

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

June 27, 2009

Dear Judge McLaughlin,

My name is Barry Shikhvarg and I have known Andrew for about 7 years. I was very surprised when I learned of the alleged charges against him and am writing this letter to describe the Andrew that I know. I met him through his sister-in-law, Natalia, during the summer of my freshman year in college when we turned to him for help with our chemistry homework. I am now 24 years old and work in real estate development for a company called Dewey Commercial. At the time, Natalia lived in her sister's and Andrew's house in Richboro and I came over frequently to see her.

Andrew is a very benevolent person. It seemed every time I came to his house he was working on some kind of charity event. I remember when he had children from Beslan stay in his house because the type of surgery they needed could only be performed in the United States. He and his wife provided housing and food for these children and their parents, and they were able to get American doctors to operate on them free of charge. Andrew's charity also raised a lot of money and distributed it among the victims of that horrible attack.

I knew Andrew before and after he had his children. He loves his kids more than life and would do anything for them. I imagine the hardest part for him right now is not being able to see his children grow up.

I hope people understand that the allegations against him are very uncharacteristic of him. He was always very smart, business savvy, and loyal. If you were a friend, you were a friend for life. I hope my letter, as well as the many letters sent by others, will help you show mercy. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Barry Shikhvarg
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