

DECEMBER 13, 2000

SCHAKOWSKY CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF RUSSIAN JEWISH LEADER

CHICAGO, IL - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today called on Spanish authorities to immediately release Vladimir Goussinsky, a leader of the Jewish community in Russia. Schakowsky joins Jewish leaders and organizations, including the World Jewish Congress, in calling for Goussinky's release.

In a letter to the Honorable Javier Ruperez, Spanish Ambassador to the United States, Schakowsky wrote, "I believe that your government should release Mr. Goussinsky and certainly should not allow for his extradition." Goussinky was arrested in Spain on fraud allegations at the request of Russian authorities. Russian authorities are working to secure his extradition.

Below is Schakowsky's letter to the Ambassador.

***The Honorable Javier Ruperez
Spanish Ambassador to the United States
2375 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20037***

Dear Ambassador Ruperez:

I am writing to you because I am concerned after hearing news that Spanish authorities yesterday in Spain arrested Vladimir Goussinsky.

As you know, a warrant was issued for Mr. Goussinsky and his recent arrest was done at the request of Russian officials. I strongly believe that the reason Russian authorities are targeting Mr. Goussinsky is politically motivated and I am not convinced that there is sufficient evidence of criminal activity by Mr. Goussinsky to validate the arrest warrant issued by the Moscow branch of Interpol. I believe that your government should release Mr. Goussinsky and certainly should not allow for his extradition.

I would appreciate it if you would share my views with the appropriate authorities in Spain.

Sincerely,

***Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress***