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## Accusations against my husband absurd – Alla Bout

Tags: Commentary, Victor Bout, Society, Russia, World

Aug 31, 2010 17:55 Moscow Time



Alla Bout. Photo: EPA

### Interview with Victor Bout's wife Alla Bout

**Interviewer:** How does he feel and what are the conditions in the Thai prison?

**Alla Bout:** How can one feel after that kind of court decision, in the first place? Secondly, how can one feel in a room 1.5 by 2 metres of floor space, without a fan, practically without a window and without daily walks? Today, after he complained to the warden and wrote a complaint to the Russian Consulate, it looks like he has been given a fan and is now allowed to walk along the corridor for an hour in the morning and in the evening. The temperature is 33 degrees Celsius, which is considered normal here, also it is very damp and stuffy because of the rainy season.

**Interviewer:** What do you think about the accusations against him of cooperating with the terrorists who prepared the act on the 11th of September?

**Alla Bout:** I think the source of their fancy has run dry, they have got to invent something new. Viktor was in Moscow on the 11th of September and gave an interview for the "Echo of Moscow" radio station. There is a recording where he commented on the attempt to link him with that affair. After the 11th of September the US government suspects everyone of terrorism. Trying to label that act on Viktor sounds like a black joke to me. He was first accused of terrorism on the territory of Thailand but in April, the Thai public prosecutor closed the case for no corpus delicti, less than a month after he had been arrested, as there was no evidence against him. It is an absolute provocation. Now the media will try their best to soil his reputation. In the USA they are sure to be brainwashing the public before the trial-by-jury takes place. They are trying to label him as a world-scale criminal in advance. The American people have no other information about him. How can my family, my brother, my 78-year-old mother and myself stand up against the whole information system, against such a huge state as the USA and all its special services? We are in no position to feed any information there. I am afraid everything has been paid for there.

**Interviewer:** Are you satisfied with your lawyer? Do you think he will be able to defend Viktor?

**Alla Bout:** I am satisfied with our Thai lawyer but I cannot be sure what the result of his work will be, because in this case not legal norms but political interests are involved. One can quote books of law for hours but if the high echelons of power are mixed up in it, we can forget all about the law. Thailand is practically a full US protectorate.

**Interviewer:** As far as I understand, there is no convincing evidence against him.

**Alla Bout:** The case lasted for 18 months and I know that our Foreign Ministry asked the USA for evidence but the USA sent the same accusations with proof from the Internet and the same documents that were used in the Thai court. For the two-and-a-half years we have not been given any serious document proving that Viktor is guilty and that the USA has a right to sue a Russian citizen for a crime he did not commit. I stress it, he has not committed any crime. I think they are playing this card in some political game against Russia. I have some other ideas as well, but they are mainly political.

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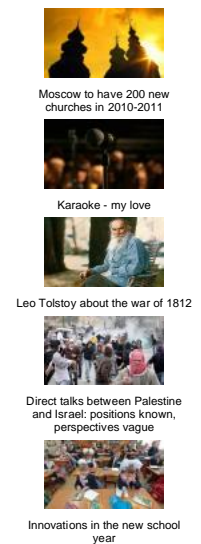
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