



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

October 4, 1982

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for your letter of September 1, further concerning the case of Mr. Adil Shahryar.

In your most recent letter you indicated that you are seeking information concerning the case so that you could pass this on to Mr. Shahryar's father. At my request a member of my staff has consulted with the Assistant United States Attorney in Miami who is handling the Shahryar case and has learned that Mr. Shahryar's father and other persons acting on Mr. Shahryar's behalf have already had extensive meetings with the Assistant United States Attorney to discuss the case. It is also my understanding that Mr. Shahryar is represented by counsel and that his counsel is pursuing an appeal of the federal conviction. Adil Shahryar's counsel should be able to provide the father or others interested in the case guidance on how best to proceed from Adil's perspective.

In any event I am certain that the Assistant United States Attorney handling the case stands ready to meet again with Mr. Shahryar's father to discuss the case to the extent this is appropriate and consistent with his obligation -- and mine -- to see that the laws be vigorously enforced. As you say, of course, I must avoid not only the fact but the appearance as well of interfering in this pending case or disrupting the normal course of proceedings.

I hope all is well with you. With my warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

William French Smith
Attorney General

Mr. Charlton Heston
2859 Coldwater Canyon Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

Counselor to the Attorney General

September 10, 1982

NOTE FOR JOHN ROBERTS:

Ah the eloquence of Charlton Heston.
And he's a Hollywood Republican too!

What thinkest thee after reading
this epistle? Can we provide him with
"information?"

The AG would like to be as helpful
as he can, appropriately and consistent
with the appearance as well as the
fact of non-interference.

September 1, 1982

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I appreciate your thoughtful response to my inquiry into the case of Adil Shahryar. Of course I fully appreciate both your respect for our judicial system and your sworn duty to avoid even the suggestion of interfering in its process. If you inferred from my letter that I imagined you might do otherwise, I must apologize.

What I sought was information. While I share your conviction that our courts compare favorably with any in the world, they are, like human nature, imperfect. Lacking access to the record in Adil Shahryar's case and aware only that his sentence was of Draconian severity, I had thought someone on your staff might inform me more fully, so that I could pass on to his father advice useful in his effort to secure a review. Certainly his knowledge of the Indian system of justice is not likely to provide guidance.

I realize that it is perhaps impossible to respond constructively in this matter without at least seeming to interfere in due process. Of course you must not do that, nor would I want you to. What I want is surely what we all deserve: your best efforts to preserve and enhance the rule of law we enjoy in our country. Thanks for your unswerving efforts to this end.

As ever
John G. Roberts, Jr.

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