

Rev. Jesse Jackson Calls for the Release of Former Governor George Ryan

CHICAGO (December 20, 2010)—Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, is making an appeal to President Barack Obama and Governor Pat Quinn for the release of convicted former Governor George Ryan.

Ryan's wife, Lura Lynn Ryan, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of lung cancer early last week and her doctors estimate she has three to six months to live.

In his appeal, Rev. Jackson wrote, "This request is not meant as a suggestion that the crimes for which Mr. Ryan was convicted were excusable, nor meant to minimize the pain or suffering of those impacted by the actions which led to his conviction."

He goes on to say, "Instead, we ask that you consider that Mr. Ryan is not a flight risk and that he has served out a substantial amount of his sentence. Please consider that the time Mr. Ryan would be permitted to spend with his wife would be fleeting, and its full meaning immeasurable. We ask that you have mercy on Mr. Ryan and consider this request. Allow Lura Lynn's remaining days to be spent in peace."

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a progressive organization protecting, defending and expanding civil rights to improve economic and educational opportunity. The organization is headquartered at 930 E. 50th St. in Chicago. For more information about the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, please visit www.rainbowpush.org or call 773-373-3366.