

**Support of Petition for Posthumous Presidential Pardon of Marcus Mosiah Garvey**

I, ANDREW JACKSON YOUNG, former Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, write in support of the descendants of the HONORABLE MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY, and the myriad of beneficiaries of his legacy in the African diaspora, who are petitioning for a, long overdue posthumous presidential pardon for the revered Pan-Africanist, Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

I am confounded as to why a pardon has not yet been granted to this visionary and inspirational leader, when I consider that he is honored globally in recognition of his lifelong and substantial contributions to society and his efforts to uplift peoples of African descent throughout the world. Every time I visit my grand-daughter who lives across the street from The Marcus Garvey Park, in Harlem, New York, I am grieved about the injustice this hero has been dealt with his name still bearing the scar of a conviction even though his sentence was commuted by President Calvin Coolidge.

Marcus Garvey lives in history as one of the first leaders of the American Civil Rights Movement. In the early twentieth century, he was an advocate for the social, political, and economic independence of those of African descent across the world, and Garvey staked his name and his movement on the development of economic opportunity as a source of black empowerment. To unite his followers toward a common goal of social progress, Garvey founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association ("UNIA"), which at its height boasted nearly 6 million members in 40 countries. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "He was the first man on a mass scale and level to give millions of Negroes a sense of dignity and destiny. And make the Negro feel that he was somebody."

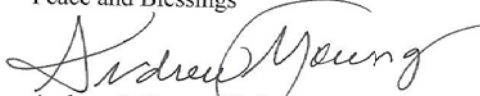
Because of these achievements, Garvey was viewed as a threat to the established order by the U.S. government. Decades before Dr. King would become targeted for his activism, J. Edgar Hoover led the Bureau of Investigation in its surveillance of Garvey and actively sought methods to disrupt and destroy Garvey's civil rights movement. In 1923, based on intelligence gathered from undercover agents posing as Garvey supporters and aided by judicial proceedings that have largely been condemned as factually unsound and politically and racially motivated, Garvey was convicted of mail fraud and sentenced to five years in federal prison. In partial recognition of the unsettling facts underlying the prosecution of the case, President Calvin Coolidge commuted the sentence in November 1927, but deported Garvey from the country.

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The posthumous pardon petition now filed on Garvey's behalf seeks to exonerate him from the stigma of this conviction. Following the commutation of his sentence, efforts to fully clear Garvey's name have been ongoing and concerted on the part of the U.S. Congress, civil society organizations, cities, states, and international groups. More than 90 years after the imposition of this injustice, it is time to pardon Marcus Mosiah Garvey and let history reflect the true nature of his legacy.

I implore all decision makers to recognize the urgent need to address this matter resulting in a Posthumous Presidential Pardon.

Peace and Blessings

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Young". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Andrew J. Young, Chairman  
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