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Contents:

"Fascist Russia " – SOS from Nalchik - 2: the apeal by Arsen Kudayev.....	2
On the numerous and rough infringements on the human rights in Kabardino-Balkariya.....	2
SOS from the city of Nalchik	6
“On the measures for overcoming the consequences of the attack of the rebels on the city of Nalchik”	7
The attack on Ivan Starikov is a political reprisal	8
Freedom to the scientists!	9
The National Bolshevik Party has never been engaged in preparation and the NBP is not currently preparing any actions against the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs	10
The youth campaign “Antistalinism”	10
The Council of Lawyers of Moscow has not deprived the defence lawyers of Mikhail Khodorkovsky of their lawyer status	12
The OAO «NK «Yukos» is on the defensive	12
You will hardly have a fit of the blues in the Russian prison.....	12
Mikhail Khodorkovsky has announced the time of the heroes	13
Are there any political prisoners in Russia?	14
The article is of no significance.....	15
“The thieves in the law” search for the right approaches to Platon Lebedev	16
Establishment of the committee in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky.....	18
Ekaterinburg. Youth association “Defense”	18
The action in Mikhail Khodorkovsky’ defense has been carried out in Ekaterinburg	18
In Irkutsk, there has been founded the “Union of 25 October”	19
The rally in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky.....	19
The youth of Novosibirsk has marked the second anniversary of the detention of Mikhail Khodorkovsky	20
Russia demands that the managers of the «NK «Yukos» company should be extradited.....	20
The irreplaceable	20

The Kremlin “merges” the national districts in accordance with the territorial principle. Can this be possible in a democratic country?.....	21
The attack on the human rights advocates of the city of Nizhniy Novgorod continues.....	22
The opposition journalist Pavel Luzakov has been escorted to the Perm Oblast.....	22
The lawyer Chernousov anticipates the provocation.....	23
He is authorized to protect human rights.....	24

"Fascist Russia " – SOS from Nalchik - 2: the appeal by Arsen Kudayev

The All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” voices the appeal by Arsen Kudayev, the brother of Rasul Kudayev. He informs that, according to the doctors of the ambulance, Rasul Kudayev has traces of tortures and battery on his face. They do not let him see his defence lawyers and relatives. He asks to pay special attention to these facts and to send a group of independent observers to Nalchik. The numbers of his telephones are: (mobile) 8-928-705-97-67 and 8 (8662) 72-02-98.

Information Agency “For Human Rights”

On the numerous and rough infringements on the human rights in Kabardino-Balkariya

*To E.A. Pamfilova,
the Chairwoman of the Council for
Promotion of Development of the Institutes of
Civil Society and Human Rights*

Dear Ella Alexandrovna:

According to the information received by the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” from the human rights advocates and from its own experts, as well as from the mass media, at the moment all over the territory of Kabardino-Balkariya there take place the reprisals carried out under the pretext of a large-scale operation aimed at the search for the participants of the armed attacks on the objects in the city of Nalchik.

According to the information received from the reliable sources, at the moment there take place the house-to-house arrests and even kidnappings (detention without registration). The detained people are subjected to battery and tortures, aiming at making them to confess and, actually, to belie themselves. The current interrogations are carried out on the premises of Division 6 of the Security Department of the city of Nalchik. Near this ominous building, the relatives and lawyers of the detained people stand day and night, trying, although to no avail, to receive any information on the destiny of those kept inside the building. There comes the information about the traces of battery and other injuries on the faces and bodies of the detained people from the doctors of the ambulances.

The description of the events currently occurring in the city of Nalchik makes up a very unattractive picture. For instance, only after a whole day of victimization and mockery there was let out from the above-mentioned Division 6 Ramazan Tembotov, the deputy of the body of local self-government of the suburb Khasanya, the member of the party "United Russia", who was detained on 23 October. On that day, the special police forces detained him without any explanations and brought him to the building of Division 6 of the Security Department of the city of Nalchik. The man had just time enough to make a telephone call reaching some of his acquaintances from among the employees of FSB, and now he believes that this call has actually saved him, states GAZETA GZT.ru. “The people, with their faces covered by masks, attacked me, kicked me down, my face to the ground, they treated me like a criminal using a mean, base language with lots of f-words. It is really a shame for me, since, you see, being a

deputy of the local self-government body, I am supposed to defend the interests of the people, everyone in the village knows me”, – said Ramazan Tembotov. “Unlike the other detained people, they did not beat me, but they took me to the basement in that building and showed me how they treated the others: the people were tortured like at the time of the Hitlerite secret police”, - continued his story Ramazan Tembotov. – There are actually neither the lawyers, nor the interrogations as such, they just beat you to death, until a person chooses to “confess” rather than to die, and he will also point to the other would-be offenders... – The former detainee of the Guantanamo prison, the disabled person Kudayev has already “confessed” ... At the police station, they tortured the local imam, beating a “confession” out of him regarding the attack on Nalchik”.

It is necessary to note that today the world-wide human rights protection organization the “Amnesty International“ issued the statement saying that “it is concerned with the news of the former detainee of the Guantanamo prison Rasul Kudayev being detained since 25 October in the city of Nalchik, where he has been subjected to severe beating and tortures, and, despite the deterioration of his state of health, the authorities do not let him take the needed medicines. According to the recently received information, the employees of the Security Department of the city of Nalchik made him confess to his participation in the attack on the city of Nalchik on 13 October. As was reported earlier, the local authorities refused to issue a passport in the name of Rasul Kudayev, which fact did not allow him to receive the duly medical aid and has eventually resulted in the serious problems related to the state of his health. At this particular moment, nothing is known about the whereabouts of Rasul Kudayev. There are serious fears with regard to his further destiny, his state of health and the possible resumption of tortures”. In this connection the “Amnesty International” has issued the appeal for the urgent help addressed to the international public requesting the human rights advocates all over the world to respond to the existing concern with the destiny Rasul Kudayev. The participants of the network of the actions for the urgent help of the “Amnesty International”, comprising the numerous activists in more than 70 countries, are sending their appeals in the name of the procurator of Kabardino-Balkariya Yuri Ketov, of the Procurator General of the Russian Federation Vladimir Ustinov and the Minister of the Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation Rashid Nurgaliyev, expressing concern with the possible application of tortures to Rasul Kudayev and the refusal by the authorities to give him the necessary medical aid.

According to the information received from Ramazan Tembotov, to this day the number of the arrested people is not less than 2000, which is also the number of the applications from the mothers of the arrested men sent to the procuracy of this republic. These applications are not considered by anyone, thinks Ramazan Tembotov. The arrests are made in accordance with the so-called lists. In the opinion of the Ramazan Tembotov, these list include both the "vakhabits" and those who just visited the mosques, and also those who were once marked by the law enforcement bodies on different occasions. Among those arrested are also the so-called Moslem “otkazniks”, that is the Moslems who, because of the pressure exerted on them over their religious beliefs, refuse to live in their own country asking for a political asylum abroad).

It is known for a fact that during this year about 1000 Moslems of Kabardino-Balkariya addressed to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin with the request to allow them to go abroad. In September 2005, around 400 Moslems in their appeal to the world community asked to grant them a political asylum in any country of the world, accusing the bodies of the state power of this republic of exerting a long-lasting pressure on them. Today, approximately 600 of these “otkazniks”, according to Ramazan Tembotov and to the local human rights advocates, are to be found among those arrested. In the opinion of Ramazan Tembotov, the law enforcement bodies are especially irritated by anything, which is related in any way to the Islam. “When the fasting period was already over, and at around nine o’clock in the evening I asked for some water, they promised me in reply that I will soon drink the blood of my Moslem friends instead of water”, said Tembotov. “The employee of the Security

Department Mukhzhoyev threw my party and deputy certificates and he sneered openly, with mockery, using the cursing language, when I promised to him that everything what they did and said here will eventually reach the ears of Mr. Nurgaliyev, the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation”. To this day, Ramazan Tembotov knows absolutely nothing about the whereabouts of the residents of his native village Khasanya: Rasul Nogherov, Zeitun Sultanov, Zeitun Gayev, Tsuras Etezov, Rasul Khalaikhanov, Anatoliy Gazhonov, who were also arrested on Sunday. Ramazan Tembotov knows well Rasul Kudayev, the most famous resident of Khasanya, now a disabled person, the former prisoner of the US detention camp in Guantanamo, as well as his family. The man was also detained on Sunday, and later he was sent to the investigative isolator. The law enforcement bodies refused to give any information on the destiny of Rasul Kudayev, while the man’s brother and mother managed to find out that he is currently held in the investigative isolator and that he has been accused of making an attack on a road police post in the village of Khasanya.

Ramazan Tembotov is sure that this version of the investigation cannot have the legal confirmation. “The neighbours and the relatives saw him, we all visit each other, there is a shop near his house. They probably think that Rasul is like that flying creature batman: now he is in his house, now he flies over to the road police post to do some shooting there, and in a moment he is back home, behaving himself as if nothing really happened”, said Ramazan Tembotov. It is known that they have arrested Rasul Kudayev based on the tip received from the trust telephone caller. Rasul’s mother is not allowed to hand over the medicines to her son. Ramazan Tembotov thinks that the local law enforcement bodies are convinced of their own impunity, while they are in a hurry to use this opportunity for the purpose of apple-polishing their bosses and through the application of such barbarian methods they want “to improve the crime exposure statistics”.

In the republic, the human rights advocates raise the alarm with regard to the numerous arrests and tortures at the local police stations. Based on the results of polls carried out in the city of Nalchik involving the witnesses of the events of 13 and 14 October, the human rights organization “Memorial” has come to a conclusion that the main reason behind these events in Nalchik were the police-related abuse of discretion and impunity. Recently, the police units of Kabardino-Balkariya conducted a large scale “preventive operation” accompanied by the numerous infringements on the human rights, including such as illegal detentions, battery, tortures, states the “Memorial”. In the opinion of the experts of this human rights centre, “the struggle with the vakhabism has been actually transformed into the prosecution of the Moslems in general”. “The police in Kabardino-Balkariya has become an odious institute not only for the extremists, not only for the local Moslems, but also for a considerable part of the republic’s population”, it is stated in the message of the “Memorial”.

The police of the neighbouring republic Adygheya subjected to tortures both imam and the mosquegoers in the city of Maikop making the detained people “confess” to their being related to the events in Nalchik. Following the events in Nalchik, within the framework of the operation aimed at disclosure of the “extremist clandestine organisations”, right after the night namaz, the employees of the Security Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the republic of Adygheya arrested a group of six Moslems at the moment when these people were leaving the cathedral mosque in the city of Maikop.

The Internet site Ingushetiya.ru informs that among the suspected “undergrounders” there were the employees of the Islam Management Department, which is responsible for the Moslems of the republic of Adygheya and of the Krasnodar Kray, including the imam of the cathedral mosque Ruslan Khakirov and his deputy Asker Bogus. Jointly with them there was also arrested Mr. Ristov, the well known sambo wrestler, the member of the republican team.

The detained were brought to the republican Security Department, where they were kept all night, subjected to tortures, which were applied to them for the purpose of making them “confess” to their involvement in the extremist criminal activities. The detained people were stripped to the buff and beaten and, thus, subjected to humiliation. The main charge brought

against the Moslems seized in the mosque was actually limited to their observing the Moslem norms of hygiene and permitting themselves to be heavy-bearded. In the morning, the police officers filed “the protocols of administrative detention” in respect of the detained men on the pretext that these people allegedly committed the hooligan actions against the police. Next morning, the Adygheya Moslems (jointly with the two young Chechen students detained that same evening) were brought to the building of the court in the city of Maikop. During the court hearing the judge Ruslan Matyzhev established the absence in the actions of the arrested men of the corpus delicti regarding the administrative offence. Now, the former “offenders” try to lodge a complaint in the local procuracy. They all underwent the medical examination, which confirmed the fact of the battery that they were subjected to. Under the circumstances, it would be hardly possible to write off everything that happened to these people just making reference to the usual acts of outrage made by the police arbitrarily. It should be noted that the police officers, who arrested the Moslems and subjected them to battery and tortures, frankly said that they had carried out this operation following the direct instructions, which had come right from the top “in connection with the events in Nalchik”.

Simultaneously, we consider it very important to pay attention to the dramatic situation, which has formed around the so-called “issue of the refusal by the authorities to hand over the bodies of the killed men to their relatives for the burial purpose”. The procuracy refuses to give for the burial purpose the dead bodies of those considered as terrorists. At the same time, the specific guilt of the involvement in the armed attack on the objects in the city of Nalchik of the majority those, whose bodies are currently dumped in heaps, has not been proved and cannot be proved at all. At this stage, the whole picture looks already like the action of the intimidation, like the collective punishment of the relatives of the killed, whose religious and ethical feelings are thus severely offended. Moreover, it also appears that everyone, whose body has not been yet given over to the relatives, is actually recognized as being guilty of the terrorist activities.

We are convinced that in this case there takes place the roughest infringement on the constitutional and international and legal norms, which require that the religious feelings of the relatives of the killed should be respected. The fundamental principle of justice, which is the presumption of innocence, has been actually violated in this case, since any doubt should be interpreted in favour of the defense. Therefore, since there are no direct proofs of these people’s being guilty of having committed the crime specified as the terrorism, all the dead, - and it should be noted that many of them are not even the figurants of a criminal case, - should be immediately handed over to their relatives, who, under the existing legislation, are entitled to protect the rights and the honour of the deceased.

As a matter of fact, the refusal by the authorities to hand over the bodies of the killed people, who are suspected of terrorism, for the purpose of burial is the violation of another fundamental principle of justice, which reads that nobody may be found guilty outside the court proceedings. The terrorism under the Russian legislation is a specific criminal offence, but it is not a mere declaration of a charge. The sanctions applied to a person found guilty of this criminal offence (including the deprivation of the right to be buried by his relatives in conformity with the religion professed by him), may be imposed only after the court sentence in respect of him comes into legal force. If otherwise, like in this particular case, then we have an obvious out-of-court reprisal.

Taking account of the above, we are convinced that all the bodies of the killed in the city of Nalchik, including the genuine rebels, who, without doubt, participated in the attack on the objects in Nalchik, must be immediately handed over to their relatives for the burial purpose. We ask you to do everything in your power in order to stop immediately the current shameful and barbaric - in a true meaning of this word - practice of “punishment” of the dead human bodies. The modern state, which considers itself to be a legal and a democratic one, ought not to sink to the level of taking revenge on the bodies of its enemies, because the obvious and

cynical lack of morality deprives those, who claim to be the true defenders of justice, of their righteousness.

We beat the alarm, the reason being that now in the territory of Northern Caucasus the civil rights are actually eliminated. We regard it as a dangerous attempt on the constitutional order of this country. The actions of the law enforcement bodies, which have thrown aside all restraint, actually push the people into the arms of the radicals and thus start a bloody cycle of revenge. A provocative plan for transformation of Kabardino-Balkariya into a new war zone is thereby implemented.

We ask you to urgently address to the President of the Russian Federation, as well as to the top management of the Procuracy General, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) and the Federal Security Bureau (FSB) with an appeal to stop the machine of the state terror, which is started now to a full capacity in the Northern Caucasus, to immediately stop the unlawful reprisals, and to give an opportunity to the relatives to bury all the dead bodies.

Yours faithfully,
L.A. Ponomaryev,
the Executive Director
of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement
“For Human Rights”

SOS from the city of Nalchik

The Information Agency “For Human Rights” offers the just received appeal faxed to us by Ramazan Tembotov (tel. 966-242-16-40), the expert of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”, on behalf of himself and his fellow villagers of the village of Khasanya (Nalchik).

“We want to bring to the notice of the people of Russia and of other countries the events in Kabardino-Balkariya, namely in Nalchik, which may be rightly termed as the “unlawful permissiveness” currently exercised by the law enforcement bodies of the republican Ministry for Internal Affairs.

I would like to describe in more detail my own situation, that is what has happened to me, Ramazan Gumarovich Tembotov, born in 1973, being the resident of Nalchik (village Khasanya, 4 Rodnikovaya Street), the member of the political party “United Russia”, as well as the member of the body of local self-government in the village of Khasanya, being also the regional expert of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”.

I was detained at 14:00 hours on 23 October 2005 in the day broad light in the area of the Clinical Hospital No.2 (the act of my detention was witnessed by all the people in this hospital and those in the market place “Suvenirny”), while the law enforcement officers did not take the trouble of explaining to me, what was the reason for my having been detained. They just took me in a car to a place, which I identified later as being the Division No. 6 of the Security Department. I had some time to make one call and to inform of my situation, and you, probably, understand what followed next. On having learned that I was speaking to you, as a law-abiding citizen of the Russian Federation, who considered himself to be the resident of a jural state, they asked me to inform you of the following persons, who had been brought to this place earlier and of whom their relatives and friends had not known anything for 2 or 3 days already. Moreover, they do not let the detainees to see and talk to their defence lawyers or journalists. These facts are confirmed by the newspapers “Versiya” and “Novaya Gazeta”.

The list of these people is as follows:

1. Rasul Kudayev
2. Rasul Nogherov
3. Zeitun Sultanov
4. Zeitun Gayev
5. Tsuras Etezov

6. Rasul Khalaikhanov

7. Anatoly Gazhonov

These are just those, of whom there is some information.

All residents of our village.

Yours faithfully,

Ismail Boziyev and Ramazan Tembotov

Information Agency "For Human Rights"

“On the measures for overcoming the consequences of the attack of the rebels on the city of Nalchik”

The appeal of the Kabardino-Balkarian Human Rights Protection Centre to the government bodies and to the public associations of the republic

Today, the people of Kabardino- Balkaria are deeply concerned with the situation in the republic following the attack of the rebels on the city of Nalchik on 13 October 2005.

According to the information received from various sources , there is a growing number of the unlawful detentions, cases of humiliation, battery and tortures. B some villages and towns, the local authorities exert a rough pressure on the relatives of the arrested people. For instance, in the village of Zalukokoazhaye, there have been made the attempts to evict these people from their native village. The situation is complicated through the refusal by the law-enforcement bodies to hand over the bodies of the killed rebels to their relatives for the burial purpose. Many relatives of the killed men are of the opinion that the actions carried out by their sons cannot be classified as terrorism, and, naturally, they are going to challenge these charges through court. It may happen that these dead bodies will be buried in the anonymous graves, while the courts will eventually make the decisions to the effect that the actions of the killed rebels cannot be classified as the acts of terrorism.

Today, it should be stated that there is a real threat of the possibility that the events in Kabardino-Balkariya will develop according to the Ingush or Dagestan scenarios, where the explosions, murders, kidnappings of people, like in Chechnya, have long become the facts of real life. After the events in the city of Nalchik of 13 October, both in the Ingushetiya and Dagestan, there have started the prosecutions of the innocent residents, there have appeared the squadrons of death and have been initiated the out-of-court executions. As a rule, after such deeds there come forward the forces, which do not proclaim any political slogans, but start to take revenge for the lost friends and relatives.

From the experience of these republics we know only too well that if the engine of the revenge machine is started, then the local authorities, on their part, will not be able to do anything to stop it, since the relevant federal structures, which are normally engaged in these activities, act independently, being supported by their relevant top management in Moscow.

Normally, such unlawful repressive measures and the inability of local self-government bodies to control the situation contribute to the growth of social support to the rebels in the society eventually resulting in the increase of their number. In order to stop the development of the further events in Kabardino- Balkariya in accordance with the Ingush and Dagestan scenarios, we propose to immediately take the following measures:

- To establish a group for the purpose of studying all the issue related to a possibility for handing over the dead bodies of the killed rebels and those of the suspects to their relatives, and after that the leadership of the republic should apply to the President of Russia requesting him to make a positive decision on this issue;

- To start an open discussion of the situation with involvement of the representatives of all public forces in the republican mass media, including the radio stations and TV;

- To establish a commission comprised of the representatives of the government bodies and public associations for the follow up and publication of all facts indicative of the unlawful arrests, tortures and acts of humiliation as applied to the detained people;

- To organize a national conference with involvement of the representatives of all layers of the population, religious confessions, public associations and political forces for discussion of the existing situation and development of the measures for overcoming the consequences of the attack of the rebels on the city of Nalchik on 13 October 2005.

In this very complicated and critical situation, the Council of the Kabardino-Balkarian Human Rights Protection Centre calls for uniting the efforts of the government bodies and all public forces for the purpose of bringing back to normal of the present-day critical situation in the republic. All those guilty of the armed attack should be punished in accordance with the court decisions. Only the actions based on the law can reestablish the order in the republic.

Valery Khatazhukov,
Chairman of the
Kabardino-Balkarian Human Rights Protection Centre
28. 10. 2005.

The attack on Ivan Starikov is a political reprisal

The movement “For Human Rights” has issued the Appeal in connection with the attack on Ivan Starikov, one of the outstanding figures of the liberal opposition. This attack is regarded as still another example of the “fascist” methods of struggle with the democratic opposition.

We offer the complete text of the Appeal:

“The All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” expresses its deep concern in connection with the attack of October 27 on the outstanding public figure Ivan Valentinovich Starikov.

The circumstances of this attack, which have become known to us (the blow on the head from behind followed by the kicking of a lying victim) manifest a strange similarity to the “handwriting” of the August attacks carried out on the Polish citizens in Moscow. In August, the mass media, deemed to be close to the Kremlin, made a few hints that the battery of the Poles was a revenge taken on the Polish authorities for their refusal to apologize for the beating of the Russian teenagers in Warsaw. Thus, the above-mentioned attack on one of the leaders of the Russian democrats Ivan Starikov is, in all probability, to be counted in one line with the other criminal actions aimed at intimidation of the representatives of the staunch opposition. In this very line, there is also the August attack committed by the members of some “secret” militarized youth organization at the doors leading to the Moscow office of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation.

Once again, we pay attention to the fact that certain circles, which seem to be close to the bodies of the present-day state power, have made a decision to use exclusively the fascist methods of struggle with the democratic (both the left-wing and the right-wing) opposition, and there are reasons to believe that the real groups of the storm-troopers ala Hitlerite pattern are being currently formed.

We call upon both the political and non-political organizations, which adhere to the principle of observance of the constitutional rights and freedoms, to come forward with the solidary actions to prevent the advance of the Fascist rule managed and controlled by the current state power.

In accordance with the criteria for identification of the victims of political persecutions adopted in March 2004 by the Initiative Group “General Action”, to such persecutions may be referred the “out-of-court reprisals”, including the criminal actions. Taking account of the

above, the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” has every reason to consider Ivan Valentinovich Starikov as a victim of the political persecutions.

We call upon the Procuracy General of the RF to initiate a criminal case based on the fact of the attack on I.V. Starikov, within which to investigate the possibility of formation of the organized extremist groups, whose activities are aimed at terrorizing the representatives of the political opposition.

*Lev Ponomaryev,
Executive Director
of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement
“For Human Rights”*

Freedom to the scientists!

On 19 October 2005 at 14:00 in front of the building of the Federal Security Bureau (FSB) in the Furkasov lane, there was carried out the authorized picket in support of the repressed scientists – Igor Sutyaghin, Valentin Danilov, and Oskar Kaibyshev.

All these people fell the victims to the spy searching mania typical of the Soviet times. For the only reason of their cooperation with the foreigners they were put on the list of spies and eventually they were convicted. As it is, the state is not willing to pay for the work done by these people, but instead of that it is willing to convict them for using the foreign grants. The FSB is not capable to catch Shamil Basyaev, but it can easily arrest a scientist. Following these convictions based on the fabricated criminal cases with the court comprised of the false juries, and the passed sentences being so unjustly long, not a single Russian scientist can feel safe in this country any more.

Igor Sutyaghin. He is the candidate of historical sciences, the head of the sector for the military and technical and military and economic policies of the Research Institute of the USA and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the world-wide known expert. He has been arrested by the FSB for disclosure of the state secrets in favour of the British company “Alternative Futures”, although all the items of information have been borrowed from the newspapers and journals, predominantly from the English language sources. The transmitted items of information have been widely known for quite a long time. During the investigation, they have withdrawn from the defendant very important documents. As it turned out, among the juries at this court hearing there were the FSB employees. Igor Sutyaghin is sentenced to 15 years in prison. The organisation “Amnesty International” has awarded the man the status of the prisoner of conscience. He is married and has two children of the school age.

Valentin Danilov. This scientist, who at the time of his arrest was the director of the thermalphysic centre of the Krasnoyarsk Technical University, is one of the most competent experts in this branch of science. The man is charged with having transferred to the Chinese research institute of the two laboratories in the process of preparation of the stand for the Chinese students. In 2003, he was acquitted under all articles of the existing legislation. Right after the acquittal, there was initiated a new criminal case in respect of the physicist under the article “fraud”. He was eventually sentenced to 14 years in prison. The organisation “Amnesty International” has awarded the man the status of the prisoner of conscience. He has children and a small grand daughter.

Oskar Kaibyshev. The man is the Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, he has founded and headed the Institute for Problems of the Superplasticity of Metals (IPSM) of the RAN. He used to work as the head of the Chair for the General Technology of Processing of Materials of the Ufa State Aviation Technical University. The man is the world-wide known expert in his field of science. Initially, he was taken to court for disclosure of the state secrets; however, later on they brought against him the charges relating to the unlawful export of technologies without the relevant coordination, as well as the misappropriation of another

people's property, although all the contracts were made with approval of the MERT and under the relevant control of the special services. In prison, under the obscure circumstances, he was taken ill and hospitalized with the diagnosis: the pulmonary edema.

The action is supported by the Russian human rights protection organizations, such as “For Human Rights”, “Committee for Protection of Scientists” etc. All those willing to take part in the action are welcome.

Sobinform

The National Bolshevik Party has never been engaged in preparation and the NBP is not currently preparing any actions against the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD)

The appeal by the National Bolshevik Party

On one of these days, to some Moscow-based national bolsheviks, for example, to the deputy chief editor of the newspaper “General Line” Anatoly Tishin, there came the police officers. The reason behind this visit by the police was the information sent to them from the Federal Security Bureau (FSB), in whose opinion the national bolsheviks are engaged in preparation of the actions against the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. However, in our opinion, the FSB tries to cause a quarrel between the National Bolshevik Party and the police.

This attempt, like many other things done by the FSB, has ended in failure: even the police officers, who made the inspection in homes of the national bolsheviks, said as much as this: “We do not want to do it, but we have to react to the information we receive”. All the visits of the policemen were actually limited to the mere fact of such a visit, with the only one exception: in the city of Lobnya (Moscow oblast) the local policemen withdrew three hundred forms of applications for admission to the NBP. With the present-day membership of the NBP of over 41,000, one cannot say that the National Bolshevik Party has suffered a fatal blow from the Lobnya police.

Here is the official statement by the National Bolshevik Party, which reads as follows: the National Bolshevik Party has never been engaged in preparation and is not currently preparing any actions against the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Press service of the NBP

The youth campaign “Antistalinism”

On 30 October, 2005, on the Day of Memory of Victims of Political Reprisals, there were made the appeals to the heads of the CIS states (including Russia, Ukraine and Belarus), the Baltic states and other countries of Europe (including Poland and Finland). It is by these appeals to the heads of the states that there started the International Public Campaign for Convocation of the International Tribunal for the purpose of investigation of the mass reprisals and genocide of the peoples and numerous infringements on the rights of the citizens in the USSR in the period from 1930 to 1950, initiated by the International Youth Human Rights Movement (MPD).

It is significant that the Day of Memory of Victims of Political Reprisals – the day of profound grief for thousands of families in many countries – became the date of the beginning of the youth campaign “Antistalinism”.

There are millions of people, including the children or grandchildren of the victims of the Stalin terror, who were sent to the GULAG concentration camps, who were deprived of their homes by force, who represented the whole families and even peoples driven away from their native lands and resettled elsewhere, far away from home. GULAG is not just the past of our people. This word has actually become a nominal one in many languages of the world standing for designation of the totalitarian system, which converted a human being into a mere small screw of the heartless state machine.

In the year of celebration of the Great Victory of the peoples of many continents over the brutal fascist regimes, the rehabilitation of the stalinism is inadmissible, just as intolerable is the dissemination of the fascist ideas. The victory of the Soviet people in 1945 was the result of the staunch resistance of the ordinary citizens, not that of the bloody repressive regime, whose “merits” are related to elimination of thousands of the best army officers right before the beginning of the war, as well as to formation of the penal battalions and sending to the GULAG camps of the people who offered resistance to the enemy across the front line and who survived the German concentration camps.

This malicious regime, which committed the crimes in respect of its own people and which transformed the victory over the fascism into a new occupation of its own country, deserves to be put on trial, and such a trial is, in the first place, the moral act of the historical memory, and the opportunity to drop the mutual charges and mistrust in the relations with the neighbours, and to face the future with the undisturbed conscience.

The Campaign actually started with the dispatch, on 30 October, of the letters containing the appeals to the heads of the CIS countries, the Baltic states and of the other European countries calling upon them to establish, on the basis of the joint agreements, the International Commission for the purpose of investigation of the crimes of the Stalin regime, as well as to convene the International Tribunal capable of providing the legal assessment of these crimes.

Moreover, the civil society organizations have begun the work aimed at establishment of a public Commission, which will initiate the work of an independent Civil Tribunal in case, if the states fail, within a reasonable time period, to form the International Tribunal.

From this very day, on the Internet site www.anti-stalinism.hrworld.ru there starts the collection of signatures under the relevant appeal of the organizations and individual people, as well as the informational and educational activities aiming at the eventual assessment and comprehension of the totalitarian heritage in the history of our countries.

The additional information:

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The Council of Lawyers of Moscow has not deprived the defence lawyers of Mikhail Khodorkovsky of their lawyer status

The Council of the Chamber of Lawyers of the city of Moscow has refused to deprive the three defence lawyers of the former head of the «NK «Yukos» Mikhail Khodorkovsky of their lawyer status. The Chamber has not found in the actions of Anton Drel, Elena Levina and Denis Dyatlev any signs of the disciplinary violation.

*Source: TVTs # 24 Hours.
Events of Moscow Time*

The OAO «NK «Yukos» is on the defensive

The OAO «NK «Yukos» has filed the cassational appeal with regard to the decision of the Commercial Court of the city of Moscow on collection from the oil company of more than \$ 475 million in favour of 14 foreign creditors. On 28 September, the court has satisfied the application of a consortium of banks for a recognition and execution in the territory of Russia of the decision of the High Court of Justice of London on collection of \$ 475.3 million from the OAO «NK «Yukos».

*The author: Interfax
Source: the VEDOMOSTI*

You will hardly have a fit of the blues in the Russian prison

What is going to do the former oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky in the far-away Siberian prison in the middle of nowhere.

The attention paid by the mass media to the Russian convict No. 1 may be termed as the unprecedented one. Since 10 October, when he left the Moscow-based investigative isolator “Matrosskaya Tishina”, the journalists have never ceased to guess, to what prison the former chief of the «NK «Yukos» is heading. They have examined the all probable options until, at last, the official representatives of the system of penitentiary institutions have issued the information on Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s having arrived in the YAG 14/10 institution, or, in plain words, in the Krasnokamensk prison of the general regime, which is located in the Siberian wilderness, around half a thousand kilometers from the city of Chita.

In certain narrow circles, this prison is known for having been built in 1967 precisely for the purpose of extraction of the uraniferous ore from the Streltsov deposit of this strategic raw material. Actually, this is just the leisured gossip: according to Yuri Yakushevsky, the official of the Oblast Department for Execution of Punishments, not a single convict ever held in this prison has ever worked in the uranium mines.

So, to date, Mikhail Khodorkovsky has been in this prison for more than a week already. Right on his arrival, the local convict “authorities” have hurried to award him a status of the “muzhik”. In the thieves’ argo, the “muzhik” is the name to denote one of the castes of the convicts, who are, as a rule, not connected with the criminal world, they normally have the first criminal record, and they live in prison working for themselves and taking the transfers of food stuff and other goods from the relatives outside prison. Incidentally, few people know that the General Colonel Yuri Churbanov, the former Deputy Minister of the Internal Affairs of the USSR, who was the curator of the penitentiary institutions himself and who also used to be the son-in-law of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev, at the end of the 1980s served his sentence in the Nizhnetaghilsk IK No. 13 in the capacity of the “muzhik”, that is he worked making the

forms for the ice-cream, and also worked as a stoker. Another such example is that of the well-known lawyer Dmitry Yakubovsky, who also served his sentence in the same prison and combined his thoughts about the happy future with the creative approach to making wooden boxes used for the packaging purposes.

It is too early to say whether the billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky will manage to show his skills in the “muzhik” capacity. However, there is no doubt that he will not have to work hard in order to obtain the minimum necessities, which he needs for his life in prison. Today, our humane punishment policies allow any convict who is wealthy enough to have in prison almost as a comfortable life as outside prison. The start of the life of the former oil magnate “in the depth of the Siberian ore mines” was marked, as it was expected, by the opening in his name of a bank account, to which any amount of money may be transferred, but the amounts that may be withdrawn from this account by Mikhail Khodorkovsky are limited. For instance, at the beginning he is allowed to spend for a purchase of food stuff and other necessities the amount, which should not exceed the three minimum salaries, that is around 2.5 thousand roubles per month. If Mikhail Khodorkovsky behaves himself obediently and does not violate the prison rules, then in six months the above-mentioned amount may be increased ...

Contrary to the majority of the ordinary Russian convicts, Mikhail Khodorkovsky starts his prison life with a pleasant event. While he has just begun to really understand what kind of existence he is going to have in the new environment, his wife was allowed to come to visit him in prison and to spend with him three days and nights, which is the longest possible term of such rendezvous in accordance with the existing criminal legislation.

Today, the prison administration says nothing about the possible occupation of Mikhail Khodorkovsky behind bars, although the above official Yuri Yakushevsky has made it clear that “if Mr. Khodorkovsky submits the relevant application, it will be surely considered by the prison commission, and the applicant will be offered a job in line with his professional skills and knowledge”. It goes without saying that he will hardly take any interest in the sewing business or will be interested in the job of a librarian, while the offer to become a steward, or, at least, a distributor of the routine everyday work to be done by other convicts will be, probably, considered by the oligarch. In the prison, without anything to do at all, the vigorous businessman may feel quite miserable.

The author: Vladimir Loktev,

Source: TRUD

Mikhail Khodorkovsky has announced the time of the heroes

The press centre of Mikhail Khodorkovsky has published the first well developed statement of the former head of the «NK «Yukos» prepared in the prison.

On having informed the public that he is currently in the territory of “the Decembrists, the political state convicts, and the uranium mines”, Mikhail Khodorkovsky has launched into the criticism of the current state power. “The Kremlin has tried to isolate me completely from my country and my people, and even more than that – to destroy me physically. Thus the today's state power has proved once again that it is not ready for the open and honest dispute with me and, in general, for the direct dialogue with the present-day opposition. They cherish hopes that Mikhail Khodorkovsky will be soon forgotten. They try hard to convince you, my friends, that the struggle is over and one has to put up with the domination of the self-seeking bureaucrats in Russia. It is a lie. The struggle has just started”, said the convicted oligarch.

In his statement, Mikhail Khodorkovsky has named the problems faced by the country in XXI century. These include the tasks of formation of the new armed forces, as well as of the new law-enforcement system, creation of the new type of the state officials from the ground zero so to say, the refusal from the transformation of the country into a raw material appendage of the developed countries, the restoration of the position and prestige of Russia in the world. In order to solve such enormous problems, the country, in his opinion, should have

the new political elite comprised of the people, who are brave, honest and consecutive in their deeds. “You are these people, my compatriots and supporters. The one who is not afraid today to support the political prisoners and to say “no” to the repressive machine of the criminal bureaucracy, deserves to be called a “Man” written with a capital letter”, concludes Mikhail Khodorkovsky. In his opinion, the time of mediocrities and second-raters is over; instead there comes the time of the heroes.

It is not yet clear how the official authorities will react to this statement of the famous convict. Basically, nobody can forbid Mikhail Khodorkovsky to state his opinion; however, one should bear in mind that the authorities have sufficient methods for exerting pressure on him. Yesterday, the news agencies published the comments by the official of the Chita Oblast Department for Execution of Punishments Yuri Yakushevsky, according to whom any convict after having served his sentence for half a year in the normal prison conditions, may be entitled to the less strict and more facilitated conditions, provided this convict has not violated the prison rules and worked diligently. The decision on whether to facilitate the detention conditions for a convict or not is within the competence of the prison administration.

Source: BUSINESS

Are there any political prisoners in Russia?

30 October is the Day of Political Prisoners. As people say, the activities of this Day, which were largely thought through and proposed by Kronid Lubarsky, take place on a regular basis since 1974, when dozens of convicts of the penitentiary institutions in Mordovia and Perm went on a hunger-strike protesting against the political reprisals in the Soviet Union. At the same time, they protested against the brutal conditions in prisons, as well as against the numerous abuses of the convicts' rights by the administration. Despite the environment of the total informational and political stagnation (or maybe due to it), the tradition to mark the Day of Political Prisoners has taken root in the country. Since 1992, the new democratic state power of Russia has legalized this Day, but at the same time it has renamed this date into the Day of Memory of Victims of Political Reprisals. A word combination “the Day of Memory” implies that now there are no reprisals in Russia. So to say, we only remember about the past reprisals. Many experts both in Russia, and in the western countries do not agree with such an attitude towards this Day. The newspaper "Izvestiya" has decided to find out, whether there are any political prisoners in today's Russia.

Vasily Aksenov, writer

"Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev are political prisoners".

I think that Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev are the political prisoners. Then there are also the ecologists. The number of these people is small, but each of these people is a personality. The reason is the current crisis of the society. I do not know the details of the case of Mr. Pasko in Vladivostok; in my opinion, in this case, too, there are plenty of such things, where the two ends would not meet. There is also Mr. Nikitin from the Russian arctic region, his case is related to the espionage business. And, last but not least, the so-called Yukos affair, where there is certainly a political underlying reason. If in a civilized society the claim of such significance is brought against a large company, the court normally does not resort to such humiliating methods of detention as guarding the defendants with the help of the armed guards or holding them during the court hearing in a metal cage.

The methods of humiliation are, probably, aimed at breaking Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev as personalities. It is certainly not an exclusively financial case. As far as we know, of all the oligarchal structures, the one controlled by Mikhail Khodorkovsky was by far the most obedient one.

Mariya Rozanova, publisher

"Before, the undesirable were put on trial, while today they are simply killed"

I think there are political prisoners in Russia. I know a great number of people who do not agree with many things currently occurring in their native land. As far as the political business is concerned, today the problems are solved in a much easier way compared with the Brezhnev times and even the Stalin times. In those days, the authorities brought their opponents to court, put them on trial, and went to a lot of trouble to fabricate the charges against these people, searched for the perjurers, while all these things took place in court, on the wrong side of the bar. Today, these things are done in a much simpler way: for instance, the political opponent can be just knocked down in the street by a car. Today, they simply kill instead of putting the opponents on trial. As far as the Yukos affair is concerned, there is no doubt that this case is a political one, but it is such only inasmuch as Mikhail Khodorkovsky had the misfortune to have come into conflict with a great number of big bosses.

Mikhail Leontyev, TVpresenter

"They put people to prison not for their ideas, but for the criminal realization of these ideas "

There are different types of politics: for example, Nuremberg was a political process. And there are the politics, which are criminal as far as their content is concerned. In this sense, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, in my opinion, has been convicted precisely for a criminal type of politics. As far as Mr. Kvachkov is concerned, he is in prison not for the politics, but for the organization of an attempt on another man's life. The political subcurrent related to this criminal offence is of his own making. The national bolsheviks have been put in prison for the ordinary hooliganism. Should any sexual predator motivate his crime by his special political position with regard to the female issue? No person can be put in prison just for ideas, they put in prison only for the criminal realization of these ideas.

Genry Reznik, President of the Lawyer Chamber of the city of Moscow

"If a case has been fabricated by the authorities, then a person tried within this case may be considered as a political prisoner".

All depends on how you define a political prisoner. If, for example, you proceed from the motive, then all the terrorists should be considered as political prisoners. However, it seems to me that a political prisoner in a true sense of this notion is the person, who is held in prison just for a mere fact that he dares to assert certain ideas, using his constitutional rights. For example, such as the right to freedom of speech.

However, you cannot bring to court a person just for his or her ideas. Therefore, today only that person may be considered a political prisoner, who acts as a political opponent of the current state power, which fabricates a criminal case against this person in order to stop his activities. And in case it is proven that the criminal case has been really fabricated against this person by the authorities, then such a person may be considered as a political prisoner.

Source: "IZVESTIYA "

The article is of no significance

We sure have political prisoners in this country. One of them is Mikhail Khodorkovsky. It does not really matter that he is in prison under a criminal article. In fact, he is in prison for the politics.

Rauf Gaisin.

City of Naberezhniye Chelny

“The thieves in the law” search for the right approaches to Platon Lebedev

Soon, the “sidekick” of Mikhail Khodorkovsky within the so-called Yukos affair P.L. Lebedev will leave the quarantine in the prison OG No. 98/3, which is located in the village of Kharp of the Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug. Until now, the number of people, who have talked to P.L. Lebedev, is limited. However, the appearance of the disgraced oligarch in the arctic prison has caused some movement in the criminal circles.

The correspondent of the newspaper “Izvestiya” had a chance to talk with a former convict of this prison, who is a man of authority in the certain known circles.

According to my source of information, “the thieves in the law” already came here in order to find out the possible approaches to P.L. Lebedev. The source believes that all their interest is related to P.L. Lebedev’s money. When the initial excitement settles down, nobody will refuse to take the charity money.

The quarantine, where Platon Lebedev is currently held, is not directly related to the medicine business. This is the so-called transit cell for one person, where a convict is held for at least 10 days following his arrival in prison. The newly arrived convict is deprived, for a period of the quarantine, of his outerwear, while his warm linen following the disinfection (or “roasting” as they call it here) is returned to him. In this prison, it is permitted to make oneself warm with the help of the extra clothes without any restrictions. However, in the arctic Kharp, even of a sweater and warm drawers fail to protect the prisoners working in the open against the terrible colds. As the former prisoner said to the correspondent of “Izvestiya”, they used to put newspapers in their drawers, covering the intimate places, feeling warmer, as it seemed to them.

In the quarantine, the doctors are the first to examine a newly arrived convict. If there are any complaints with regard to the state of health of a prisoner in the quarantine (and it is known that Platon Lebedev had certain health problems during the trial already), the period of quarantine may be prolonged. After the prison director and the heads of all units of the prison have familiarized themselves with his case, the relevant prisoner will be sent to serve his sentence in a certain brigade. He will be given a mattress and a pillow and then he will go to a brigade barrack, where there live 40 to 50 convicts. This is a one-storey building without any partitions inside and with the even rows of the two-story plank-beds, which are actually the metal frameworks covered by the wooden planks.

In Platon Lebedev’s prison life, much will depend on the way he enters the barrack filled with his inmates, on the way he will behave himself in the presence of these people, on how he will talk to them etc. It is true, however, that the attitude of his inmates to him will also, to a great extent, depend on the possible access to his money.

“The thieves in the law have already come here, trying to find out what approaches can be applied to him”, said my interlocutor, who takes time when speaking, and he speaks with dignity and with some authority. He said that he had learned the price of words in the “troika” (the Russian word for “three”, that is the prison OG No. 98/3), where he spent almost ten years. When he was released, he had no place to go to and so he stayed here for good. He would not say to me for what particular crime he served his sentence, while I, on my part, did not ask him this question. Neither did I ask him to tell me his first name and his surname. And so we talked on like that.

“All interest in Platon Lebedev is limited to his money. It seems to me that somebody, on behalf of Lebedev will offer the financial assistance to the prison administration and to the body of local self-government, and they will take this money. It is just necessary that some time has passed, and all this excitement caused by his arrival here has settled down, and after

that there will be the right time to be engaged in the charity activities. We send the trucks full of gifts to the prison, the last such action was timed for the Easter holiday. Officially, it was the gift from one of the private businessmen, but everyone in the prison knew that the gifts were purchased for the money collected by the former prisoners”.

According to the former prisoner, such people as Platon Lebedev have very hard times in prison. None of the universities that he has graduated from will help him here. It is going to be a hard job for him to learn the laws of prison.

“Now, he suffers from an extremely high level of attention paid to his person”, said my source. “These days, dozens of eyes watch the way he lies down on his bed and the way he gets up, the way he behaves himself with respect to his inmates, as well as the way he observes the internal rules; he is closely watched by both the guards and his inmates. At the moment, the ordinary prisoners do not envy the man for his current status at all”.

“They will not offend him here. There will be no mockery or humiliation. The “troika” prison is known for a long time to be the so-called “red zone”. Here, they respect the law and the shoulder boards. At the moment, no money from the influential people can be handed over to the prison. The administration will not allow to do that. If this ever happens, the inmates of Lebedev will certainly write dozens of letters addressed to the procurator informing him of the violation. As far as the parcels containing mostly the food stuff are concerned, the prison administration will, for sure, allow Platon Lebedev to receive these on a more frequent basis. The money transfers will be allowed, too. This money is normally used by the inmates to buy the necessities in the prison shop”.

In the opinion of my interlocutor, such a person as Platon Lebedev, who is rather weak physically, may be employed in the prison as a librarian or a clerk, that is the man whose duty is to distribute the work and food stuff among the inmates.

“Before Platon Lebedev, here, in Kharp, there served his sentence only one famous person – the thief in the law by name of Gans from the city of Tyumen”.

“It seems to me that the fact that Platon Lebedev has been sent here is actually a kind of double punishment for such a person”, said the former prisoner. “If they had wanted him to be just held in the “red zone”, they could have certainly sent him to some such “red zone” place near the city of Moscow, for instance, to Ryazan, where there is a special prison for the judges and public prosecutors, so as to be quite sure that the professional criminals do not humiliate him. The very fact that Platon Lebedev has been sent to the Yamal peninsula is, probably, a planned action intended for freezing him here”.

“Are there any chances for getting a probation term in this prison?”, I asked my source.

“It is possible, but due to such a “weighty” article as Platon Lebedev’s surely is, he will have to serve at least three quarters of the length of his sentence before he is entitled to go on probation. He has all chances for the “raskonvoika”, which is the brigade of the inmates, who move around without being guarded; these prisoners live in a separate barrack, they work in the warehouses. However, this status should be deserved first, these prisoners should have a faultless certificate of character, without any recorded violations of the prison rules, they should be the disciplined workers, while their outward appearance should make a tidy and orderly picture, a completely buttoned up figure. Like in the army. Here, almost everything is like in the army. But just behind a prickly wire”.

However, if someone from the top management in Moscow will just hint that this man, Platon Lebedev, is not worthy of any probation, then the local administration will execute this order in a zealous way. The prison administration has enough of its own people “in the zone”, so they may stage up a fight involving Lebedev and eventually making him responsible for the initiation of this fight. In the prison, the participation in a fight is an awful offence. It takes much time to rehabilitate oneself, sometimes the time needed for the rehabilitation is as long as the total length of one’s sentence.

*The author: Larisa Kallioma,
Source: “IZVESTIYA”*

Establishment of the committee in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky

TV presenter: Today, in Paris, Yuri Shmidt, the defence lawyer of Mr. Khodorkovsky, has announced about the establishment in France of the committee in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. I should like to remind our viewers that 25 years ago in Europe, in Norway, there was established the committee in support of Andrey Sakharov. What a comparison! So, today, we have spoken not only about the Yukos affair, but also about the problems relating to the legal profession in Russia, as well as about the prospects of the Russian democracy.

Yuri Shmidt: People will understand that anyone of them may be easily subjected to reprisals, especially we, the representatives of the legal profession. Just like in case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. The businessmen are frightened precisely over the fact that the most brave of them, and, let me put it this way, the most transparent oligarch has been delivered such a heavy blow. If the people as my client are treated in such a way, then what may expect those businessmen, whose companies are devoid of such perfect order as far as their financial status is concerned, and who have much more such things that may be found fault with.

TV presenter: There is nothing to be done about it. In his time, in 1918, the well known linguist by name of Roman Yakobsonov sheltered in Moscow another well known linguist Shklovsky. He placed his colleague in the small archive room and said to him as follows: “If at night they come to search my apartment, you should make a rustle sound and tell them that you are paper”. This seems to be a good method, too.

*Source: REN TV # 24
Information Programme*

Ekaterinburg. Youth association “Defense”

In Ekaterinburg, near the monument to Decembrists, the youth association “Defense” held a rally in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. The young people counting several dozens of persons, chanted the slogans, played guitars and sang songs, as well as distributed among the passers-by the sparklers and the balls with a portrait of the disgraced oligarch on them.

The day before, the organizers of this rally conducted an improvised poll asking the passers-by to answer, whether they agree with the country’s present-day political course or not. The majority of those questioned, according to the leaders of the youth association, spoke in favour of the democracy.

*The author: Vladimir Terletsky,
Source: NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA*

The action in Mikhail Khodorkovsky’ defense has been carried out in Ekaterinburg

In the city of Ekaterinburg, the activists of the Sverdlovsk Youth Union of the “Yabloko” Party conducted the action in Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s the defense, - this information has been provided to the Apiural.ru by Olga Vlasova, the Chairwoman of the Union.

In this way, the young members of the “Yabloko” Party marked the period of two years of Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s detention. Three weeks prior to this action, the activists of the youth union received from the press centre of the former head of the «NK «Yukos» the relevant materials for holding the rally.

The rally was held near the monument to Decembrists on the platform facing the Ural Academy of Civil Service. Apart from the activists of the Sverdlovsk Youth Union of the “Yabloko” Party, this action was supported by the residents of the city of Ekaterinburg, who

sympathize with Mr. Khodorkovsky. The total number of the rally participants was around 150 persons.

Both the “Yabloko” Party members and the residents of the city of Ekaterinburg chanted the words: “Freedom of MBKh is our freedom ”. They demanded to release the disgraced oligarch, they burned the sparklers, which symbolized the “fire of freedom” and distributed the leaflets and other printed materials among the city residents. According to Olga Vlasova, on the whole, the organizers were satisfied with the results of this action.

Apiural.ru

In Irkutsk, there has been founded the “Union of 25 October”

The "Union of 25 October" proclaimed its existence.

In the office of the Baikal Regional Foundation of the Civil Initiatives “Open Russia – Irkutsk”, there was held a constituent assembly of the Association of Graduates of the Irkutsk School of Public Policy. 25 October is the birthday of the School, and it is not by accident that precisely on this day, following two years since the start of implementation of the project, the “Union of 25 October” was born. In the opinion of the participants of the Union, this is the epoch-making date in the history of the state. On this day, 88 years ago, the cruiser “Aurora” fired its shot as a signal to start the attack on the Winter Palace in Saint Petersburg. On this day, two years ago, 25 October 2003, there was arrested Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the founder of the project of the Irkutsk School of Public Policy.

According to the information agency “Baikal Inform”, the purpose of the Union will be to create a community of the socially and economically active people, who are interested in development of the brand “School of Public Policy”, as well as in the business cooperation to be used as a tool of development of the human potential and of the Baikal region. One of the first activities of the Union will be the establishment of the Expert Council that will analyse all the final projects of the participants of the educational programmes of the foundation “Open Russia – Irkutsk” and will help in implementation of the best of these programmes. There will be established the political club, which will convene its sessions on the 25th of each month, and there will be also launched the relevant site in the Internet. Andrey Kotsarev, the well known lawyer and public figure, the deputy of the Cherimkhov and Svir dumas, has been elected the chairman of the board of the “Union of 25 October”.

Regions.ru

The rally in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky

TV presenter: The rally in the centre of Moscow in support of Mikhail Khodorkovsky could have ended in a banal fight between the representatives of the right-wing movements, who initiated this action, and their opponents. The participants of the rally, dedicated to the second anniversary of the arrest of the former head of the «NK «Yukos» company, chanted the demand to release the ex-oligarch. However, quite unexpectedly, at the place of the rally there appeared their opponents represented by the members of the Euroasian Youth Union, who started to distribute the sweets “Mishka in the North” (*in the Russian culture, the name “Mishka” or “Mikhail” is often associated with a bear*), while the content of their poster caused a real storm of anger on the part of the right-wingers. The tension reached its peak, but the possible fight was prevented by the police, who asked the members of the Euroasian Youth Union to leave the place of the rally, since they had no sanctioned permission to take part in the event. They obeyed the order and left.

Source: TVTs # Sobytiya

The youth of Novosibirsk has marked the second anniversary of the detention of Mikhail Khodorkovsky

In Novosibirsk, there has been marked the second anniversary of the detention of the former oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky at the local airport "Tolmachevo". The participants of the action represented the scene of the meeting at the airport of the passenger Khodorkovsky.

The organizers of this action were represented by a group of young people, who were not united in accordance with a certain political adherence. At two o'clock in the afternoon, the participants of the action gathered at the airport "Tolmachevo" in the "arrivals" section. In their hands, they held the posters, the contents of which were not deprived of certain signs of the paradoxical thinking, reading as follows: "Khodorkovsky, welcome to Siberia!", "MBKh, get out of Siberia!", "Misha, come out!", "Let the company «Rosneft» to extract the uranium ore!". And one of the participants held the printed out yellow cab page with the inscription "I will take right to Chita".

Also, the participants of the action distributed among the arriving passengers and those who came to meet them the leaflets with the appeal by the Novosibirsk public organizations. Once again, the authors of the appeal reminded of the unprecedented and cynical Kremlin scenario for depriving Mikhail Khodorkovsky of the company he created, and they promised to continue their struggle for "releasing all political prisoners" and for "creation of a genuine civil society"...

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Russia demands that the managers of the «NK «Yukos» company should be extradited

A 44-year-old Alexander Temerko tries to resist the efforts by the Russian Government, which strives towards the extradition of the man by the British authorities in order to put him on trial in Moscow. The procurators have accused Mr. Temerko of the use of false documents for the purpose of purchasing the packet of shares of the oil company «Eniseineftegaz». Mr. Temerko replaced Mikhail Khodorkovsky as the head of the «NK «Yukos» company right after the arrest of the latter. He negotiated with the Russian Government the issues relating to the tax claims to the company. In November of 2004, Mr. Temerko left for London following his having been interrogated on the complaint by Serghei Bogdanchikov, the President of the «Rosneft» company. In several weeks after that, the «Rosneft» company purchased the main industrial unit of the «NK «Yukos» company.

The prosecution of the former vice-president of Board of the «NK «Yukos» company Alexander Temerko is actually a last step in the prosecution of the top-management company on the part of Vladimir Putin, state the lawyers of Alexander Temerko in the magistrate court in London. The United Kingdom has already granted the refuge to the three other employees of the «NK «Yukos», whom Russia also wants to be extradited. However, the UK Home Secretary thinks that "there are rather reasonable fears that these people will be subjected to the persecution for the reasons of policy".

Source: GAZETA

Irreplaceable

Kirsan Ilumzhinov – one of the most odious political figures in the regional management of the country – has become the President of Kalmykia for the fourth term running. Vladimir Putin has expressed his confidence in this man, while the Legislative Assembly of Kalmykia has ratified this confidence practically unanimously with only one negative vote and one abstainer.

<...>

I do not think that Vladimir Putin has an unclear picture of the current situation in the Republic of Kalmykia. There is, probably, another reason for expression of his confidence in

Mr. Ilumzhinov. This reason is the astronomical amounts of money stolen from the state budget with the help of Kalmykia and put in the pockets of the metropolitan officials of a rather high rank. You see, in order to steal 50 million of the US dollars under the pretext of caring for the domestic manufacturers, the very solid authorities are needed. Those people in Moscow, who use the steppe Republic of Kalmykia and its obedient president for the personal enrichment, cannot allow the departure of the key post to another person's untested hands.

The appointment of Mr. Ilumzhinov is indicative of these people's power and influence, and, at the same time, it reveals the degree of freedom of the president of the country. Also, this provides the additional grounds for suspicion of the president of his adherence to the double standards policy. It took the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation just several months to prepare around 150 volumes of the charges against Mikhail Khodorkovsky, while nobody is able to get at Mr. Ilumzhinov for almost 15 years already.

*The author: Igor Korolkov,
Source: MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI*

The Kremlin “merges” the national districts in accordance with the territorial principle. Can this be possible in a democratic country?

Each Sunday, the citizens of Russia vote somewhere and for or against something. This voting is of a great interest. For example, at the end of October there were summed up the results of the referendum on merging of the Koryak National Okrug of the Kamchatka Oblast into one unified region, which in 2007 will receive a new name: the Kamchatka Kray.

Last winter, the Koryak population of Kamchatka, which received less than half of the necessary quantity of fuel from the main land, was actually subjected to a test for the total national winterkilling. Naturally, on the appointed Sunday of October, right before winter set in, almost 90 percent of the population of the Koryak National Okrug voted for merging of their territory with the Kamchatka Oblast, since the Koryak people, evidently, thought that, if they have to freeze again, it would be more pleasant and “warmer” to freeze together with the people of Kamchatka.

The next in turn official abolition of the territorial integrity is planned and is already appointed for the Ust-Orda Buryat National Okrug. Prior to this decision, the economy of the territory was reduced to a beggarly condition, and now their intention is to merge the Buryat National Okrug with the Irkutsk Oblast. Probably, it would be reasonable to expect that in the nearest future the hardly breathing Buryat Republic will be merged with the Chita Oblast. It seems that Moscow has taken a firm course towards the destruction, just to start with, of the national districts in the strict and consistent observance of the territorial principle. In the long term, resulting from the construction of the state vertical in accordance with the projects of Vladimir Putin, the national districts of Russia are supposed to flow down the uniform state sewage of the country. There will cease to exist not only the original territories of the national districts, but also, together with these territories, such peoples as Koryaks, Buryats, and Kalmyks, and later the same fate will be shared by Chechnya, Osetiya, Ingushetiya As is well known, the national republics in the Caucasus are a raw place of President Vladimir Putin. Therefore, one should expect that in the near future these national republics will be merged into some new territory named, for instance, the Northern Caucasian Kray.

These are the tempting prospects, are they not? On the eve of the merge of the Koryaks, who were actually “smeared” on the Kamchatka peninsula and deleted completely from the list of the nationalities populating Russia, on the above-mentioned pre-election day of Friday, 21 October 2005, the television channel Ren TV featured a remarkable story. On this ill-starred day, the State Duma of the Russian Federation discussed, in a rather urgent manner, the draft law submitted to the national parliament by the President's administration. This draft law forbids the deputies of the State Duma to conduct the parliamentary investigations of the

activities of the President of the Russian Federation, as well as of the courts, and to supervise the activities of the country's procurators. On the TV screens, during the discussion of this odious draft law, one could watch some fussing and bustling for a few minutes. But later, as the discussion went on, more and more deputies of the State Duma started to leave cowardly and unnoticed the session hall. By the moment of voting, there remained on the job around 40 "servants of the people", who proved to be the most staunch and steadfast. Nevertheless, Mr. Morozov, the Deputy Speaker of the State Duma announced the voting, which resulted in adoption of the law in the first reading. On the panel featuring the results of the voting, one could see the figure, which testified that the total of ... 346 deputies voted for adoption of the law.

Alexander Luboslavsky
Information Agency "For Human Rights"

The attack on the human rights advocates of the city of Nizhniy Novgorod continues

On 25 October, 2005, during the legal proceedings in the Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Court Oleg Kocherov, the representative of the Main Registration Department for the Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, against expectations, declared the claimant's return to the initial claim, and he asked the judge Samartseva to make a decision on the liquidation of the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society (ORChD), reported the *Russian-Chechen Information Agency*.

Prior to such a turn of events, the representatives of the claimant stated that they do not have any claims to the ORChD and that the claim, following a number of formalities, will be revoked, reported the *Information Agency "Prima"*.

Stanislav Dmitriyevsky, the Executive Director of the ORChD filed a motion to the effect that his statement regarding the claimant's declaration should be entered upon the record.

The statement said that the claimant's demand on liquidation of the organization was illegal, since the information requested by the claimant for the purpose of checking it had been provided as early as several months before, while the delayed provision of the requested information was due to the objective reasons, which were not dependent on the respondent.

The court proceedings were postponed until 2 November for the purpose of entering upon the record the documents confirming the statement made by Mr. Dmitriyevsky.

The Russian-Chechen Information Agency reminded that on 8 April, 2005 the Main Registration Department for the Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation applied to the court with the claim for liquidation of the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society.

Portal "Human Rights in Russia"

The opposition journalist Pavel Luzakov has been escorted to the Perm Oblast

There has been brought the news of the whereabouts of the opposition journalist Pavel Luzakov: 618515, Perm Oblast, Solikamsk rayon, the village of Surmog, reports the "Prima" Information Agency with a reference to the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement "For Human Rights".

According to A.Yu. Gaitayev, the defence lawyer of Pavel Luzakov, it is expedient to file a motion for assignment of the probation term to his client in a month after his arrival at the place of incarceration. The servicing of the one third of the total length of the sentence, which is a necessary precondition for filing a motion for a probation, is dated 20 September 2005.

The journalist Pavel Luzakov, who is a permanent author of the newspaper "Free Word" issued by the Democratic Union, as well as of the Internet site "Caucasus - Centre", has been sentenced to two years of deprivation of liberty in the colony on a charge of illegal keeping of the fire-arms. According to the statement made by Pavel Luzakov himself, in his case a live gun was substituted for a gas pistol.

Portal "Human Rights in Russia"

The lawyer Chernousov anticipates the provocation

The lawyer Evgheny Arsentyevich Chernousov, who is well known in the country as a defence lawyer of doctors and veterinarians, and also due to his participation in the legal proceedings relating to the "Nord-Ost" cases, has given an interview to the Information Agency "For Human Rights".

Evgheny Arsentyevich, you have made a huge contribution to the failure of the legal processes initiated by the Federal Service for Control over the Turnover of Drugs (FSKN) against doctors and veterinarians. Are you not afraid of the revenge?

Evgheny Chernousov: Yes, indeed, there have been saved from imprisonment hundreds of medical workers, against whom there have been brought the fabricated charges, or have been made attempts to charge these professionals with having committed the crimes relating to the spreading of psychotropics and other strong substances. Resulting from this campaign, the representatives of the most humane professions, who practically on a daily basis facilitate the suffering of both people and animals, have been represented as drug dealers.

Thus, we have every reason to state the failure of the campaign, which is almost similar to that initiated in the Stalin times and known under the name of the "case of the saboteurs in white doctor's smocks". It is a shame! It is quite clear that the present-day Federal Service for Control over the Turnover of Drugs with its unreasonably increased number of staff, prefers to deal with the doctors rather than to crack down on the genuine drug dealers for the purpose of improvement of their statistics.

In case if the prosecution had taken the upper hand, there would have been created the relevant trial precedent, and after that all the similar charges brought against the doctors and the veterinarians would have automatically led to the guilty verdict and, subsequently, to the conviction of these people.

And, unfortunately, under such circumstances, I do not exclude the possibility of the provocation against me, although I do not know in what particular form it will be realized.

Evgheny Arsentyevich, what will be your comments regarding the general situation with the anaesthetics in the country?

Evgheny Chernousov: Today's Russia is actually the only country, where there have been installed various barriers extremely limiting the use of such a medicine as ketamin. After there have been imposed the numerous restrictions, this medicine is allowed for the purpose of treatment in the clinics, while the private veterinarians have no right to use it in their work. Actually, ketamin is a depressant, and precisely for this reason it cannot offer one any kaif. Therefore, the relevant statistics of abusing this medicine as a psychotropic are characterized by the insignificantly small figures. After all, we do not put on trial the owners of the shops,

where they sell the household chemical goods such as, for instance, BF glue, which is inhaled by the teenagers!

All these idiotic measures have only resulted in the fact that people, who are not wealthy enough, cannot afford performing an operation on their pets, if it is really needed. Actually, it is a kind of sadism resulting from the departmental folly and incompetence! The preparation of the plenary session of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation is currently under way. I strongly hope that the Supreme Court will not agree that the veterinarians are the sellers of psychotropic and other strong substances.

Moreover, now the FSKN is lobbying the cancellation of the existing minimum sizes of dozes, which, if detected, lead to the criminal responsibility. It is done purposely, since this will rapidly increase the number of people brought to court on the charges of using the drugs. This is a totally wrong attitude! The FSKN prefers not to mention that their true goal is the fighting of the drug sellers, while for the purpose of sale the quantity of the detected substance is of no no significance. It is sufficient to prove that the detected substance is a narcotic.

Again, we deal with an attempt to cover up the lack of true professionalism. The FSKN employees are not capable to prove the facts of sales of drugs and, therefore, they improve the relevant statistics by way of prosecution of the drug addicts instead of prosecution of the drug dealers. Thousands of young people will go to prison, while the true drug dealers will enjoy freedom, protecting themselves against the prosecution on the part of the FSKN by being simultaneously their intelligencers and - if necessary – their stool-pigeons, who will readily “give up” their clients to the FSKN officers, if asked to do so.

Information Agency “For Human Rights”

He is authorized to protect human rights

The authors of the appeal in defense of Mikhail Khodorkovsky hope that the Ombudsman will tell the truth to the President of the Russian Federation.

... Vladimir Lukin, the Human Rights Ombudsman of the President of the Russian Federation, has promised to find out, if the rights of the convicts Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev have been violated.

In this way, the Ombudsman has reacted to the appeal to him of the representatives of the Russian public. It should be specially noted that this statement was made by Mr. Lukin in Strasbourg prior to his meeting with the top management of the Council of Europe. However, even those, who have signed the appeal, do not believe much in the successful outcome of this action for the above-mentioned prisoners.

Let us remind that the appeal by the group of the well known human rights advocates, cultural workers, politicians and lawyers was sent to the Human Rights Ombudsman of the President of the Russian Federation as early as on Monday.

Besides the defence lawyers of Platon Lebedev and Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the letter was also signed by such well known people as the Chairman of the Moscow Helsinki Group Ludmila Alexeyeva, the Executive Director of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” Lev Ponomaryev, Deputy Head of the “Yabloko” Party Leadership Serghei Mitrokhin, the member of the Political Council of the SPS Party Ivan Starikov, the People’s Artist of the USSR Liya Akhejakova and many other public figures. Those who signed this appeal drew the Ombudsman’s attention to the fact of violation of Article 73 of the Criminal Executive Code of the Russian Federation (UIK of the RF) resulting in sending the above mentioned convicts to the remote prisons.

“We call upon you to urgently interfere with the situation and to take all the necessary measures to stop the current violation of law in respect of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev, so that they are given a possibility for serving their respective sentences in Moscow

or in the subject (*territorial administrative unit*) of the Russian Federation, which is nearest to Moscow”, it is stated in the letter. “The muscovite Platon Lebedev, despite his poor state of health and the relevant medical contra-indications, has been sent to the prison No. 98/3 located inside the polar circle, in the village of Kharp of the Yamalo-Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug, while the muscovite Mikhail Khodorkovsky has been sent to the prison YAG 14/10 located near the town of Krasnokamensk of the Chita Oblast”.

Article 73 of the Criminal Executive Code of the RF says that the convicts should serve their sentences in the “penitentiary institutions located within the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, in which they lived or were convicted”, with the only exceptions being their state of health, the need to ensure their safety, as well as their personal consent. It is quite obvious that the prison located inside the polar circle is certainly contra-indicated for the state of health of Platon Lebedev.

And it is also clear that both former chiefs of the «NK «Yukos» company could hardly have asked of their own will to send them to their present destinations, although it is true that on his arrival in the prison Mikhail Khodorkovsky thanked the authorities for an opportunity to visit “the land of Decembrists and political prisoners”.

It is interesting to note that Vladimir Lukin has rather competently chosen a place and time for his reaction to the petition, the obvious reason for such a perfect timing being his diplomatic experience: in the early 1990s Vladimir Lukin served as the Russian ambassador in the USA. The letter was sent as early as on Monday, while the Ombudsman’s reaction to this letter followed only two days later, but right in Strasbourg. It should be noted that his statement was formulated very correctly. “If the experts find out that the valid rights of the relevant persons have been violated through assignment to them for the purpose of serving their sentences of the penitentiary institutions, where they are held at the moment, I will send the appropriate inquiry to the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation, as well as to the other bodies”, said Vladimir Lukin. “If the commission arrives at the conclusion that the law in respect of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev has not been violated, then there will be no grounds for interference with this issue”...

*The author: Vladlen Maximov,
Source: NOVIYE IZVESTIYA*

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