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December 1, 2010

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 5111
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: U. S. v. Rubashkin, Case No. 2:08-cr-01324-LRR (N.D. IA)

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I know that you have received a number of letters from my colleagues raising concerns about the above case, concerning Sholom Rubashkin. I would like to join them in encouraging you to look into this case.

Mr. Rubashkin, who served as vice president of the Agriprocessors meat processing plant in Postville, Iowa, was convicted of bank fraud and related charges following the May 2008 raid on the Agriprocessors plant by federal authorities. Subsequently, Mr. Rubashkin was sentenced to 27 years in prison.

While I fully understand the seriousness of the charges themselves, I share my colleagues' concern about the length of the sentence and the involvement of the judge in the raid on Agriprocessors.

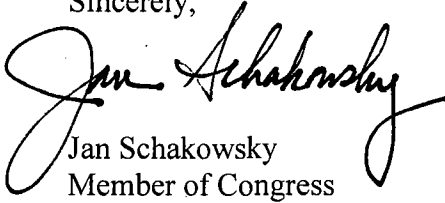
I have been told that, following a lawsuit for Freedom of Information Act information, it has been discovered that the judge who presided over the case, Judge Linda Reade, was herself involved in the planning of the raid and had "weekly" *ex-parte* meetings with the prosecutors and federal ICE agents prior to the raid. Moreover, according to those reports, she and the prosecutors did not disclose any of these meetings and her participation to the defense lawyers, as required by law.

Additionally, she sentenced Mr. Rubashkin to 27 years in prison, two years longer than the sentence recommended by the prosecutors. Some judicial experts have suggested that this sentence is too long and disproportionate to the crimes of which Mr. Rubashkin was convicted.

The Honorable Eric Holder
December 1, 2010
Page 2

I join my colleagues in asking that you give every consideration to investigating the allegations about this case and the above issues, in keeping with applicable laws, rules and regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress