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By E-Mail and Overnight Mail

April 14, 2010

Mr. Lanny A. Breuer
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Building
9850 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20503

Sholom Rubashkin

Dear Mr. Breuer,

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, one of the largest international Jewish human rights organizations with over 400,000 member families in the United States. It is an NGO at international agencies including the United Nations, UNESCO, the OSCE, the OAS, the Council of Europe and the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino). I write to express my profound concern about the unusual and extremely lengthy sentence being recommended by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for Sholom Rubashkin.

Certainly, I have no intention of rationalizing what Mr. Rubashkin did. My constituents and I do not in any way condone the breaking of the law or what Mr. Rubashkin was convicted of doing. Furthermore, I am not proposing that his offenses go unpunished and certainly would not be writing to you today if I felt that he was receiving an equitable and fair sentence.

However, I am deeply concerned that he is not. According to knowledgeable and respected sources, the federal government has used extraordinary measures throughout the judicial process that seem grossly unfair when compared to any other similar crime or criminal endeavor. This has occurred, to my dismay, beginning with the investigation of the case through its prosecution and even to the internment of Mr. Rubashkin during the pre-sentencing period. And to learn Friday of the grotesque and inordinate life sentence recommended by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for a first-time non-violent criminal compels me to implore you to take a personal interest in this case.

International Headquarters



Please take the time to meet with Mr. Rubashkin's legal team to discuss the case and consider whether the Justice Department can still act to ensure a more equitable punishment for Mr. Rubashkin. In addition, I respectfully ask you to consider the impact of such a harsh punishment on the family of this man and to answer for them the question, "Was this justice?"

Thank you for your kind consideration of this heartfelt and time-sensitive request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meyer H. May".

Rabbi Meyer H. May
Executive Director
Simon Wiesenthal Center, Inc.