

February 13, 2009

**The Honorable Howard Berman, Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Washington, D.C.**

Via Fax: (202) 225-3196

Dear Congressman Berman:

My name is Richard Chichakli, I am an American citizen, an honorably discharged disabled US Army veteran, a husband, a father, and formerly a lecturer teaching America's youth, and a CPA serving taxpayers and small businesses. I am a person who is not accused, charged, or indicted for any crime or wrongdoing.

On April 26, 2005 I was included in OFAC SDN list on allegation that I was an employee of Victor Bout, a person sanctioned by the US government in July 2004 by Executive Order 13348. OFAC's action was based in-part upon information and testimony given before the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Committee on Financial Services on February 16, 2005 by a free-lance reporter named Douglas Farah. The same person, Mr. Farah also testified before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on July 31 2008 giving almost the same untrue, incomplete, unsubstantiated, and intentionally falsified testimony and information particular to the alleged existence, operations, and activities of Viktor Bout. I am not writing to defend Mr. Bout, but rather to bring to your attention the fact that Mr. Farah lied in his testimony.

Mr. Farah have never seen or talked Viktor Bout and he never was close to Bout or to any of his operations. Mr. Farah did not receive any educational, academic training, nor he possess any work experience, or any meaningful exposure to aviation or international financial activities. The testimony of Mr. Farah lacks the scientific background, evidence, corroboration, and in most-part the basic common sense. It is incomprehensible why would the Committee resort to a testimony of a free-lance reporter in a highly complex matter unless, that hearing was not conducted to hear facts. Douglas Farah testified before the Committee that Viktor Bout "sold arms to FARC" and this is a lie based on the complaint filed by the US attorney concerning this matter. It is either the US Attorney's affidavit is false, or Mr. Farah intentionally lied to satisfy certain politics and personal ambition. Congressman, in all of the government investigations into the matter of Viktor Bout you actually have never heard from any witness who personally knew Victor Bout. Isn't yet the time to hear all sides, and the complete story?

Congressman, I am asserting to you that the testimony given by Mr. Farah on July 31, 2008 before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs is incorrect. I am writing you asking for an investigation into Mr. Farah's testimony, his earlier lies destroyed my life.

Respectfully

Richard A. Chichakli
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