



Mr. Vladimir Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
4 Staraya Square  
Moscow 103132  
Russia

13 July, 2006

C.c:  
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European  
Commission  
The Rt Hon Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the  
United Kingdom  
George W. Bush, President of the United States of  
America  
Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic  
The Rt Hon Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of  
Canada  
His Excellency Mr. Koizumi Junichiro, Prime  
Minister of Japan  
Dr. Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of  
Germany  
Prof. Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Italy  
Matti Vanhanen, President of the European  
Council, Prime Minister of Finland

Dear Mr. President,

On the eve of the G8 summit, we the undersigned Members of the European Parliament wish to publicly communicate our concerns to you regarding Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former Chief Executive of Yukos who is currently being held prisoner in Siberia. As guarantor of the Russian Constitution the burden is on you personally to ensure the survival of Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

We believe that Mikhail Khodorkovsky is a political prisoner of the Russian Federation. His trial represented a travesty of justice and he has suffered constant human rights abuses during his arrest, trial and imprisonment, including the fact that he is being held, contrary to Russian law, far removed from his family in a prison camp in Krasnokamensk, Siberia.

In January 2006 Khodorkovsky was put in 5 days solitary confinement for allegedly possessing documents that are not allowed for inmates. This decision was subsequently found illegal by a Krasnokamensk court. He was put in solitary confinement again a few days later, this time for a week, for drinking tea in a place where it was apparently not permitted.

In spite of the fact that he is supposed to be under constant guard Khodorkovsky was attacked with a knife by a fellow convict in April and stabbed in the face. In response, he was again moved to a solitary cell against the expression of his will.

The chairing of the G8 summit in St. Petersburg represents an important opportunity for Russia that should not be marred by the brutal treatment that has been afforded Mikhail Khodorkovsky. We urge you, in conformity with Russian law, to return him to a prison near Moscow and to ensure that he is swiftly given a fair trial.

Signed:

Hans-Gert Poettering MEP (EPP-ED, Germany)  
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