



UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
OF WILLIAMSBURGH, INC.
פאראייניגטע אידישע ארגאניזאציעס פון וויליאמסבורג

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April 14, 2010

Lanny A. Breuer
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Breuer:

The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg is a consortium of over 150 not for profit organizations and institutions representing over 70,000 people in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, New York. I serve as the Vice President of Rav Tov, an international Jewish refugee resettlement organization which I have been involved in for close to forty years. While we have not met, I have been privileged to work with many of your colleagues in the Department, on the issues concerning the broader Jewish community. I am contacting you today though regarding the individual case of Shalom Rubashkin and the harsh sentencing recommendation of the U.S. Attorney.

Many in the Jewish community, myself included, have been following this case closely. I do not know Mr. Rubashkin personally, and do not condone any type of illegal activity and accept as Mr. Rubashkin does, the fact that justice needs to be served in this case. Sadly, the approach taken in elements of this case, give the Jewish community great pause and concern. To cite one striking example, amongst the reasons used for denying bail to Mr. Rubashkin, was the fact that under Israel's "Right of Return Law" he could be considered a flight risk because he was Jewish. This notion was extremely offensive to members of the Jewish community who are loyal citizens of the U.S.

We are very alarmed by the prosecution's recommendation that Mr. Rubashkin be sentenced to a very lengthy prison term. In widely publicized similar cases involving other individuals, the sentencing recommendation for those crimes have been far less than the sentence being sought by prosecutors in this case. We also find it inappropriate that the sentencing recommendation also cites a list of unproven immigration charges which had been dropped by the government, as well as suggesting that the Judge could depart upwards from the sentencing guidelines. Mr. Rubashkin is a first time offender who has not been convicted of a violent crime, did not personally benefit from the crimes and should not be punished on a level that does not fit the crime he has been convicted of.

Based on the above, I respectfully request that you personally review this matter as soon as possible which will hopefully warrant guidance for a more appropriate sentence. Also considering the aforementioned information, allow me to also recommend that you please meet with the defense attorneys for a full briefing on the inequities of this case.

Sincerely,


Rabbi David Niederman
President