



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4302

November 3, 2010

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Suite 5111
Washington, DC 20530

IN RE: U.S. v. Rubashkin, Cast No. 2:08-cr-01324-LRR (NDIA)

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write to you today to ask that you examine the Federal criminal case against Sholom Rubaskin. While I am not privy to all of the details of the case, the facts that have been brought to my attention from my constituents are very troubling. At the very least, I would ask that you look at these facts, and that you personally review the cast to ensure that justice is being served.

As you may know, the case against Sholom Rubaskin began when his kosher meat packing plant in Postville, Iowa was raided by federal agents in May 2008. Mr. Rubaskin was initially arrested on immigration violations, although these charges were eventually dropped. Ultimately he was tried, and found guilty, of bank fraud and other white collar crimes. Mr. Rubaskin was sentenced to 27 years in jail for these crimes. This sentence was one year longer than the government recommended. For a 51-year old man, this sentence means that Mr. Rubaskin will spend the majority of his remaining life in prison for non-violent, white collar crimes.

Additionally, there are serious allegations of misconduct by the Judge and the U.S. Attorney's in this case. It is my understanding that the Judge who handled the case had detailed discussions with the United States Attorney and immigration officials who participated in the raid in the six months before the raid took place. These discussions were not disclosed during the Rubaskin trial. These facts were not discovered until after he was sentenced through a FOIA request made by his Attorney.

So far, all requests for inquiry to the Department of Justice related to the case have been referred to the U.S. Attorney's office for the Northern District of Iowa, the very office that allegedly took part in ex-parte meetings before the raid. In order to ensure that justice is being served, I request that you launch an inquiry into the sentencing of Mr. Rubaskin, and the ex-parte communications that occurred between the Judge and the government authorities who planned and participated in the raid.

I would appreciate you keeping me informed as to your action on this matter.

Sincerely,

TED POE
Member of Congress