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rajcorp@gmail.com

Rajarsi, Inc.

DECEMBER 31, 2017

To: Governor Jerry Brown

Re: LWOP Prisoner Joe Hunt D61863, at California Healthcare Facility, Stockton

Dear Governor Brown,

Please commute Joe Hunt's prison sentence so he may be immediately considered for parole.

I am Joe's sister. I have supported him the whole time he has been in prison. I know his character better than anyone and I can tell you he is not a problem in the least to society. He has been on his spiritual path since his early days of incarnation. He has practiced non-violence on some of the toughest yards in the state. He has a home, a job, and a community to come to when he is released. My husband and I will support him with whatever he needs.

We moved up to Ananda village after my husband retired from LinkedIn in as an Engineering Director. We owned a house and raised our daughter in the Bay Area. Early in my career I was a sales executive. Then I was a stay-at-home mom. Now I'm the president of Rajarsi, Inc., a corporation we formed for investing our money.

Joe and I had a terrible father who was not a good role model. Joe had some wrong ideas and his behavior was not spiritually correct. Yet he is not guilty of the crime he is serving time for. After he was incarcerated, he found a Guru who he then patterned his life after. He has been meditating and giving his life to God since that time. He is a wonderful, kind person who deserves to get out of prison. I am sure you will see from his file that his character has been exemplary.

It is easy to be a good person when you have it easy, but to help and do good at every turn in the places he has been and with what he has had to endure is the true testament to his character.

Thank you for your consideration,



Katherine Olivier
President

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Rajarsi, Inc.

DECEMBER 31, 2017

To: Governor Jerry Brown

Re: LWOP Prisoner Joe Hunt D61863, at California Healthcare Facility, Stockton

Dear Governor Brown,

I am writing to ask for you to commute the sentence of Joe Hunt.

I am his brother-in-law, and have known him for 23 years. Before retiring two years ago at age 50, I was a Director of Engineering at LinkedIn. Prior to that I held engineering executive positions at a variety of enterprises and start-ups in Silicon Valley for 25 years.

Joe is a highly spiritual person, and led my wife (his sister) Katherine and myself to Ananda Church (a worldwide organization), which has become our spiritual home. Joe does amazing work from within his confines. For example, he has helped many other prisoners to receive a fair legal shake, helped them to get needed health attention, and partnered with my wife and myself to raise \$1 million for Ananda Church. He is an inspiration to thousands of Ananda members worldwide with his story of non-violence, uplifted and positive attitude in the face of injustice, and calm intelligence and energy used for good purposes.

He is a poster child for special relief given the circumstances of his incarceration. He would be free today were it not for procedural law that prohibits any consideration of highly credible eyewitnesses who have seen the supposedly deceased man alive. His original trial was highly corrupted by a private deal between his defense attorney with a conflict of interest and the judge who later turned out to have a brain tumor. These are just two of many extremely unfair aspects of his case.

Many Ananda ministers have visited Joe, and they always report after their visits that *they* have been uplifted by *him*, not the other way around – quite a feat!

Katherine and I have formed a corporation, Rajarsi, Inc., and Joe is already on its payroll. We will happily employ him full-time upon his release.

I know that he can contribute so much more good to society outside than in, and this travesty of justice needs correcting. He has served over 30 years in prison already, and at nearly 60 years old, it is time for him to be out.

Your commuting of so many sentences recently is a courageous, beautiful move. I pray that you will consider this and other letters about him, and allow Joe to be paroled.

If I can provide anything at all to you or your staff, I would welcome the chance.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Olivier", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Olivier
Vice President & Treasurer
Rajarsi, Inc.
www.linkedin.com/in/michaelo



Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

Dec. 29, 2017

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to request your help in the commutation of the prison sentence of Joe Hunt. Allow us to introduce ourselves and to share something of our relationship with Joe.

For the past fifty years, we have been founding members of Ananda Church of Self-Realization, and currently serve as Spiritual Directors worldwide. In this capacity, we travel globally to share the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda. At the present time Ananda has nine communities, 143 meditation groups, 140,000 members, and has taught an estimated 500,000 people to meditate.

On November 17, 2017, Ananda was honored at the United Nations in New York by the Institute of International Social Development, an NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We were given the "Global Ambassador of Peace Award" as "Emissaries of Paramhansa Yogananda and Spiritual Directors of Ananda Sangha Worldwide."

We met Joe approximately thirty years ago when he wrote Ananda requesting help in learning more about the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda. Since that time, many of Ananda's ministers have visited him, offering training in yoga philosophy and meditation.

Personally we, too, have had the privilege of visiting him over the years in Folsom Maximum Security Prison and Pleasant Valley State Prison, and will soon be visiting him at the Stockton California Healthcare Facility, where he was recently transferred. We say "privilege," because in the many years we have known him, we have observed in Joe the rare ability to remain positive, caring, and uplifted despite the tremendous challenges of his many years in prison. From the very beginning, Joe has always maintained that he is innocent of the charges against him.

While he's been incarcerated, Joe has used his free time to acquire legal training, and has been able to write legal appeals that have resulted in the release of over a dozen inmates. He also practices meditation daily, which has given him the ability to be a force for peace and a model prisoner despite the tension of the prison environment. His release would represent no threat to society; on the contrary, he would be a contributive force to help others.

Joe remains one of the most impressive people we have met, and deserves a life of freedom at this time. Though only some of Ananda's ministers have been able to visit him, the strength of his spirit under adversity has inspired our members to embrace Joe as part of Ananda.

Having a background in financial investments before entering prison, Joe recently advised his devoted sister and brother-in-law in investing, which led to a one million dollar donation to Ananda's new temple under construction. If you decide to sign the commutation of his sentence, his sister and brother-in-law, Katherine and Michael Olivier, have already formed a corporation which will employ Joe as a financial advisor and pay him a salary.



Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

Governor Brown, we have followed your political career over the years, and are deeply impressed by your spirit of service to humanity and the environment, and by the fairness and truth that are reflected in your decisions. With great earnestness, we ask you to allow Joe Hunt to have a life of freedom. He has earned it and deeply deserves it.

Sincerely yours,

Nayaswami Jyotish (John Novak)

Nayaswami Jyotish (John Novak)

Nayaswami Devi (Phyllis Novak)

Nayaswami Devi (Phyllis Novak)

Spiritual Directors of Ananda Church of Self-Realization, Ananda Sangha Worldwide

Ananda Sangha

N-100, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017

Mobile +91-9899267698

Website: www.anandaindia.org

E-mail: services@anandaindia.org

Dear Governor Brown,

I am co-spiritual director of Ananda Sangha India based in Delhi, India for the past twelve years. I have been with Ananda Sangha for 40 years serving in America and am a founding member for Ananda in Europe and in India. I also traveled to Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Durban in 1991 as an Ananda teacher as well as in Australia in 1992. I came to India in 2005, speak the local language (Hindi) and have helped to start all the Ananda Centres in India — Bangalore, Chennai, Pune, Mumbai, Gurgaon, Delhi, and other smaller centres.

I have known Jairam over 20 years. When I was in charge of the Ananda Kriya Yoga Meditation department at Ananda Village I was in touch with him through mail and phone calls about his spiritual life, meditation and questions he had. I also visited him in prison during that time.

Jairam is an exceptional person. His intelligence, level of energy, focus and will are rare to find. And his desire to help others is notable. He has raised and donated a million dollars for a new temple at our Ananda Community in Nevada City, California. That tells a lot about Jairam!

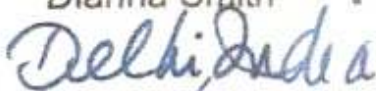
I know his family and feel confident that they will support him if he is released. They have created a corporation — Rajarsi Inc — that will hire and pay him.

I sincerely hope you will consider Jairam's case. If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

Regards,



Dianna Smith



Governor Jerry Brown

Sacramento, California

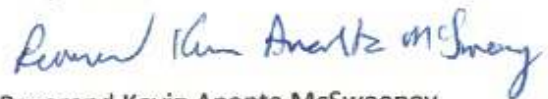
Dear Governor Brown,

I am writing regarding California inmate Joseph Hunt, a man who has served 30 years in prison in our state for a crime that was not committed. In the late 1980's, Ron Levin framed Joseph Hunt for Levin's "murder" and left the country. The State of California charged Joseph Hunt with Levin's "murder" even though there was no body, no weapon, no murder scene. Due to personal problems, Mr Hunt's attorney was experiencing, his defense was so inadequate that Joseph Hunt was convicted in Los Angeles of murdering Ron Levin and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

As Joseph Hunt's friend and minister for 30 years, I have visited him in Folsom Prison, New Folsom Prison, Pleasant Valley Prison in Coalinga and the California Healthcare Facility in Stockton, where he is currently incarcerated. Joseph remains an even minded, positive, kind man, who has sought remedy for his unfair conviction, yet never turned to anger or even self pity. I am frankly amazed at his spiritual strength in the face of this adversity. Joseph is a member of the Ananda Sangha, the church I serve as a minister. Though our teachings encourage such detachment, Joseph Hunt's example of remaining calm and cheerful under such circumstances I find unique in my 36 years of ministerial experience.

I know you to be a highly moral individual and as Governor, you have the power and opportunity to correct this wrong. You have served as the Governor and the Attorney General, you know that our State's justice system makes mistakes, if for no other reason than the sheer volume of individuals involved. Joseph Hunt has been a model prisoner for 30 years. He has spent his time helping other inmates with legal problems, he has taught yoga classes, he has fostered interracial harmony in each prison he has been in. He has never committed a crime either in prison or before he was incarcerated. He is approaching 60 years of age and has been in prison for half his life. You have the power to free him to continue his service to the citizens of California. I fervently urge you to free Joseph Hunt.

Respectfully,



Reverend Kevin Ananta McSweeney

Ananda Church of Self Realization

530-478-7680

Ananta@Anandabell.net

Governor Jerry Brown

Sacramento, California

Dear Governor Brown,

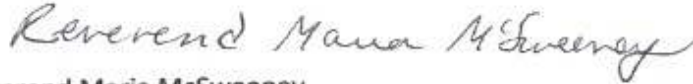
I hope you will be able to change the status of Joseph Hunt's life sentence. He has shown himself to be worthy of civilian life and an individual who can truly contribute to the life we all share.

I have known Joseph Hunt for 28 years and have visited him in prison frequently over this span of time as a friend and minister.

While in prison he has shown himself to be exceptional, using his imprisonment to better himself, develop new skills, work hard with a positive attitude, and demonstrate kindness and compassion to others. It is a joy to be around him.

I feel that if he is given his freedom he will continue to exhibit behavior which is harmonious, creative, cooperative, reliant, and sustainable. He will have no trouble with employment as he is talented, responsible, generous, and wanting to be involved and of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reverend Maria McSweeney". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Reverend Maria McSweeney

December 21, 2017

Dear Honorable Governor Brown,

I am writing to you about Joe Hunt and the very unfortunate and unfair situation he has been facing for decades. I implore you to use your lifelong commitment to truth and honor to commute his sentence.

I have been a senior minister for the past 30 years at the Ananda Church in Palo Alto. My entire life, even before entering the ministry, has been one of serving, leading and guiding people. This includes public school teaching, owning and running a number of small businesses, and being the general manager of six non-profit businesses. Working with people, their aspirations, and their challenges is what my career has been about.

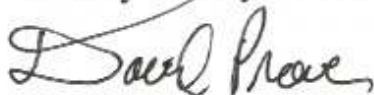
I first met Joe Hunt in 1988 at a Redwood City, California correctional facility. He called me to seek a ministerial visit and to receive some spiritual and religious sustenance. I went to visit him as part of my work to serve those who need support in some way. From that time to the present day, I have been in contact with Joe either through visits at different jails within California, phone calls, or letters. I have gotten to know Joe Hunt very well given the restrictions he has been under.

When I visited Joe for the first time, we spent a lot of time talking about God and spiritual teachings. Not only was he very interested in that topic but was well read and very knowledgeable. I was surprised at how wise he was given the circumstances he was in. It was only later in that conversation that he shared with me why he was in jail.

Two interesting qualities that I observed in this first meeting with Joe are that he had such a pure heart and he never complained. He has reasons to be bitter and lose hope over the difficulties he has faced in trying to bring the truth out in his legal case. Yet, he has remained calm amidst great misunderstanding. These two qualities---a pure heart and never complaining---through decades of imprisonment have never been lost in all my communications with Joe Hunt.

It is time to allow this innocent man to walk free so his immeasurable talents and energy can serve others in a meaningful way. As minister of our Church, he will be given employment with us if that is the direction he wishes to go.

Thank you for your consideration.



David Praver

Minister

Ananda Church 2171 El Camino Palo Alto, California 94306



Ananda

A place of awakening

Ananda Sangha, 2171 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 323-3363 • inform@anandapaloalto.org • www.AnandaPaloAlto.org

December 14, 2017

To: Governor Jerry Brown

Re: Commutation of Prison Sentence for Joseph Hunt D61863

Dear Sir:

I first met Joe Hunt in 1988. I am the director of the Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Palo Alto. On the authorized list of books that his mother could send to him in prison was *Autobiography of a Yogi* by Paramhansa Yogananda. This book, and Yogananda himself, are the inspiring force behind Ananda.

In that book, the author describes a powerful technique of meditation called *Kriya*. This is an advanced method which requires some training before initiation is offered. Joe was incarcerated at that time in the San Mateo County jail. He found Ananda and telephoned, asking if someone could teach him *Kriya*.

Soon after, I and my co-director, David Praver, went to the jail to visit Joe. That was the beginning of a friendship that has continued to the present day.

At the beginning, we did not know — or care — whether Joe Hunt was guilty or innocent. Nor was his character, for good or ill, the issue. He was clearly in trouble and, as clergy, it was our God-given responsibility to help him in any way that we could.

Kriya meditation would not only ease the stress of prison life, it could also, in itself, gradually reform his character insofar as that was needed. *Kriya* could make a bad man into a good one, and a good man into an ideal person.

In these nearly 30 years since, I have visited Joe often — first at San Mateo jail, then at Folsom, more recently at Pleasant Valley, and, soon, at his present location in Stockton. In addition to personal visits, I have exchanged countless letters with Joe, and spent many hours talking to him on the phone.

I have introduced him to many others at Ananda, who have also been his friends and supporters all these decades.

In addition to my responsibilities for Ananda in Palo Alto, I have published three books. I travel and lecture all around the world. My website is www.ashajoy.com. My YouTube channel — *Inner Life with Asha Nayaswami* — has over 5000 subscribers, and thousands more regularly tune in. All my lectures are recorded and posted. At present there are more than 700, and, since I am actively teaching, the number increases every week.

In this very active life, I have met 1000s of people from many countries. I have rarely met a soul so dedicated to self-improvement and so loyal to his spiritual practices as Joe Hunt has been from our first meeting until this day.

From sitting through his second trial, and carefully studying *all* his legal papers since, I am convinced that he is not guilty of the crime for which he was convicted, and, furthermore, his case is the definition of *miscarriage of justice* in terms of the abuse heaped upon him by the legal system.

Nonetheless, when he was first imprisoned, he did not have a clear moral compass. Reading *Autobiography of a Yogi*, and the enormous study and practice of spiritual principles and techniques since that time, have given him an unshakeable commitment to truth and honor.

Prison life is far from easy. The opportunities to violate a high moral code are ubiquitous. I have been profoundly impressed by Joe's ability to hold to his principles — no matter what. Regular practice of meditation is difficult for those who have complete control over their environment. Joe has no control whatsoever. Conditions for meditation could not be less congenial than they are in prison — crowded, deafening noise, competing televisions, no privacy.

Yet, from the time of his first contact with Ananda, through several initiations carried out despite prison conditions, either in person or on the phone, he has *never* failed in his commitment to twice daily practice of Kriya meditation, plus additional daily practices, and serious study of countless spiritual books, which I and others from Ananda have provided for him, and discussed with him during our many visits and phone calls.

There are few people in *any* circumstance that have such an exemplary record of spiritual living. That Joe has accomplished all he has, spiritually, speaks volumes about the integrity of his character and his commitment to right living.

His situation could easily have made him angry and bitter. His response has been just the opposite, courageously making the best of the circumstances in which he finds himself, trusting to a Higher Power that all is in order for his ultimate well-being.

Ananda is a worldwide organization with perhaps 50,000 active members; a total of 1000 living full time in nine spiritual communities in the U.S.A., Europe, and India. Even though we are large and dispersed, because of the ease of global communication, Joe is known to virtually all of those members.

They have prayed for him, received with gratitude his many communications, and the fruits of his creative work. Even from prison, he has helped raised nearly a million dollars which he dedicated to the building of a temple at the main Ananda community.

Joe will find friends and supporters, and a home in any one of those communities. Given what we know of his character, tried and proven over these many years, I am *certain* he will be an upstanding, contributing member of Ananda, and, through Ananda, serve as an inspiration, and perhaps, in time, even a guiding light to countless others.

He has spent virtually all of his adult life in prison. Insofar as rehabilitation was ever necessary, he has gone farther toward remaking his life in an image of righteousness than most men could ever claim, in or out of prison.

If anyone deserves a chance at "life outside," it is Joseph Hunt. I plead with you to commute his sentence and give him that opportunity.

If personal testimony is needed, please allow me the privilege of speaking on his behalf.

Sincerely,


Asha Nayaswami

email: asha@anandapaloalto.org

cell phone: 650.933.8028

SHANTI (SALLY) RUBENSTONE, M.D.
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TO: Governor Gerry Brown
FROM: Shanti Rubenstone, MD
RE: Joe Hunt, LWOP
Current address: California Healthcare Facility, Stockton

Dear Governor Brown,

My name is Shanti Rubenstone.

I am a Stanford trained physician and a minister, currently living and practicing in Palo Alto. Please know that I am a well-respected professional woman, serving the Bay Area community in many ways.

I feel strongly about this case with Mr. Hunt, and I would happily ride to Sacramento to talk to anyone about it.

I can only begin to imagine how many letters like this you receive.
I hope you choose to read this one.

I am writing to you about a dear friend of mine, Joe Hunt.
He is currently an inmate at the Ca Healthcare Facility in Stockton, just recently transferred there from Pleasant Valley ... quite the misnomer!
He is serving LWOP. He has been in prison for 32 years ... all of his adult life.

Before I write about Joe I would like to introduce myself.

I am 70 years old and for most of my adult life I have had one of the largest internal medicine practices in the country. Mostly I have worked here in the Bay Area with a five-year hiatus in Baltimore. I practice medicine and I have taught at several universities over the years. I love working with people. I always have. I feel honored and privileged to do the work I do. I 'came in' with a deep intuitive understanding/knowing of what is happening for individuals. I am not psychic, not like that, just intuitive. I know when there is something amiss, and often I know what it is. I connect easily with people on all planes Physical, emotional, and spiritual. Hence my large practice. People feel seen, known, and cared for, and it is true. I do really see them, and I do really care.

I could say more, but I will save that for a follow up if there is to be one.

I will only add that I am a minister and a co-spiritual director of the Ananda Church of Self Realization, a worldwide spiritual community dedicated to helping people transform their lives and *realize* their true potential.

I have known Joe for several years now. Long ago, early on in his 32 years in prison, he asked to be taught our form of meditation called Kriya. Since then he practices hours a day and has taught meditation to many others in the prison. I have met with him personally and counseled him many times in these past several years. He has shown a level of transformation, humility, sincerity and human goodness that is far above most people I know, even outside of prison. Please remember that my whole life has been dedicated to serving people who choose to be well.

He stands out. He is exemplary. Through his own spiritual goodness, he has helped transform his cellmate and many others in prison.

At the risk of sounding like everyone who cares about someone in prison ... he is in for a crime he did not commit. No body or evidence was ever found, and in fact, there were several people ready to testify that they saw the supposedly deceased man long after the trial, but the judge would not hear their testimony.

This and many other issues/debacles are long stories, and I am the last person in this world who should try and speak legalese. BUT, you and I both know that the justice system often serves anything but justice, and is so overwhelmed as a system that there is no time for cases like this to be reviewed as they should be.

And so, an absolutely lovely, very bright, centered, calm, caring, innocent individual has spent his entire adult life behind bars. It is sad and wasteful beyond words. Yet he remains positive, hopeful, and at ease.

I would only like to add that over the years, and in many places WAY worse than where he is now, he had only one small infraction, and that was for having a cell phone. He has never, ever, even once, been in a physical altercation, which is a miracle in and of itself in these places

It speaks to someone's nature that they can live like that under the harshest of circumstances and be well liked and deeply respected by all, prisoners and prison employees alike.

Will you please consider looking into to his case?

If so I can get you any information you'd like to have.

This may sound presumptuous, but it is not. If you are willing to do this you will be glad you did.

It is always good to help good people in need ... something else we both know.

This is one great soul.

Thank you for reading and listening.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shanti Rubenstone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Shanti Rubenstone, MD