

Akin Gump

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July 22, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President:

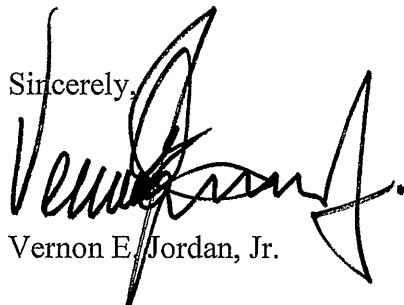
I write in support of the posthumous pardon petition for Marcus Mosiah Garvey, recently filed by Mr. Garvey's son, Dr. Julius W. Garvey.

Marcus Garvey was one of the first leaders of our country's civil rights movement, and his message reached millions in the United States, Africa and the Caribbean. Above all, he sought to empower the black community to develop business opportunities and secure its economic independence. His establishment of the first black-owned shipping line – designed to serve and be run by people of color – was both unprecedented and of enormous importance to the black community. His talent to mobilize and organize the many followers of his movement was likewise unparalleled.

Unfortunately, Mr. Garvey's prominence caused him to be viewed as a threat by the United States government. Federal records show that Mr. Garvey was targeted just as civil rights leaders who led the movement in later generations would be. It is for this reason that many have recognized Mr. Garvey's 1923 conviction as tainted by improper political and racial motivations, rather than warranted by Mr. Garvey's conduct.

In recognition of Mr. Garvey's contribution to his community and to society in general, I hope his conviction will be pardoned. Please consider his petition and hopefully you will conclude that a pardon is appropriate. It is clear to me that his legacy and works are deserving of exoneration.

Sincerely,



Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

cc: Dr. Julius W. Garvey
Professor Charles Ogletree
Anthony T. Pierce, Esquire