

Dear Francois;

Yes I was the Chief Arbiter. The transmitted games were played on another floor in the hotel and I was primarily on the main floor. Mr. Solozhenkin requested an appointment with me and we met for about an hour in my room the next day, where he filed the complaint. My immediate strategy was to leave the conditions unchanged in order try to catch the alleged cheater while I investigated further.

I put the Arbiters on notice and reached out. I contacted Kenneth Regan and he began reviewing the pgn's. There was nothing suspicious in her games from his review. I consulted with GM John Fedorowicz at the tournament and he agreed. Michael Khodarkovsky served on the appeals committee and I later spoke to him about the case. He has hosted the Assaubayeva family previously and was skeptical because he would see Bibisara's mother and friends off site during the games.

The broadcast of games was interrupted intermittently at the discretion of the Arbiting team on the floor. I will follow up with them directly for a description but I recall being satisfied with their choices. I did not believe it was necessary to delay the broadcast completely. I believe the "threat level" fell over the course of the tournament.

Best regards

Hal