested that body would appear in the river during next few weeks or months. According to the U.S. Embassy's cable, "They told Conoff [Consulate Officer] that the Nuble would continue to subside and they expected to find Weisfeiler's body at some point in the Nuble by the end of February at the least." (1) Of course, it would be problematic to identify any "body" as that of Weisfeiler's.

On February 11, according to the U.S. Embassy cables and notes, a badly decomposed body without fingerprints but with a physical build similar to Boris' was conveniently found in the Nuble River and immediately presented as that of Weisfeiler's to Edward Arrizabalaga, who had just arrived in the area on his scheduled trip. A local man later identified the body as that of his brother, Leopoldo Ponce Alarcon. He was physically similar to Boris, 1.65 meters tall, and about the same age, 45 years old. (13) (14) (15)

Subsequently, the autopsy report determining cause of death of the found body and documents on his identity mysteriously disappeared from the local Police station files. Attorney Fernandez was not able to find such report. Leopoldo Ponce Alarcon might have been the first victim in the series of subsequent suspicious deaths of people connected to Boris' disappearance in one way or another.

On May 5, 1985, the only known civilian witness, Luis Alberto Lopez Benavidez, died under suspicious circumstances, supposedly a suicide. The Carabineros offered a motive: "because his girlfriend left him for another man." His death took place at the very spot Boris had been at just before his disappearance—the cable crossing of the river. "He was hanging from one of the cables supporting the cableway," one document reported. Perhaps to conceal this highly suspicious death of the key witness, local Carabinero officials delayed informing the U.S. Embassy of the "accident" for more than a year. (18) (19)

Another local witness, Manuel Asensio, who also saw my brother on the day Boris disappeared, tragically died in a lake, supposedly from a "heart attack." That had happened, I was told during a trip to the region in 2002, some fifteen years before, in 1987. The story goes: the owner of a local big paper and friend of his had hired him, Manuel Asensio, as some sort of servant or fishing guide. He went in the lake and never came out.

In mid-October 1985, Judge Gilberto Cornejo Rivas, the Chilean judge in charge of the investigation, retired. He believed, according to a declassified U.S. memorandum, that "there may be another, more sinister explanation for Weisfeiler's disappearance." (3) (21) Soon thereafter, Judge Gilberto Cornejo passed away.

Other potential witnesses were dispersed and thus, became inaccessible. According to the Embassy's reports, "In April 1985, all of the Carabineros serving at the El Roble outpost ceased to serve in the area." "The outpost Commander, Sergeant Jorge Andres Cofre Vega, retired, while the remaining members were transferred to positions in various parts of Chile." (3) (8)

Several weeks later, in May 1985, members of a military patrol that participated in the "search" party on the day of Boris' disappearance were transferred to other positions around the country. "In May, all the patrols then in the area of the Colonia were withdrawn," according to the Embassy's chronology. (30)

In last Carabineros' investigation, according to the admission of the primary investigator, Emilio W. Zambrano, head of OS-7 Carabineros in mid-1986, "the investigators only interviewed people in Parral." The OS-7 team did not even attempt to interview the Carabineros who had been at the Nuble at the time of disappearance - they talked to the ones who were there in mid-1986! The original Carabineros, Zambrano said, would have been called in from the various posts around the country, and that "there wasn't time." (28)

Members of the army unit, as U.S. documents stated, "were not allowed by their superiors to give evidence, despite repeated requests by the USG [U.S. government] and others. This refusal to cooperate led some to suspect that the army was involved in the disappearance." (4)

The Carabineros also aroused suspicion as their accounting of events was constantly changing. They claimed to have conducted a massive rescue/recovery operation. That operation supposedly included a helicopter, three Armada de Chile divers, a nurse with an ambulance in waiting, and 30 Carabineros on foot searching the area in order to locate Weisfeiler or find his body; an effort suspended just days before Consul Arrizabalaga arrived to the area on February 11. (13) (15)

All of the above actions are described in the Carabinero's report dated April 26, 1985. (16) Chilean attorney, Alfredo Etcheberry was hired by the U.S. Embassy to analyze that first Carabinero's report and additional information, gathered by the U.S. Consuls. In Etcheberry's opinion, "Carabineros appear to be culpable and in fact it looked to him as if the probably assassin was Srg Jorge Andres Cofre Vega, the former chief of Carabinero station at El Roble." (17)

Evidence of a Cover Up

As noted above, the first Carabinero's report on the actions supposedly undertaken in order to locate Weisfeiler was completed on April 26, 1985. (16)

On June 3, 1986, the Carabineros issued a second report on the Weisfeiler case in which their story changed. A U.S. embassy's cable noted: "This report constitutes the first time that the Carabineros have directly admitted to the embassy that their personnel searched for Weisfeiler on January 4. All previous communications from them stated that they were first made aware of Weisfeiler presence in the region on January 15, when Weisfeiler's backpack was discovered." The cable continued, "In its account of the events of January 4, the Carabineros' report raises more questions than answers. Attorney Etcheberry found this report most imprecise and unsatisfactory and in fact used the word 'perfunctory' to describe it." (22) (23)

In August 1986, the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the U.S. Embassy its file on the missing U.S. citizen, Boris Weisfeiler. The Carabineros' accounting of the events changed once again. A U.S. Diplomatic note sent to the Ministry as a reply, requested clarification. "It would appear that there some contradictions in certain elements of the documentation" in regard of a found backpack, documentation, footprints, etc. the note stated, "In the three reports in the file there every time given different names, locations, and dates to account for these circumstances." (24) (25)

The last Carabineros' report was delivered to the Embassy almost six months after it was completed in October 1986. The report detailed Boris' presumed movements in the mountains during the days before he disappeared. (26)

A U.S. cable on the meeting with Brig. Gen. Jorge H. Portilla Carvajal (Director General "of order and security") and briefing by Major Hernan A. Soto in April 1987 in regard of this last and long-lost report, concluded, "Unfortunately many statements made by Carabineros on April 8 contradict information previously given to the Embassy." Brig. General Portilla, for example, said that Maj. Soto, a primary investigator, "spent *17 days* investigating in the region where Weisfeiler was last seen." (11)

A memorandum on conversation with Emilio W. Zambrano contradicted to that statement, "The investigation was quite perfunctory," he said. "OS-7 had been ordered to conduct an investigation into disappearance in mid-1986. This investigation, going by Zambrano's description, was incredibly sketchy. He sent a team to the Linares area and they spent *a day or so* looking into Weisfeiler's mystery." (28)

Despite many U.S. Embassy's requests, the high commanding military officers never clarified how and where Carabineros determined that Boris traveled on the bus to Los Angeles, a hotel where my brother spent his first night in Chile, his hikes in the mountains, and names of two Carabineros' he met on his way.

My guess is Carabineros gathered all of that information from things found in Boris' backpack: credit card invoices receipts, used bus tickets, notes he made, and possibly, from photos he had taken. Boris always saved his travel's memorabilia. Nevertheless, the Carabineros never admitted that.

The Informants

In mid-October 1985, according to a declassified U.S. cable, a local informant told the U.S. Consul visiting the area, that he suspected "that Carabineros might have overreacted upon learning of the presence of a stranger in the area as the Pinochet government is "paranoid about foreign leftist extremists" or left-leaning Chilean [exiles] entering Chile via the isolated Argentine border. He felt the Carabineros probably went in hot pursuit convinced of their worst fear, the clandestine entry of a political extremist." The cable continued, "An informant suspects that Carabineros may have killed Weisfeiler on this assumption, realized their mistake too late, and

then tried to cover up the fact by planting his backpack on the river bank downstream. He suspect that Weisfeiler's body will not be found in the river, but rather has been disposed of somewhere in the isolated mountain reaches of the Chilean/Argentine border." (8)

Almost two years later, in June 1987, an informant who claimed to be a non-commissioned military officer contacted then the Vice President of the Chilean Human Rights Commission, Maximo Pacheco Gomez. "The source told [Pacheco] during the second session that he was also [a CNI officer] and provided him with confirming details." "Most of Weisfeiler's possessions," an informant declared, "were sent to the CNI's headquarters in Santiago, while some were apparently taken to higher level army commanders." (29) (30) (42)

This may explain why Boris' U.S. passport, as well as his rolls of film were never found.

The informant claimed that he was member of a military patrol that arrested [Boris Weisfeiler] and took him to Colonia Dignidad for interrogation "in accordance with standing order from high command of Chilean army." In Colonia, the prisoner was tortured and later "kept in animal like conditions." Maximo Pacheco contacted the U.S. Embassy officers with this revealing information. Two officers of the embassy met with the informant, who used the alias "Daniel," once in the Maximo Pacheco's office and once privately on the Plaza de Armas. (30) (47)

According to "Daniel's" detailed account, after the Chilean army patrol was alerted that a stranger in the area had tried to cross the river, they set out to find him. After an initial interrogation:

Weisfeiler was taken downstream about five kilometers, then stripped, and searched more thoroughly. The commander of the patrol again accused Weisfeiler of being a spy and began to kick him, strike him with gunbutt, and submerge his head in the river. At this point Weisfeiler begun to shout his name... and also began to shout to contact the American embassy... At a guard shelter along the southern edge of the Colonia, they turned Weisfeiler over to the Colonia's chief of security... The patrol's commander and the Colonia's security chief entered the Colonia and interrogated Weisfeiler for a period of some two hours. When the interrogation was over, the patrol's commander emerged and stated that the prisoner was neither a Russia nor a CIA spy, but a Jewish spy." (30)

After meeting with Daniel, the embassy did file a report in which it stated, "If not a set-up by persons with prior detailed knowledge of the Weisfeiler case, then it becomes difficult to discount source's story.... His story is so detailed and fits so well with what we know from many other sources of Weisfeiler's whereabouts ...that it seems to us likely that source did in fact participate in Weisfeiler's arrest and delivery to the Colonia." (30)

Contextual transcripts of two taped Pacheco/Daniel conversations enclosed. (27) (31) (32)

In March 1990, the same informant who called himself "Daniel" again contacted Sr. Maximo Pacheco, and through him forwarded to the U.S. Embassy a written statement repeating

the story of Boris' unlawful arrest by his army patrol and torture at Colonia Dignidad, where the prisoner was treated "as a Jewish dog." (33)

At present, Sr. Maximo Pacheco vehemently denies, despite these U.S. Embassy's records, ever meeting informant "Daniel" or knowing his identity even though at one of the meetings in the Pacheco's office "Daniel" was wearing his TIFA identification (Tarjeta de Identificación de las Fuerzas Armadas.)

The CIA's memorandum of November 1987 cited another Chilean informant who was convinced "but could not conclusively prove" that Weisfeiler "was detained by either a Carabinero or an army patrol, interrogated, beaten to death, and then thrown in the river." The source says that among those many units that conducted a search for Weisfeiler, a secret police group (CNI) was among the first "sent in to clean the area of any evidence that would indicate that Weisfeiler had been murdered." The source speculates, "Nobody aware of what really happened to Weisfeiler would ever tell the truth." (34)

A document, summarizing developments in the case investigation since June 1987, stated, "In late November, another [Embassy element s] source reported that [a Carabinero non-commissioned officer who has been assigned to posts in the general area where Weisfeiler disappeared said] he was convinced that Weisfeiler was detained by either a Carabinero or army patrol, interrogated, and beaten to death. Source said a [fellow] Carabinero [non-commissioned officer] told him that sergeant Jorge Corfe Vega ... said that the army patrol that found Weisfeiler fatally beat him while interrogating him... Source said it was the consensus of the Carabineros serving in the area that Weisfeiler had been killed by the army patrol." (35)

One of the earlier informants, according to the U.S. declassified document, suggested Boris might have survived for some period after his disappearance. In that memo, Deputy Chief of Mission George F. Jones [GFJ] asked the embassy's officer Mr. Penn, "If there any way to refresh, revive, update that one contact ... that suggested W. was still alive. Amb [ambassador] said the one thing that bothered him about closing the file was that one hint that W. was alive." (37)

In September of 2000, during a PICH raid of Colonia Dignidad an almost empty file folder with the name "Boris Weisfeiler" written on it was discovered. That file contained several old newspaper clips reporting on Boris' disappearance and a confidential private investigator's report with remarks on it in German. The US/Chilean Mathematical Society hired Private Investigator, Oscar Tapia Duran, a former Carabinero, in March 1985. (39) It is not clear yet, how a copy of this confidential report ended up in Colonia Dignidad files.

The military and secret police cover-up, in my opinion, continues to this very day. In January 2001, after my public plea for information, Chilean diputado UDI, Jorge Ulloa issued a press statement and implied that Boris Weisfeiler's disappearance was a premeditated intelligence operation in order to change an identity. He is confident, he said, that that person is now living in another country. (40)

At present, investigating Judge Jorge Zepeda has discarded the Chilean government's version of Boris' death as accidental drowning. The ongoing judicial investigation appears now focused on Chilean government officials from the Pinochet era.

A Human Rights Crime

I have two grown children, ages 27 and 39, and a granddaughter, 13 years old. They all grew up with such a heavy burden and pain – my only brother, their uncle, was disappeared in Chile, his body yet to be recovered. We do not even know what really happened to Boris. We needed to know. The uncertainty has been torture.

In December 2000, both my children and I traveled to Chile for the first time. Since then we have traveled to Chile every year. We held countless meetings with Chilean Government officials, judges, human rights officials, members of congress, PDI officers, the CNI director, religious leaders, and with U.S. Ambassadors and other officers of the U.S. Embassy. There has been a lot of energy spent and many hopes raised for progress in this case. In addition, I have written dozens of letters to the Chilean presidents, government, judicial, and military officials as well as to the U.S. presidents, U.S. Secretaries of State, and members of Congress looking for assistance and support.

This is the only activity in my life I am capable of now as most of my time is devoted to the search for Boris, to the quest for truth and justice in Chile. I have countless sleepless nights wondering what really happened to my beloved brother. Is he dead or alive? Did he survive the initial arrest and torture? How long was he kept prisoner? What were his thoughts then? How could he mentally accept such horrible treatment and imprisonment? When was he murdered? What were his last thoughts? What if he survived for years and no one came to his rescue?

There are no answers to all of that yet. In other words – for my family and me, dealing with such an issue during past 25 years corresponds to continued mental torture.

For the past twenty years, I truly believed that Boris was still alive. Those were horrifying thoughts that he is kept as a prisoner inside of Colonia Dignidad. For that, I put many efforts to get to the gates of Colonia Dignidad open and the crimes committed there investigated. I still, after so many years, hoped to find him alive! I traveled to Colonia Dignidad twice. During my visit to Colonia Dignidad in 2004, the only thoughts I had there – “Where in this vast territory is my brother? Or, where does my brother lie?”

Boris was a fine human being and an exceptionally talented mathematician. As one of his friends said, “The loss is huge to you, Olga, and your family on the personal level but also for the whole mathematical community.” (49)

Taken together, after detailed study of the U.S. declassified documents, facts and controversies revealed there, I concluded that great injustice was done to my brother. I have no doubt in my mind that Boris Weisfeiler disappearance and apparent murder was one among the

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thousands of horrific cases of human rights violations committed by the Chilean military. They have tried to cover up and avoid their responsibility for the fate of my brother, as they have done it in the cases of the thousands of other desaparecidos.

I hope Your Commission, after analyzing the documents I cited in this statement, as well as many others, will come to the same conclusion that the Chilean agents of the State gravely violated Boris Weisfeiler's human rights: his rights to freedom, and dignity, his right to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "O. Weisfeiler".

Olga Weisfeiler

Enclosed:

1. Copy of Boris Weisfeiler's birth certificate legalized by the Consulate of Chile, Boston.
2. Copy of Olga Weisfeiler's birth certificate legalized by the Consulate of Chile, Boston.
3. Copy of Boris Weisfeiler's United States Certificate of Naturalization.
4. Printed copies of the U.S. declassified documents cited in the above statement. Description of those documents and U.S. Department of States (FOIA) internet links to those documents are listed below.

DOCUMENTS

Most of the cited documents posted on the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Electronic Reading Room web site <http://foia.state.gov/SearchColls/CollsSearch.asp>.

However, some of the earlier released documents, up to November 1985, were not posted. Only printed copies of those documents, (2), (5), (12), and (14) are submitted.

In December 2000, numbers of the U.S. documents referred to the period of 1986-1988 with very limited deletions/exemptions have been given to the Chilean Court with expectation to help identify informant "Daniel." As the result, previously protected/classified information such as informants names and contact's names- [Pacheco], [Mr. Pacheco], [Daniel] - and their positions - [Maximo Pacheco of the Chilean Human Rights Commission], [a non-commissioned military officer], [non-com], [sergeant and CNI agent], [a CNI officer], [sub-official], etc - appeared on those documents inserted in brackets. For your convenience, I am enclosing here printed copies of those, more informative documents, marked in red: (21), (27), (29), (30), (31), (32), (35), (42), and (47).

The CIA 1987 memorandum (34) released by CIA
<http://foia.state.gov/SearchColls/CIA.asp>

Subject: BORIS WEISFEILER CASE

Date: 1987-11-15 To: FILES FROM CHILE From: CIA

Document Type: MEMORANDUM Length: 4 pp. Message#

Collection: CIA Chile Declassification Project Tranche III (1979-1991)

Newspaper publications, some documents, and relevant pictures printed from family's web site devoted to the search for my brother www.boris.weisfeiler.com. Please visit our web site.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000066EE.pdf> (1)

Copy of U.S. Embassy's note on conversation with Consul Ed Arrizabalaga (2)

Copies of license, plane ticket, list of personal effects, maps, etc (2)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000074A7.pdf> (3)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00008255.pdf> (4)

Copy of a letter from the Rettig Commission to Olga Weisfeiler, 1993 (5)

<http://boris.weisfeiler.com/letters/Anonymous-report-October-1997.pdf> (6)

http://boris.weisfeiler.com/web%20pages/LaSegunda_6-15-05.htm (7)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000068EC.pdf> (8)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/0000803C.pdf> (9)

- (10) http://weisfeiler.com/gallery/Searching-for-Boris/River2002_1
http://weisfeiler.com/gallery/Searching-for-Boris/boot_prints
http://weisfeiler.com/gallery/Searching-for-Boris/walk_5_001
http://weisfeiler.com/gallery/Searching-for-Boris/Los_Sauces2
<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000072E3.pdf> (11)
- Copy of Judge's Cornejo handwritten report/map; January 1985 (12)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006771.pdf> (13)
- Cables sent with Boris' physical description for identification, February 6, 1985 (14)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/0000679F.pdf> (15)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006815.pdf> (16)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000068FB.pdf> (17)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006F5B.pdf> (18)
- Book: Carlos Basso, El Ultimo Secreto de Colonia Dignidad (19)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00007FAE.pdf> (20)
- Memorandum. Case of Boris Weisfeiler; April 15, 1986 (21)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006B88.pdf> (22)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006BB9.pdf> (23)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006D6A.pdf> (24)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00006D87.pdf> (25)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000072E2.pdf> (26)
- A verbatim transcript from the tape 1, June 12, 1987 (27)
- <http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/0000801D.pdf> (28)
- Memorandum, Vice Consul Phillip Antweiler on information received from Maximo Pacheco re informant/ Weisfeiler Case; June 22, 1987 (29)
- U.S. Embassy's cable: Case of Boris Weisfeiler, Colonia Dignidad, new information; July 23, 1987 (30)
- Contextual transcript of tape provided (interview's) (31)
- Whole transcript, Statement by [Army and CNI agent] taped June 25, 1987 (32)
- <http://boris.weisfeiler.com/letters/Report-March-1990.pdf> (33)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/PCIA3/00009282.pdf> (34) **CIA Chile Declassification Project Tranche III (1979-1991)**

Review of Weisfeiler disappearance case; developments since June 1987; February 23, 1988 (35)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000089C1.pdf> (36)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00008D25.pdf> (37)

http://boris.weisfeiler.com/letters/eyes-only_April-10-1985.pdf (38)

PI report - Informe oficial sobre el desaparecimiento del Doctor Boris Weisfeiler (39)

<http://boris.weisfeiler.com/web%20pages/El%20Sur%20-Ulloa-2-13-01.htm> (40)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/0000698A.pdf> (41)

Welfare/Whereabouts case of Boris Weisfeiler; Colonia Dignidad, new information; July 20, 1987 (42)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000076A1.pdf> (43)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00008041.pdf> (44)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/00007C2A.pdf> (45)

<http://foia.state.gov/documents/StateChile3/000082B7.pdf> (46)

Memorandum on conversation with ["Daniel"], August 19, 1987 (47)

U.S. Embassy's Diplomatic Note to the MFA; October 31, 1997 (48) **(in English and Spanish)**

A Tribute to Boris Weisfeiler by American Mathematical Notices, January 2004 (49)

Copy of Boris Weisfeiler's a U.S. passport application (50)