

May 18, 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 Michael Ratner and I work as an Information Technology Manager (Director) at the UBS Investment Bank. I also have the honor and the privilege to be Vice-President and Trustee of the International Foundation for Terror Act Victims (moscowhelp.org), a charity organization that Andrew Mogilyansky has founded and chaired.

Andrew Mogilyansky and I have been close friends for 25 years, since the time when we were classmates at High School #239 for Advanced Studies of Physics and Mathematics in Leningrad, USSR. After coming to the US, Andrew and I continued as classmates at the Columbia University School of Engineering, where he studied Applied Physics and Mathematics. Andrew was an exceptionally bright student, and, as I recall, at one point he had the highest Grade-Point-Average in the history of the Applied Mathematics department at Columbia.

In addition to being extremely intelligent, Andrew has also always been a very kind and caring person, always willing to go the extra mile to help both friends and perfect strangers. I had a chance to observe this compassionate quality in Andrew many times over the years, most strongly when I participated in activities of the charity foundation that Andrew had created to help victims of terrorist attacks in Russia.

I remember a conversation with him shortly after the 2002 Nord-Ost Theater Siege crisis in Moscow, in which he told me about his desire to help victims of that horrific terrorist attack. "I looked for an organization that would help the victims," – he said, - "but there were none. And so I decided to create one." While the number of donations that his organization received during that first action was modest, I remember him tirelessly engaged in communications with victims and campaigning on their behalf. He also pioneered the concept of using the Internet to achieve complete transparency over both the donations received and the aid distributions to victims, which helped hugely in creating the atmosphere of trust in him and the Foundation during its second – much larger – action of helping hundreds of victims of the 2004 Beslan school massacre in southern Russia.

He called me and several other people immediately after the news of that horrible terrorist attack came out, told us that he wanted to organize a campaign of helping children-victims of that massacre and asked us to join him in that work. The first 72 hours after the incident were critical and I honestly do not believe that Andrew had a minute of sleep in that entire period. He recruited volunteers, organized a complete re-write of the Foundation's website to reflect the

new campaign, established the structure in Russia that would help gather information about the victims and distribute aid, managed the press-releases and reached out to many potential donors for help. The level of selfless dedication that he demonstrated in putting together that effort was absolutely extraordinary. Andrew provided the governing principles for the Foundation, including complete transparency over donations and their distribution, and his insistence that none of the donations designated for the victims were to be used for any administrative expenses. Under his guidance the Foundation eventually collected over \$1.2 million dollars (more than the Red Cross) from more than 8,000 donors and distributed aid to families of over 300 children-victims. In addition to monetary assistance Andrew was very keen to ensure that children who needed complex medical care of the kind that was not available in Russia would have an opportunity to receive such care abroad. He facilitated visits of several such children to the US, helped organize their treatment and even hosted some of them in his house.

As the Ambassador of Russian Federation wrote in his letter to Andrew: "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

Your Honor, I consider this experience as one of the highest points of my entire life, and it was Andrew who made it possible.

Despite his present challenges, he has amply proven his enormous potential to touch lives of thousands of people in the most positive way imaginable, and therefore I would kindly request utmost leniency in your consideration of his punishment.

Respectfully,



Michael Ratner
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