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Congress of the United States
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February 11, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 5111
Washington, DC 20530-0009

Dear Attorney General Holder,

I am writing to you with regard to a very important case to many of the constituents of the 22nd District of Florida. The case is the United States v. Rubashkin, (Case No. 2:08-CR-01324-LRR (N.D. IA)).

This criminal case involves Sholom Rubashkin and the alleged judicial impropriety and excessive sentencing. I am writing to urge you to revisit these allegations of unfairness shown to Mr. Rubashkin.

As you are aware, Mr. Rubashkin is the former manager of the Agriprocessors kosher meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa raided by the government in May of 2008. Although initially arrested on immigration-law violations, all such charges were dismissed. However, Mr. Rubashkin went on to be tried and found guilty of bank fraud and related white-collar crimes in November 2009. He was sentenced in June 2010 to 27 years in prison. This was two years longer than the government's recommendation.

For a 51 year old man, he will essentially live out the majority of his life in prison for non-violent, white-collar crimes committed by a first-time offender.

I am concerned about the serious allegations of misconduct by the Judge and the U.S. Attorney Office in this case. To my understanding, the Judge who presided over the case had discussions with the U.S. Attorney and immigration officers who participated in the raid - six months before the raid even took place. Further, these discussions were not disclosed during the Rubashkin Trial. I would request that this *ex parte* communication be revisited.

Many of my constituents have demonstrated to me with information and documentation case raises too many questions to not have the opportunity for the Department of Justice to review this case. Why was this sentence so harsh for a man with no criminal record and a first time offender of a non-violent crime? Did the Judge show preferential treatment to the prosecutors she had previous conversations with? Finally, why were *ex parte* communications kept out of the trial proceedings?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I know that you will do everything you can to make sure that Mr. Rubashkin, and every person prosecuted by the United States government, receives fair treatment. Our citizens in this nation expect nothing less.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen B. West". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Allen B. West
Member of Congress