

## Borukhova

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his thoughts with the judge, claiming the case against him was based on police lies.

"There is no evidence," he said in broken English. "Whatever they accused me is wrong [sic] and they proved nothing."

Hanophy rejected their statements, reminding them that the jury saw hundreds of pieces of evidence over the seven-week trial and took less than seven hours to convict them.

"Your husband sits in his grave and you're about to sit in your 8-by-8 grave above ground," he told Borukhova.

The 35-year-old internist paid her uncle nearly \$20,000 to shoot Malakov outside the Annadale Playground, located at Yellowstone Boulevard and 64th Road, after her estranged husband had gained custody of their then-4-year-old daughter, Michelle.

Malakov, 34, also an Uzbek immigrant and an orthodontist, was walking the girl to the playground to meet her mother and was shot in the chest twice by Mallayev, 50, who fled the scene and headed back to his residence in suburban Atlanta.

Mallayev was arrested three weeks after the murder at his Atlanta home after investigators matched his fingerprints to prints found on a makeshift silencer abandoned by the shooter at the playground. He was also identified as the gunman by an eyewitness in a police lineup and during the trial.

Borukhova was arrested in February 2008 after police discovered she had had 65 phone conversations with her uncle in the days leading up to the shooting, but only two following it. She also testified that she never heard the shots despite being 10 feet away from her estranged spouse when he

was killed.

Khaika Malakov, the dentist's father, broke down as he read a victim's statement to Hanophy, saying how his family has had to endure the loss of their beloved son.

"Michelle lost a father. The killer lost everything and the person who ordered the murder lost everything as well," he said through a translator.

Neither Borukhova or Mallayev did not look at the patriarch during his statement and their relatives did not comment on the sentencing. But both defendants' attorneys said they would appeal the convictions.

Malakov's younger brother, Gavriel, who has foster custody of Michelle, told reporters outside the courthouse that he would raise the girl well even though she lost both of her parents.

"I know as Michelle grows up, she'll ask a lot of questions," he said of the murder. "I'll somehow have to answer those questions."

# Borukhova, uncle draw life in jail

### Pair denied possibility of parole in Forest Hills dentist's murder

BY IVAN PEREIRA

Despite overwhelming evidence and a speedy conviction by a jury, the woman who plotted the shooting of her husband outside a Forest Hills playground insisted she had nothing to do with his murder before she was sentenced to life in prison without parole Tuesday alongside her accomplice.

Dr. Mazoltuv Borukhova and her distant uncle, Mikhail Mallayev, were silent in front of a packed courtroom when Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert Hanophy ordered the two to spend the rest of their lives behind bars for the Oct. 28, 2007, killing of Dr. Daniel Malakov, Borukhova's estranged husband.

Both Bukharian Jewish immigrants from Uzbekistan were convicted March 10 of first-degree murder and conspiracy. Borukhova, who took the stand in her own defense during the trial, tried to plead for leniency before the judge handed up her sentence.

"I have nothing to do with this murder. I did not kill anyone," she said.

Mallayev, who did not testify at the trial, also shared

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Mikhail Mallayev (l.) and Dr. Mazoltuv Borukhova (r.) arrive in handcuffs Tuesday morning at Queens Supreme Court, where they were sentenced to life in prison for killing Dr. Daniel Malakov.

Photo by James Messerschmidt/Pool