



November 18, 2009

Dear clients, partners and friends,

On the night of November 17, 2009 we lost our colleague and friend Sergey Magnitsky. Sergey was 37.

Sergey died in police custody where he had been held almost a year without trial or bail. He was held by a group of police officers who he had testified against; a group of officers who we believe committed a crime against a client and the Russian State.

Sergey died because he would not cooperate with criminals. He was repeatedly told that if he gave false testimony against his client he would be released and he refused. As time went on his captors put him in ever worsening conditions as a means of pressuring him to cooperate. His health deteriorated and after being diagnosed by prison doctors as needing medication and an operation, the police then increased the pressure on Sergey by denying him medical treatment.

We knew that Sergey was ill and that he was suffering. We did not know how bad his condition was but we did our best to bring his illegal detention and his deteriorating condition to the attention of the Russian authorities and we had a lot of help on the way. Despite our efforts and the efforts of many friends, the Russian authorities did not act and Sergey died of a condition that could have been cured with a simple operation and medication.

Many of you knew Sergey professionally, some of you had the opportunity to know him on a more personal level.



Sergey was a remarkable man. Honest, decent, kind, and incredibly knowledgeable. He had faith in Russian law and in Russia. He had a quite strength of character and in the end he maintained his integrity under impossible conditions.

There is a cry of shock and outrage in the press, both in Russia and abroad, and we shall add our voices to it. Like Sergey we believe that rule of law is worth fighting for and we shall do our best to see that his death has some meaning.

On a more personal level, we have lost a great friend; someone we all admired and the kind of person that Russia needs more of. We will miss him greatly.

Sergey is survived by his mother, his wife and his two children. Their financial needs will be taken care of. It is the least we can do for our friend.

Respectfully,

Firestone Duncan



18 ноября 2009 года

Уважаемые клиенты, партнеры и друзья,

Мы хотим с прискорбием сообщить Вам, что в ночь на 17 ноября 2009 скончался наш коллега и друг Сергей Магнитский. Сергею было 37 лет. У него остались двое детей, жена и мать.

Сергей скончался в СИЗО, где он содержался почти год без суда по надуманному обвинению в преступлении, которого он не совершал. Он умер, потому что ему намеренно не оказывалась необходимая медицинская помощь с целью оказания на него физического и психологического давления.

Многие из вас лично знали Сергея и имели возможность убедиться в его высоком профессионализме. Некоторым посчастливилось узнать его просто как чрезвычайно порядочного, душевного и жизнерадостного человека.

Для нас его смерть стала полной неожиданностью. Нам всем очень тяжело справиться с мыслью о том, что Сергея больше нет среди нас.

Сергей оказался заложником в борьбе своего клиента, фонда «Эрмитаж», с коррупцией в российских государственных органах. Он заплатил своей жизнью за то, что отказался лжесвидетельствовать против своего клиента и признать свою вину в совершении преступления, которого он не совершал.



В наших сердцах Сергей навсегда останется человеком умным, честным, добропорядочным, отзывчивым, высокопрофессиональным, настоящим другом.

С уважением,

Firestone Duncan