

INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”

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Victims of suppression of the first in Russia “orange” demonstration demand Iliumzhinov’s retirement

The human rights watch of the Movement “Russia Beaten” held near the Museum of History continues. A week-long watch is started by representatives of the Extraordinary Congress of Peoples of Kalmykia who came from Elista.

Their main demand is: “retirement and bringing to criminal responsibility of head of the Republic of Kalmykia Kirsan Iliumzhinov and other officials who are guilty of organisation of mass violation of human rights or connivance with such violations”. It concerns the events of 21-22 September 2004 when a combined unit of OMON (special militia force) and plain-clothed pogrom-makers attacked a peaceful rally of citizens who protested against the regime of president Iliumzhinov. Hundreds of people were beaten up and detained at that time, one participant of the demonstration died. There a very wide spectrum of nongovernmental and political organisations was united. It was the first “orange” demonstration in Russia and it was cruelly suppressed.

Sobinform

Truth of the steppe dictatorship: what the public of Kalmykia accuses Kirsan Iliumzhinov of

Participants of the human rights watch of “Russia Beaten” held near the Museum of History - representatives of the Extraordinary Congress of Peoples of Kalmykia – are ready to tell the press of the reasons of protests against the regime of Kirsan Iliumzhinov and of real situation in the Steppe Republic. The watch will last until Friday, each day from 11:00 to 17:00.

*To: Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
President of the Russian Federation
the Kremlin, Moscow*

Address

On 6 October 2005, D. Kozak, Representative Plenipotentiary of the President of the Russian Federation for the Southern Federal District (YuFO) had a meeting with the so-called “public” of the Republic of Kalmykia, which was completely formed by the Administration of the President of RK. In connection with the fact that such public could not reflect objectively the opinion of citizens of Kalmykia, we are addressing you.

Heads of regional branches of political parties, movements and other nongovernmental organisations of the Republic of Kalmykia expressing the opinion of our members who constitute a great part of the citizens of the republic request you to take into account the opinion of real community of the republic when nominating a candidate to head of the republic for approval by the People’s Khural (Parliament) of the Republic of Kalmykia.

The regime of K. Iliumzhinov, which has completely compromised itself in the eyes of the Kalmykian and Russian public, rules Kalmykia for 12 years. His rule is characterised with lack of competence, adventurism, corruption and embezzlement of budgetary funds. All these years the power was far from interests and needs of the people, strove only to its own enrichment. Iliumzhinov’s activity runs contrary to the policy of top leadership of the country and his personality became odious in the Russian public opinion.

Iliumzhinov’s activity directly facilitates discrediting of the Russian government. A statesman may not be forgiven for his declarations of separation from Russia. These separatist attempts to achieve Kalmykia’s exit from Russia, which led to destabilisation of the situation in the Northern Caucasus, attest to his inadmissible political light-mindedness, which is incompatible with holding the position of head of the republic. Numerous projects of Iliumzhinov invariably end in fiasco and disappearance of the funds invested, his principal interests, in our view, are reduced to laying his hands on the wealth of the republic, first of all, its oil and land containing its deposits, and to making a profit out of selling it. We repeatedly sent information of the situation in Kalmykia to all instances including the Presidential Administration of Russia.

The most important thing required for the republic already today is the change of the criminal mafia, de facto, anti-constitutional government of Iliumzhinov. The government should be honest and transparent, competent, with state-patriotic thinking. There should come to govern the republic the people for whom the main thing in their activity will be the weal of the republic and the people, the state interests and not their own image on the all-Russian and international political Olympus.

Based on this, we believe that: further holding by K. Iliumzhinov of the position of head of Kalmykia does not deserve TRUST.

We demand: to refuse TRUST to K.N. Iliumzhinov.

ROD “Native Land”;
KRO CPRF;
KRO PP “The Party of Pensioners”;
KRO DPR;
KRO III “The Party of Peace”;
KRO VOD “Combat Brotherhood”;
Executive Committee of ChSNK;
ROD “General Gorodovikov”;
PP “The Eurasian Union”;
OF “The Slavic Union of Kalmykia”;
OF “The Slavic Fund of RK”;
OF “The Fund of National Cadre Reserve of RK”;
Kalmykian branch of Perm NGO “The Committee for Combating Corruption”.

*To: Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
President of the Russian Federation*

Open Letter

The procuracy of the Republic of Kalmykia took a decision to initiate a criminal case under Art. 159 para. 4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation with respect of representatives of OOO "Business Ring Company", which unlawfully appropriated the sometime state-owned budget-forming oil company OAO "Kalmneft".

According to the information of chief of ORCh BEP MVD RK (detective unit of economic crime control service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kalmykia) militia lieutenant-colonel A. Yakovlev, in the course of detective work data were obtained attesting to the establishment of a criminal conspiracy headed by President of RK K. Iliumzhinov and one of the members of the Council of Federation of the Russian Federation from Kalmykia. The criminal conspiracy includes top officials, staff members of courts and law-enforcement bodies of the Republic of Kalmykia.

Drawing up documents of unlawful activity of these actors of the criminal case will be continued within the framework of investigation into the criminal case initiated, which is controlled by the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation.

Earlier, from the report of lieutenant-colonel A.V. Yakovlev addressed to Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation R. Nurgaliev of 16 July 2005 we learned that President K. Iliumzhinov demanded from his wife that her husband should leave him (Iliumzhinov) in peace. Copies of A. Yakovlev's reports addressed to R. Nurgaliev were forwarded by me and my colleagues to the Kremlin and YuFO. Unfortunately, we do not know whether this information was received by you personally because it is of rather a great importance at present.

We know that these days you will take a decision of trust or no trust to K.N. Iliumzhinov who compromised himself and the federal authorities long ago in the eyes of the majority of population of Kalmykia. It is not an unjustified statement because in August last year my colleagues collected more than 70,000 signatures of Kalmykia's voters demanding resignation of Iliumzhinov and to these we can definitely add 60,000 more of the people who left Kalmykia in search of jobs and better fortune.

It is also known that your Representative Plenipotentiary in YuFO D. Kozak stated existence of RUR14 billion tax debt of Kalmykia to the federal budget, which is equal to five annual budgets of the republic and this debt appeared because of the anti-state activity of K. Iliumzhinov and his associates.

The society of the republic is looking forward with great attention to your decision. I am sure that this decision will determine not only further fate of Kalmykia and its population but also the trust of citizens of the Russian Federation living in Kalmykia in the federal government. Re-appointment of K.N. Iliumzhinov to the post of head of the republic of Kalmykia will not only bring no benefit for Kalmykia and Russia but will also undermine the belief of the people in expedience of the method you chose for changing heads of the Federation members.

12 October 2005

Valery Badmaev

Chairman of the Executive Committee

The Extraordinary Congress of the People of Kalmykia

Political and social situation in Kalmykia

During the reform years, Kalmykia's level of economic development appeared to have been thrown back by whole decades. This is vividly shown by the dynamics of the following indicators.

Dynamics of major social and economic indicators

Indicators of 1960 1970 1980 1990 2003 2004

1. Sheep and goats, thousand heads – 2,159.7 – 3,151.9 1,100.9 1,228.3
2. Oil production, thousand tons - 408.0 455.0 260.0 248.3
3. Gas production, mln cub. m. - 223.0 210.0 68.0 74.5
4. Housing area constructed, thousand sq m. 67.0 134.2 – 155.3 50.2 44.5

The processes of degradation in the industrial production sector resulted actually in de-industrialisation of Kalmykia's economy. In the opinion of VCIOM researchers (Monitoring public opinion, M., 2004), public production in Kalmykia functions today in conditions of primitive economy. In the total production output, more than 80% takes the power and oil production sectors. Production in other industries dropped tens of times or disappeared entirely.

By the end of 2004, the rate of unemployment was twice as high as average in Russia and was equal to 17.0% (24 thousand people). Mass outflow of the population is in progress. In 1990 the population in the republic was 328.6 thousand, in 2002 it was 292.4 thousand and as of June 2005 – 289.0 thousand.

The Russian population makes a great part among those who leave the republic. If the total population dropped between the two last censuses by 11%, the number of Russians in the population dropped by 21.3%.

The process of depopulation of the territory is apparent. If the population density in the European part of Russia is 27 persons per 1 sq km, in Kalmykia in December 2004 it was 3.8 persons. This tendency opposes to the development of production forces of the republic, reduces its investment attractiveness.

In search of their better fortune mainly the indigenous population is leaving (Kalmyks, Russians), while at the same time the share of Moslem peoples is growing in the national composition of the population at an accelerated rate. According to the data of census-2002, their share in the population is 8%. The increase in the number of Moslem migrants facilitated the expansion of Wahabite ideology, which is fraught with expansion of terrorism and intensification of inter-ethnic tensions. It is not by chance that in Kalmykia since 2001 conflicts between the local population and newcomers from the Northern Caucasus flared up repeatedly a number of times.

After 2000, the tendency in the industrial production development has not changed. The number of jobs is dropping as well as that of the employed people and the investments in fixed capital. More than half of the population of Kalmykia have their incomes below the cost of living.

Low living standards, stable poverty, absence of jobs lead to degradation of society. The republic is evacuated, first of all, by the most able-bodied and active population, young people, and specialists. There is an acute problem of shortage of professional personnel in the medical establishments and schools. Marginalisation of the population is in progress, alcoholism, drug addiction, social diseases are spreading. Women's and children's alcoholism become a common phenomenon. As a consequence, a disproportionately high rate of suicides is observed in Kalmykia. The rate of mortality caused by suicides in Kalmykia is higher than average in the country by 26% (in Kalmykia – 47.3, in the Russian Federation - 35.1).

A natural result of inability of the authorities to solve the problems of the republic in the economic way became a suppression of political rights and freedom. Kalmykia is a region where a totalitarian regime reigns. In violation of Russian laws and the constitutional norms, freedom and human rights in Kalmykia are openly trampled upon. For their beliefs and political activity inhabitants of Kalmykia are pursued, expelled from work. Members of families and friends are subjected to persecutions. Administrative, militia and judicial pressure puts those who disagree with the regime in a position of outcasts. The authorities do not only intimidate but also resort to physical destruction of activists of the opposition movement.

The policy of the authorities is aimed at pressing out the most active and independently thinking, critically minded intellectuals from the republic. A characteristic phenomenon of life is

the atmosphere of hypocrisy and fear, absence of freedom of expression, full uniformity of thought and words in the printed and electronic mass media published in the republic. Oppositional newspapers have to be printed outside Kalmykia, they are deprived of a possibility to organise subscription among the population, of the right to free distribution through *Rospechat*. The population of Kalmykia lives in some kind of virtual informational space where there is no truth, glossing over the truth reigns, and deceit of the population.

The total and unpunished infringement of human rights practiced in the republic by government bodies and armed structures of law developed, finally, into the planned bloody carnage during the rally of 21-22 September 2004 in Elista, which led to death of one of the participants. Violation of rights of man and citizen is an ordinary phenomenon in Kalmykia. It grows enormously during the elections in the republic when the process of elections turns into a mockery of principles and sense of democracy. The institute of the Commissioner for Human Rights operates in the republic. Being completely engaged by the authorities, this body is only a decorative prefix to the authorities, it does not enjoy confidence and popularity among the population.

Corruption is a daily aspect of life of the society. Bribery and extortion flourish in all spheres of life starting with top government bodies and ending with educational establishments and medical institutions.

Today it is impossible in Kalmykia to make an operation, it is impossible to give birth to a child, it is impossible to enter an educational establishment, it is impossible to achieve justice without having paid a certain sum. A source of such total demoralisation became the top government officials of the republic and, first of all, mister Iliumzhinov. It is during Iliumzhinov's rule that all large projects terminate in criminal cases. It is known that his activity is governed, first of all, by aspiration to snatch something or to launder criminal money.

Having completely lost all confidence in the republic's and central government, a hope for any change of the situation, the belief in justice, showing concern for safety and future of their children, not seeing any prospects, a considerable part of the citizens who disagree with the policy or the current regime has to ask for mass political asylum in developed democracies.