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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL GRASS ROOTS EFFORT ON BEHALF OF JONATHAN POLLARD IS
LAUNCHED

A nationwide grass roots effort on behalf of Jonathan Pollard was officially launched today. People are encouraged to go to www.freepollardnow.com to join the effort to help set Jonathan Pollard free.

With less than two months until President George Bush leaves office, this grass roots effort is intended to remind the White House of Jonathan Pollard's plight and to push for a commutation of his prison sentence.

Because it is critical that the White House hear from as many people as possible in the next several weeks, visitors to www.freepollardnow.com are urged to call, fax, and send letters to President Bush on a daily basis. The website provides contact information for the White House, a sample letter that people can fax or mail, and an online petition that will be sent to President Bush. Visitors to www.freepollardnow.com are reminded that just 60 seconds a day can help Jonathan Pollard go free.

Pollard, who just began his 24th year in federal prison, has repeatedly expressed his remorse publicly and in private in letters to many Presidents and others. His health has deteriorated significantly during his more than two decades in prison.

In addition, Pollard's life sentence is grossly disproportionate when compared to the sentences of others who have spied for allied nations.

Countless elected officials, individuals from the national intelligence arena and the legal world, as well as religious and community leaders, have described Pollard's sentence as excessive, and have called for his sentence to be commuted.

"There are individuals across the United States who have expressed interest in helping Jonathan Pollard," said Rabbi Pesach Lerner, the Executive Vice President of the National Council of Young Israel (for identification purposes only), "This grass roots campaign gives people the opportunity to participate in a respectful and coordinated effort intended to help enable Jonathan Pollard to go home to Israel to his family."

Rabbi Lerner, one of the driving forces behind www.freepollardnow.com, communicates regularly with Jonathan Pollard and his wife Esther, and is considered by Jonathan to be his clergy.

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