

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

Date: May 26, 2009

Dear Judge McLaughlin,

My name is Anton Likhodedov. I work as a trader in the London branch of Deutsche Bank AG (international commercial and investment bank). I am writing this letter as a vice-president of the International Foundation for Terror Act Victims - a 501(c)(3) public charity, where I worked with Andrew Mogilyansky, who is the president of this foundation.

I have gotten to know Andrew in the beginning of September, 2004 - shortly after Beslan hostage crisis (when over a thousand school children were taken as hostages by the terrorists in the town of Beslan, Russia). I wanted to participate in fundraising for the victims of attack and contacted Andrew, who was a founder and a president of the only (to my knowledge) foundation, which was focusing on helping the people in Russia and which had a clear donation distribution policy, operational transparency and little if any administrative overhead. So I started to work with Andrew back in September 2004, coordinating volunteer efforts in US and we worked together and communicated quite intensively for the next 2-3 months of the donation drive: while he was in Bethlehem and I was in Pittsburgh, we would speak for a few hours each day, send each other lots of emails, messages etc.

Our campaign was very successful - we raised over a million dollars, which was a big achievement for a young foundation with pretty much no budget (the funds' policy was to fully distribute the donations to the victims, so the operational expenses were paid out of organizers' funds). This success was largely (I would even say mainly) a result of Andrew's dedication and willingness to help people. For the first few weeks he was devoting all his time to the foundation - I remember that in the beginning of the campaign we would finish working around 3am and next morning I would call him and find him already at work - processing donations, giving interviews and writing press-releases. The campaign received a great deal of media attention (including profiles on CNN and New York Times), and I fully attribute it to Andrew's persistence in promoting our cause. As I understand, his spending so much time on the foundation was at the expense of his business (IFEX), which again shows the degree of his devotion.

Andrew remained committed to the campaign all the way from the beginning to the end: many people who decide to work for the charity are very enthusiastic at start - when they are shocked by the scale of the tragedy, but only a few remain equally active in a month or two, which is understandable. To be honest, several months after the most active phase of the campaign was finished, I myself was finding it much more difficult to allocate a few hours to do some fund-related work, than working for days and weeks at the beginning of the campaign. Andrew on the other hand was actively working on all aspects of fundraising - from promotion to tax and other paperwork - until everything was done. This was the case of Beslan campaign and also his previous campaign (for the victims of Nord-Ost terrorist attack), which he has completed pretty much on his own.

In my opinion Andrew's charity work was very important for people in Russia and also the Russian community in US, since it provided an example of successful, transparently and efficiently organized campaign, where donors can clearly monitor where their money goes and see the real people that are helped. The foundation that Andrew has started and played such an important role in serves as an operational model for such future organizations in Russia.

Should you need more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

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