

politicalticker...

November 19, 2009

Judge frees man accused of threatening Obama

Posted: November 19th, 2009 02:14 PM ET

From CNN's Chris Kokenes

(CNN) - A former security guard at a New Jersey airport who was accused of making threats against the president is expected to be released from jail Thursday after a judge determined he is not a threat to himself or others, the prosecutor's office said.

John Brek, 55, of Linden, New Jersey, appeared Thursday morning before Judge Robert Gardner, who, after reviewing Brek's psychiatric evaluation, sentenced him to the 29 days he has served in jail since his arrest in October, a spokesman for the Essex County prosecutor's office told CNN.

Brek initially was charged with making terroristic threats in connection with remarks he allegedly made about President Barack Obama. He denied making any threats, and the judge ultimately accepted a plea deal under which Brek pleaded guilty to two lesser counts.

Sentencing was delayed pending the psychiatric evaluation. After looking at that evaluation, Gardner said he concluded Brek is not a threat to anyone.

The arrest came one day before Obama's scheduled appearance at a campaign rally for New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine in Hackensack, New Jersey.

Brek is a gun collector and hunter, and a search of his home and a friend's home last month turned up a total of 70 firearms registered to him, all of which are legally owned, authorities said. When he is released from jail he will be able to submit an application to the court to have the confiscated weapons returned.

At the time of his arrest, Brek worked for a private security firm at Newark Liberty International Airport. He is no longer employed by the firm, FJC Security.

His attorney, Moses Rambarran, said he plans to pursue legal means of getting Brek's job back.

"While the protection of the president of the United States is of paramount concern, the constitutional rights of American citizens cannot be violated in that very important effort," Rambarran said. "And in this case, John Brek's constitutional rights of free speech and the right to bear arms were, in fact, violated. He should have never been arrested"

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Christian Values

November 19th, 2009 4:12 pm ET
Bravo Bravo Br Gardner.

We should have more and more judges like you so killers like these can be let loose and they can perform their noble tasks!!

Get Smart

November 19th, 2009 4:05 pm ET

Again an attack on freedom of speech. If this man only talked then he was arrested for no reason. The court should be sued of this mistreatment of American citizens. But this again is a good show of Obama and his intentions. Don't say anything negative against the moron because you may pose a threat to his getting reelected. WELL GO AHEAD AND ARREST ME NOW FOR I AM WORKING AS HARD AS I CAN TO GET HIM NOT REELECTED. BUT I POSE NO PHYSICAL HARM TO THE MORON WHO CAN'T SALUTE WHEN THE AMERICAN ANTHEM IS PLAYED.

Lacrosse Mom

November 19th, 2009 3:25 pm ET

He made a threat against my president! He needs to be charged with treason and then drawn and quartered.

Tomeka White

November 19th, 2009 3:23 pm ET

He should still be locked up. Freedom of speech is one thing, but making a threat against our Commander in Chief is serious and should be treated as such. I hope he never gets his job back.

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