

May 19, 2009

The Honorable Mary A. McLaughlin  
United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
U.S. Courthouse  
601 Market Street, Room #13614  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1723

Dear Judge McLaughlin:

My name is Efim Bluvshiteyn. I used to work as an engineer but now I am retired, and live in the state of Israel. I have known Andrew for the last 10 years, since the time I married his aunt and became his uncle-in-law. I have seen Andrew in his own house when my wife and I visited the US, and also when Andrew came over to Israel for business trips and stayed with us. I am impressed by his loving attitude not only to his close family - he is a great son, father, and husband - but also to his more distant relatives, and, most important in my eyes, to strangers.

During the dangerous time of the war between Israel and Lebanon in 2006, when bombs were falling on our town, Andrew offered us an escape plan. He offered to buy tickets to the US with his own house as a place to stay. My wife and I deeply appreciated this offer.

I often watch a Russian language TV channel, RTVI, which hosts a show named "Perekrostok". Andrew has been invited to the show as a guest a number of times. One of the shows just before the war was dedicated to the reaction of Israel to the terrorist organization "Hezbollah". In this discussion, Andrew clearly defended the humanistic position. His arguments were that the terrorists cannot be completely destroyed and we must take into account the suffering of the civilian population of Lebanon because in the future, inhabitants of Lebanon will decide to live in peace with Israel or not, and excessive cruelty can lead to irreversible results. Andrew's opponent, an experienced journalist much older than Andrew, expressed the view that Lebanon should be, if necessary, bulldozed. Life showed that Andrew was correct. His intuition, love of people, ability to see a situation from different sides without letting momentary emotions take over, gave him the more reasonable point of view.

Your Honor, I appreciate the time and attention you have given my letter. I hope these facts about Andrew make the right impression on you and help you to make the right decisions in this case.

Respectfully,

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