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October 13, 2016

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

Dear President Obama:

We write to respectfully ask that you posthumously pardon Marcus Mosiah Garvey. Born in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, on August 17, 1887, Mr. Garvey immigrated to the United States where he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). He was known as the father of the largest African American movement for human rights and economic self-sufficiency of all time, attracting millions of followers in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, and Europe.

His philosophy inspired some of the world's great Black leaders, and he was recognized as a fore bearer of the Civil Rights movement by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. While leading a movement for economic independence among Black Americans, Marcus Garvey became the target of surveillance and harassment by United States Government law enforcement agencies. He was prosecuted and convicted of mail fraud, imprisoned, and later, deported to Jamaica.

The case against Marcus Garvey was politically motivated, the charges unsubstantiated, and his conviction unjust. Millions of petitioners have appealed for his exoneration and he is recognized as a national hero in his native Jamaica and as a towering figure in nations around the world. Marcus Garvey's life and contributions to the United States should be recognized and your pardon will help to restore his name and reputation in this country.

Marcus Garvey was innocent of the charges brought against him by the United States Government, and he should be recognized internationally as a leader and thinker in the struggle for human rights as well as for the contributions he made to the United States. His legacy is celebrated globally and it is our hope that his name be restored once and for all.

Very truly yours,



G. K. Butterfield  
Chairman  
The Congressional Black Caucus

