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Newark airport security guard who threatened Obama is freed from prison

By **Alexi Friedman/The Star-Ledger**
November 19, 2009, 7:04PM

NEWARK -- John Brek says he never intended to harm President Obama, a man he says he respects.

Nearly a month after the 55-year-old security guard at Newark Liberty International Airport was jailed for making threats against the president, a Superior Court judge in Newark sentenced Brek today to time served and released him.



John O'Boyle/The Star-Ledger

John Brek speaks as he is sentenced on harassment charges at the Essex County Courthouse in Newark today. Standing next to him is Defense Attorney Moses Rambarran.

"It's a relief now that this is over. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy," the Linden man said later in an interview with The Star-Ledger.

Brek was arrested Oct. 20 after two Continental Airlines employees at Newark Airport alerted police to comments he made at the airport lunch truck about cutting a hole in a fence so he could shoot the president. Obama arrived at Newark Airport aboard Air Force One the next day to campaign for Gov. Jon Corzine.

Police went to Brek's home after learning about the alleged threat. When they arrived, they found 43 guns — all but one licensed — and hollow-point bullets.

Originally charged with making terroristic threats and possessing a stolen rifle and hollow-point bullets, Brek reached a deal with authorities last week in which he agreed to plead guilty to two lesser counts of harassment, charges similar to disorderly persons offenses.

In the interview yesterday at his attorney's office in Hackensack, after his court appearance, Brek, sporting a full beard he said he grew during the 29 days he was in jail, tried to set the record straight.

He said he simply mentioned to his two co-workers that holes in the black paper-covered fence would give someone the opportunity to get a clear shot at the president.

"I've been there 7 1/2 years. Why would I say something as stupid as that?" he said.

The Secret Service blew the incident out of proportion, he said, after the agent who spoke with him noticed he had a gun card. It probably didn't help, Brek said, when he admitted that he had a gun collection.

The agent tried to get him to admit threatening the president, he said.

Brek wouldn't.

"I'm the nicest guy in the world. If you can't get along with John Brek you can't get along with nobody," he said, adding that he hasn't voted in "four or five years" and doesn't watch much television.

In court yesterday Brek's attorney Moses Rambarran chided the Essex

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