

Charles E. Samuels, Jr., Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First St., NW
Washington, DC 20534

Dear Mr. Faust,

I am writing to protest the transfer of the inmate Bernard Freundel from the D.C. jail to a federal "satellite camp". This prisoner should be treated like all others and it is clear that he has received special treatment from the beginning of his criminal proceeding,

He was arrested in his alley in order to avoid embarrassment. Were any of the other inmates currently in D.C. jail asked where they would prefer to be arrested so as to minimize their embarrassment? Upon being sentenced, he was not handcuffed when being taken into custody in the courtroom. Did this happen to any other prisoners currently in the D.C. jail? He is currently being held in isolation in the D.C. jail. While this is frequently viewed as a punishment, it is actually a privilege. That means he gets to shower alone. The DC Department of Corrections issued a statement claiming that they had received threats on him. I find that very hard to believe. The vast majority of inmates at D.C. jail are from SE Washington and would not even know who this man is, let alone care enough to threaten him. Given the nature of his crimes, he would be more likely to be perceived as some kind of a sexual hero by the other male inmates than anything else. It's quite clear that Mr. Freundel has used his high-level contacts to receive special treatment, believing that he is too precious to be released into the general prison population.

Mr. Freundel was convicted in a local D.C. Court and he must serve his sentence as any other inmate would. His claim that he cannot practice his religion is untrue. A Jewish person is not required to have a "minyan" [quorum of ten men]. There are certain types of prayers and rituals that cannot be said without a minyan but a person is absolved from saying them when there is no minyan. Even were he to be transferred to a jail with a larger Jewish population, that does not guarantee that he would get a minyan, as other people have to agree to participate. If that were a basis for a transfer then all Jewish inmates would be entitled to a transfer and you know that they are not. He cannot be transferred just because he would have an easier time at another prison. His lawyer's arguments that there are no rehabilitation programs at D.C. jails are false and you know they are. Whatever programs are or are not available to him are the same as to all other prisoners. No prisoner is any more worthy of rehabilitation than another. If the D.C. jail doesn't have adequate rehabilitation programs, then that must be corrected for all inmates.

The mere existence of these “satellite camps” is in and of itself a classic example of administrative malfeasance. What is the racial make up of these “camps”? Should prison be easier for some inmates than others because they have connections or you see them as more precious than others? I read an interview in the Washington Jewish Week of a man who spent four years in a satellite camp who said the worst part of his time in prison was the food, If that’s the worst part of your time in prison, you weren’t in prison, you were in a bad hotel.

D.C. is where he chose to commit his crimes and that’s where he must serve his sentence. Had he not wanted to do so, he should not have committed the crimes. That was his choice.

I hope you choose not to play into this corrupt scheme, however many VIPs may be pressuring you to.

Sincerely,