

# INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

*All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”*  
Executive Director Lev Ponomarev

Office 21, Bldg 1, House 7, M. Kislovsky Pereulok, Moscow, 125009  
Tel: (095)291-62-33, Tel/Fax: (095)291-70-11, e-mail: [info@zaprava.ru](mailto:info@zaprava.ru); <http://zaprava.ru/>

## CHRONICLE OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN PRESENT DAY RUSSIA *News, statements, appeals, analysis, commentaries*

Issue No. 5 (51)

2 February 2005

### Contents:

The human rights picket “FSB - Hands Off the Civil Society!” has taken place! .....	2
The human rights appeals have been transmitted to destination .....	3
Address of lawyer Yelena Liptser in defence of Mikhail Trepashkin.....	7
The Non-legal Bolshevik Party .....	7
The children of the vault.....	8
Credit test for the oligarch.....	8
Cold spell in Moscow .....	10
The stumbling block.....	12
Gusinsky is interrogated again .....	12
Orel: the authorities exert pressure on the candidate deputy nominated from a nongovernmental organisation .....	13
Unlawful discontinuation of the criminal case on the fact of assault and battery by OMON troopers of head of the Association “People’s Land Use” V.I. Grigoriev is found by the Tverskoi District Court of the city of Moscow to be unjustified. Hurray! .....	14
The case of “Ivanovo Uzbeks” .....	14
OMON troopers from KhMAO have been announced in federal search .....	15

## **URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!**

### **The human rights picket “FSB - Hands Off the Civil Society!” has taken place!**

The main exit from the metro station “Lubianka” was blocked by the forces of the police and OMON, the picketers failed to pass to the FSB building, then they went to another exit and near the Mayakovsky Museum they managed to unfold their slogans and transparencies for 10-15 minutes. After the picket organisers were arrested the posters were taken over by other participants of the picket and they stood there for precisely one hour as stated in the notification.

The prefecture of the Central Area of Moscow refused twice the organisers of the picket to give a permission for holding the picket on the pavement near the entrance to the FSB building. Initially the picket was requested with the number of 50 participants, and then its participation was reduced to 30 picketers, however, in both cases they were denied without any convincing grounds. Proceeding from the belief that this decision of the prefecture was unlawful and could not have any legal consequences, the organisers of the picket decided to hold it in the order of realization of their constitutional right to freedom of assembly.

According to the information of Executive Director of the Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” Lev Ponomarev given over the mobile phone, at present there are arrested and brought to the Police Station “Meshchanskoye” human rights activists Lev Ponomarev, Valentin Gefter, Mikhail Shneider, Yuri Samodurov, journalist Alexander Mnatsakanian, representatives of the youth human rights movement “The Left Turn” Ivan Kolesnik and Andrei Tatarinov, a member of staff of the “Memorial” Human Rights Centre Andrei Mironov. A lawyer went to the Meshchanskoye Police Station. The picket participants who remained on site chant “Shame on FSB!” Totally, about 300 persons took part on their own in the picket.

Let us remind the stated goals of the picket:

a) to draw attention of the federal powers, first of all, of the RF Federal Security Service leadership as well as of the press and society to inadmissibility of provocations against NGOs, pressure on the civil society, organisation of the campaigns of slander and insinuations with respect of the human rights organisations;

b) to draw attention of the federal powers, first of all, of the RF Federal Security Service leadership as well as of the press and society to inadmissibility of unfounded attacks and insinuations with respect of the Moscow Helsinki Group, and other human rights associations.

*IA “For Human Rights”*

***IA “For Human Rights” offers for your attention a commentary of Executive Director of the Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” Lev Alexandrovich Ponomarev in connection with some commentaries of the mass media on account of the events that took place on the night of 1 February 2006 on the Lubianskaya Square of Moscow.***

*It is necessary to understand exactly what happened on 1 February near the FSB building.*

“It is quite natural that in the press coverage of the scandalous events of dispersal of the human rights picket “FSB - Hands off the Civil Society!” there appeared many inaccuracies and picturesque details. It is another thing that the “neighbourhood” of the respective agency produced a certain influence on the vector of the myths and legends related to the picket. As one of the organisers of the picket, I think it of fundamental importance to introduce clarity into a number of issues.

First, the human rights picket was not UNsanctioned. The law establishes clearly and unambiguously the informative nature of the picket notice. In both answers from the prefecture there are two different unreasoned pretexts for denial. That is why the picket participants took absolutely lawfully the place they requested and the OMON unit that blocked the exit for citizens

from the underground pedestrian crossing obstructed the realization of constitutional rights and freedoms.



The participants of the picket “FSB - Hands off the Civil Society!” only realized without preliminary permission their rights they have pursuant to the law.

Incidentally, the little square at the Solovetsky Stone “offered” by the authorities was all encircled by barriers by the time of holding the picket.

Second, there were no provocations and fighting organised by the picket participants or mythical NatsBols [National Bolsheviks]!

The picket participants approached the place where they held the action in an organised way. The young people from the human rights movement “The Left Turn” do not belong to the NBP and never belonged to it. No scuffles were arranged by the young people at the picket, there were no clashes with the OMON.

Third, the picket was not disrupted – it lasted exactly until the end of the stated time – to 18:00 (the participants counted aloud the remaining seconds).

There were three seizures of participants by the OMON. They lasted to somewhere around 17:40. However, also after these seizures, the remaining several tens of the participants achieved from the police through their perseverance and steadfastness a possibility to bring their action to completion.

Victor Ivanovich Anpilov (“*Trudovaya Rossiya*” [Working Russia]) approached the picket participants, he stressed that he came to protest against the FSB. There was no moral support for OMON noticed from Anpilov and the more so there was no organisation of chanting in support of the OMON – all “grannies” who gathered there supported the picket and shamed the police”.

*L.A. Ponomarev,  
Movement “For Human Rights”  
2 February 2006*

### **The human rights appeals have been transmitted to destination**

*“To the European Commission*

The political situation in Russia over the last years is formed in such a way that the main decisions are taken by the powers not in compliance with the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation but in accordance with political predilections.

The total ignoring of the Correctional Code of the Russian Federation is demonstrative. The Code stipulates that convicts should serve their term of punishment in the regions of their permanent residence or in the nearest regions of Russia.

Despite this requirement of the law, the persons charged on political reasons are sent to serve their term of punishment to remote regions of Russia, which makes it extremely difficult for their relatives to come to see them. To such treatment were subjected scientist Sutyagin (Archangelsk Oblast), businessmen Khodorkovsky (Chita Oblast) and Lebedev (Yamalo-Nenetsk Okrug), lawyer Trepashkin (Sverdlovsk Oblast). All of them were sent to remote areas of Russia.

Because there are no effective instruments in Russia for protection of human rights, we request you to address the political leaders of Russia with a demand to change the vicious practice and return the convicts to the regions of their permanent residence in compliance with Article 73 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation”.

This Appeal of human rights organisations was handed over personally to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Karel de Guht at the residence of the Belgium Ambassador in Moscow.

Later a meeting of the leaders of leading Russian human rights organisations was held in the residence of the Austrian ambassador with his participation where also the ambassador of Finland (this country will be the next one in chair at the OSCE) and the head of the European Commission in Moscow took part. The meeting was conducted within the framework of preparation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of Russia-EC consultations on human rights to be held in Vienna.

The human rights appeal was handed over at this meeting to the Austrian ambassador.

*Sobinform*

### **Initiative group “Common Action”**

**Russia, 125009, Moscow, Maly Kislovskii pereulok 7, building 1, office 21**

**Tel: +7 495 203 5010, Tel/Fax: +7 495 202 2224,**

**Email: [zpch@zaprava.ru](mailto:zpch@zaprava.ru); Website: [www.zaprava.ru](http://www.zaprava.ru)**

**To: President of the Parliamentary Assembly**

**Dear Mr. René van der LINDEN,**

During 2005, Russian human rights organisations cooperated with the PACE in connection with persecution of citizens for political motives by the security services. Mr. Pourgourides did great work during the last year on preparation of a special report on this subject. We know that in the first half of this year Mr. Pourgourides shall present a respective report at the PACE session.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that over the latest period the number of people persecuted for political reasons has grown substantially and the situation with one of the defendants in a fabricated case (Mikhail Trepashkin) causes a great concern because he has been persecuted toughly by the FSB in connection with the fact that he is a former FSB officer who chose the path of exposure of criminal actions of his former organisation.

We request your assistance in attachment of materials in the case of Mikhail Trepashkin to Mr. Pourgourides' report. In this event we are ready to provide necessary materials in English to Mr. Pourgourides, which would facilitate their prompt incorporation in the draft report.

We believe that some expansion of the report would facilitate a fuller coverage of the subject in question. Should you agree to that, we are ready to send the respective materials to Mr. Pourgourides.

We are requesting to pay priority attention to the situation formed currently around lawyer Mikhail Trepashkin who is serving his term of punishment at the settlement colony of the city of Nizhniy Tagil Sverdlovsk Oblast (622013, Russia, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Nizhniy Tagil, Institution FGU IK-13).

Russian human rights organisations addressed the Amnesty International a number of times with a request to recognize M. Trepashkin as a political prisoner.

At present, the Administration of the Institution IZ-13 of the city of Nizhniy Tagil commits various provocations with respect of Mikhail Trepashkin with the aim of punishing him and placing in a penal isolator cell (ShIZO). He was placed in ShIZO for three days on 17 January 2006 for alleged raising his voice at the physician.

Attention is drawn to the fact that Trepashkin is really seriously ill and there is a physician's opinion of 20 October 2005 of the need to put him in hospital for treatment of bronchial asthma, which is in acute condition. Instead of necessary treatment, which he requested from the physician, he was placed in a terrible freeze (about 35 degrees) in a badly heated room of ShIZO.

On 30 January a written explanation was taken from Mikhail Trepashkin in connection with the fact that he, allegedly, on 26 January 2006 used foul language against the procuracy when the procurator visited him to familiarize him with the answers to Trepashkin's complaints filed with the procuracy (the meeting with the procurator was held *tête-à-tête*, without witnesses).

Mikhail Trepashkin anticipates that following these explanations he will be placed in the ShIZO cell for a long time.

That is why we are requesting you to find an opportunity to intervene in this situation because I believe that there is a real threat to health and life of Mikhail Trepashkin.

With respect,

*L.M. Alexeeva, Head of Moscow Helsinki Group;*  
*A.V. Babushkin, Non-governmental Charity Committee "For Human Rights";*  
*E. I. Chyerny, Coalition "Ecology and Human Rights";*  
*S.A. Gannushkina, Non-governmental Charity Committee "Civil Assistance";*  
*O.V. Oyvin, Fund "Glasnost";*  
*L.I. Grafova, International Movement "Forum of migrants' organisations";*  
*L.A. Ponomarev, the All-Russia Movement "For Human Rights";*  
*U.A. Ryibakov, Human Rights Activist;*  
*Y.V. Samodurov, Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre;*  
*S.E. Sorokin, Movement against Violence;*  
*A.V. Yablokov, Social Ecological Union;*  
*G.P. Yakunin, Committee for the Defence of Freedom of Conscience*

### **Picket in defence of Stanislav Dmitriyevsky to be held on 3 February**

*Friday, 3 February, on the Pushkin Square of Moscow (Novopushkinsky public garden) from 11:00 to 13:00 a picket will be held in defence of Stanislav Dmitriyevsky. The organisers are a group of participants of the movement against war in Chechnya.*

The action is conducted with the aim of expression of the protest against persecution of a human rights activist, editor of the newspaper "Pravo-Zashchita" [human rights advocacy], Stanislav Dmitriyevsky, who is on trial now in Nizhniy Novgorod under Art. 282 (inciting inter-ethnic hatred or enmity) for publication of addresses of Maskhadov to the European Parliament and of Zakaev to the Russian society. The last statement of the defendant and delivery of the verdict is set to take place on 3 February.

**We offer herewith the text of the human rights organisation appeal concerning the case of S.M. Dmitriyevsky of 11.11.2005:**

### **INITIATIVE GROUP «COMMON ACTION»**

«Common Action» contacts: Tel.: (495) 923-4401, Fax: (495) 917-26-53; <http://zaprava.ru/>

*To: Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation*  
*V.P. Lukin*  
*Chairperson of the Council for Promotion of Development of the Civil Society*  
*Institutes and Human Rights*  
*E.A. Pamfilova*

**Re: the political trial of Stanislav Dmitriyevsky**

*Open Address of the Initiative Group "Common Action"*

***Dear Vladimir Petrovich!***

***Dear Ella Alexandrovna!***

The Sovetsky District Court of Nizhniy Novgorod starts hearing of the criminal case with charges against Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper "*Pravo-Zashchita*", Executive Director of the Society of Russian-Chechen Friendship Stanislav Mikhailovich Dmitriyevsky. He is charged under Art. 282 para. 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Actions aimed at the incitement of hatred or enmity, as well as abasement of dignity of a person or a group of persons on the basis of sex, race, nationality, language, origin, attitude to religion, as well as affiliation to any social group"). The criminal case was initiated in January 2005 on the fact of publication in the newspaper "*Pravo-Zashchita*" of addresses of Aslan Maskhadov and Akhmed Zakaev calling to a peaceful settlement of the Russian-Chechen conflict.

It is already the second attempt for the last two years to apply with respect of human rights advocates the anti-racist rules of the criminal law, to use them as an instrument of political censorship. The use of Art. 282 of the Criminal Code served as a means of political repressions against the Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre "Peace, Progress, Human Rights" when in March 2005 the court found the organisers of exhibition "Beware, Religion!" to be guilty of inciting hatred or enmity on the elements of nationality and religion.

We see that a judicial practice is being constructed on charges of xenophobia. Not only the letter but the very spirit of laws, in idea, aimed at protection of the society against aggressive xenophobia turn into their opposite and active participants of the movement against the war in Chechnya turn out to be "inciters of national hatred". Such trials of human rights advocates provide the radical supporters of the existing regime with arguments for accusation of any consistent opposition with extremism and fascism.

The verdict in the case of Sakharov Centre introduced practically the church censorship.

The trial of head of the Society of Russian-Chechen Friendship Stanislav Dmitriyevsky is not only a demonstrative suppression of a dissident but also a way of banning the outspoken expressions of protest against the war in Chechnya and agitation for a peaceful way of settlement of the multi-year conflict, which has already taken – according to the most modest estimates – the toll of from 150 to 200 thousand lives.

We think that the duty of a journalist is to provide for the nation an access to all socially important information, especially, when it concerns the position of the armed conflict participants, who call to peace negotiations.

It has been established by numerous judgments of the European Court of Human Rights that journalist are entitled to give socially important information even if it affects the reputation of individuals and organisations, diverges with the sympathies of public opinion and views of the author of the publication. Persecution for such publications is estimated as a violation of Art. 10 (freedom of expression) of the European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The European Court of Human Rights draws a distinct line between "calls to perpetration of crime" and execution by the journalist of his professional duties in dissemination of information.

We are not aware of any statement of Maskhadov and Zakaev addressed to the Russian or international audience, which would contain elements of national or religious hatred.

We express our solidarity with the persecuted human rights advocate and draw the attention of Russian and international public to new facts of reprisals against dissidents in Russia.

We request your assistance in discontinuation of the case of S.M. Dmitriyevsky, the more so that the procuracy still has a possibility to give up the support of the charges and close, therewith, this disgraceful for our justice page.

*L.M. Alexeeva, Chairperson of Moscow Helsinki Group;  
A.V. Babushkin, Non-governmental Committee "For Human Rights";  
Yu.V. Brovchenko, O.V. Oyvin, Fund "Glasnost";*

*S.A. Gannushkina, Committee "Civil Assistance";  
L.I. Grafova, International Movement "Forum of migrants' organisations";  
S.A. Kovalev, Andrei Sakharov Fund;  
O.P. Orlov, T.I. Kasatkina, Human Rights Centre "Memorial";  
L.A. Ponomarev, All-Russia Movement "For Human Rights";  
Y.V. Samodurov, Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre;  
Sergey Sorokin, Movement against Violence;  
E. I. Chyerny, Coalition "Ecology and Human Rights";  
G.P. Yakunin, Committee for the Defence of Freedom of Conscience*

*11 November 2005*

**Address of lawyer Yelena Liptser in defence of Mikhail Trepashkin**

*To: Amnesty International*

Dear Sirs,

We request your immediate intervention in the situation, which is formed currently around lawyer Mikhail Trepashkin, who is serving his term of punishment at the settlement colony of the city of Nizhniy Tagil Sverdlovsk Oblast (622013, Sverdlovsk Oblast, N. Tagil, FGU IK-13).

Russian human rights organisations addressed the Amnesty International a number of times with a request to recognize M. Trepashkin as a political prisoner.

At present, the Administration of the Institution IZ-13 of the city of Nizhniy Tagil commits various provocations with respect of Mikhail Trepashkin with the aim of punishing him and placing in a penal isolator cell (ShIZO). He was placed in ShIZO for three days on 17 January 2006 for alleged raising his voice at the physician. Attention is drawn to the fact that Trepashkin is really seriously ill and there is a physician's opinion of 20 October 2005 of the need of putting him in hospital for treatment of bronchial asthma, which is in acute condition. Instead of necessary treatment, which he requested from the physician, he was placed in a terrible freeze (about 35 degrees) in a badly heated room of ShIZO.

Today a written explanation was taken from Mikhail Trepashkin in connection with the fact that he, allegedly, on 26 January 2006 used foul language against the procuracy when the procurator visited him to familiarize him with the answers to Trepashkin's complaints filed with the procuracy (the meeting with the procurator was held *tête-à-tête*, without witnesses).

M. Trepashkin anticipates that following these explanations he will be placed in the ShIZO cell for a long time.

Please intervene in this situation because I believe that there is a real threat to health and life of M. Trepashkin.

*Lawyer Yelena Liptser*

**The Non-legal Bolshevik Party**

*The National-Bolsheviks were the first out of all political parties to receive a refusal of the Ministry of Justice to register them under the new requirements of law.*

The NatsBols did a tremendous work to obtain the coveted status, having brought the strength of their organisation during several months to 55,569 members in 54 regions. In mid-December, the NBP leader, Eduard Limonov, came personally to the Ministry of Justice to submit the documents for registration. <...>

In any case, the government body decision did not become a surprise for the party members. "All the same we will participate in the elections to the State Duma, we have a spare option, which we will not tell now. We consider on gaining about 8-9% of the votes", said Eduard Limonov to the "Gazeta". The National Bolsheviks have a poor choice: it is either to try and build in their members into the lists of the parties that got their registration or to use the elections for advertising purposes using the example of their tactical allies in the implacable opposition. We will remind that last autumn ex-head of NK "YUKOS" Mikhail Khodorkovsky called on the voters during the by-elections to the State Duma in the Universitetsky Electoral District of Moscow not to pay attention to the prohibition of the Election Committee and to vote for him by writing in the name of the disgraced businessman in the ballot paper.

*Author: Aidar Buribaev,  
Source: GAZETA*

### **The children of the vault**

*(...) In the opinion of former National Bolsheviks from the Movement "NBP without Limonov" who know not by hearsay how the questionnaire forms were collected for registration of the party, the party has only one chance not to sink into political oblivion:*

"For those NatsBols who do not wish to be expendable material in the hands of their own "leaders" and at the same time of such of their patrons from abroad like Berezovsky and Nevzlin, it is high time to think of change of the leadership of their organisation. Look, there in the RKSM (b) the leadership was changed completely three times and it is O'K, the organisation remains as before. And with Limonov, as it was rightfully noted, one would not go further that the jail, not to say anything about the registration!", reads the letter of the Movement leaders, Andrei Ignatiev and Anton Mikhailyuk, with an expressive title "Is it not time to change the leadership, NatsBols?"

*Pravda.ru*

### **Credit test for the oligarch**

*Khodorkovsky will be put on the needle*

*The colony Administration makes the disgraced oligarch take an exam on sewing skills.*

*Khodorkovsky faces an exam on sewing skills and appealing the administrative punishments*

Mikhail Khodorkovsky left the penal isolator cell where he spent five days. With the beginning of the week the ex-head of YUKOS also returned to the sewing workshop where he will have to sit for an exam in the nearest days. Later, the correctional institution Administration intends to use Khodorkovsky as a specialist of the sewing workshop, however, the lawyers of the convict plan to seek a possibility for their defendant to do research and methodology work.

As Chita lawyer of Khodorkovsky Natalia Terekhova told the journalists, on the night of 29 January her defendant finally left the ShIZO, a solitary confinement cell with minimum conveniences, and returned to other convicts. According to the lawyer, Khodorkovsky is in normal mood and calmly estimates the situation. We will remind that the former oligarch was placed into the penal isolator for two administrative penalties.

The first one was incurred by Khodorkovsky for "leaving the work place", the second one for reading the Ministry of Justice orders, which, however paradoxical it is, were passed over to him by the colony censor directly before the search. It is also interesting to note that during the time while Khodorkovsky was held in ShIZO, the lawyer was not admitted to him.

The colony representatives explained their decision by the fact that the chief of the correctional institution was not in place and without his authorization they could not admit anyone to the convict.

Khodorkovsky also returned to the correctional work – he sews mittens. Moreover, on Wednesday he has to take an exam for the sewing workshop foreman in front of a special committee. After passing the qualification test, Khodorkovsky is planned to be used further in sewing production. However, the convict himself does not agree to it. He intends to apply through his lawyer to the administration of the colony with a request to give him a possibility to engage in research or methodology activity, at least by work at the library. “If this request for a free choice of the kind of activity is not satisfied by the administration, then this decision will become the subject matter of an appeal at the court”, stated Natalia Terekhova. “Until this issue is resolved either through court procedure or in another way, Khodorkovsky will take part in the sewing production so as to avoid getting new penalties for refusal to work”.

At present the lawyers try to appeal already imputed to their defendant administrative offences. The hearing on these matters will take place on the same day with the exam in the sewing workshop – on 1 February. It is very important for Khodorkovsky’s position because should the convict be found as a malicious offender and placed in the YePKT (a single cell-type room), it may serve as a ground for denial of the request for parole or denial of his meetings with the relatives. One of them was already postponed from 30 January to an indefinite date in connection with repairs in the colony room where the convicts meet with their kin people.

But all troubles of the Krasnokamensk colony may remain behind for Khodorkovsky. The Moscow lawyers of the ex-head of YUKOS also do not sit idle. On 9 February, the Zamoskvoretsky Court of the capital will hold a preliminary hearing of the appeal against deportation to the Chita colony. “Under the law, a convict should serve his term of punishment at the place of rendering of the sentence or at the place of his residence registration”, explained to “*NI*” Khodorkovsky’s lawyer Yuri Schmidt. “And only in the case when there are no places in these colonies, a convict may be transported to the neighbouring regions. These rules were not complied with in respect of Khodorkovsky”. That is why the lawyers intend to seek complete recovery of the rights of their defendant and his transfer to another colony where he will not be in the informational vacuum.

*Why is Khodorkovsky made to work in the sewing workshop and not given a possibility to do research?*

**Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, LDPR leader:**

– From the point of view of the colony rules, everything is lawful. The area of activities of the convicts remains at the discretion of the correctional institution administration. A mass of educated people are held in our prisons and all of them do manual work. I do not see any reason for Khodorkovsky to be an exception. Especially, if he is estimated as an unresigned political convict. Now when Khodorkovsky cools down, recognizes the position of the [Kremlin] powers, he will have everything: both lengthy meetings with his relatives and the work at the library and the parole.

**Valeriya Novodvorskaya, human rights advocate:**

– In my view, the sewing skill exam is another stage on the road of humiliation, destruction of Khodorkovsky’s personality. Apparently, they are trying in the colony simply to break him, putting it in the jail language, to make him lie near the *parasha* [toilet].

The most diverse methods are used for that, considering that our country has a great experience with the prisoner camps. In my view, to get human treatment for convict Khodorkovsky he should resort to extreme measures – to announce a hunger strike and demand observation of his lawful rights.

**Vladimir Ryzhkov, The State Duma deputy:**

– I would pay attention to the fact with what patience Mikhail Khodorkovsky bears all mishaps that befell him. The fact that he is going to pass an exam on sewing skills and will work at the machine until the colony administration allows him to change the area of his activity only

underlines the merits of his personality. Because Khodorkovsky knew what he faced when he decided to stay in Russia. He refused consciously to escape abroad. As for the prohibition to do scientific research, this, in my view, is arbitrariness, of course. Even in czarist Russia political prisoners had a wide access to books, they could give sufficient time to reading, writing scientific works.

When Lenin was in Shushenskoye, he subscribed to newspapers and magazines from St. Petersburg on account of the government, studied them thoroughly and even compiled a good library.

*Author: Darya Okuneva,  
Source: NOVIYE IZVESTIA*

### **Cold spell in Moscow Russian security services emulate their boss and remind more and more the KGB**

The scandal had all the attributes of a spy story of the Cold War period – the British spies playing the role of villains and the vigilant Russian [counter-intelligence] services in the role of heroes. At the end of last autumn, officers of the FSB, a successor of the notorious KGB, video filmed in secret how one British diplomat carried away home a tremendous cobblestone from a Moscow park. With permission of the Kremlin, the video recording was shown on the TV. It became clear from the interview with the FSB agents that the false cobblestone concealed an electronic device used for communications with secret agents. “Bolder 007” – was the name a British newspaper gave it. In principle, the sensation could end in an exchange of loud accusations and, possible, deportation of one-two diplomats.

However, the story causes much greater concern. It is because the FSB tried to link up the spies to respected nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) of the country, such as the Moscow Helsinki Group and the Committee against Torture. Both of these drew their financing directly from Marc Doe, the same diplomat that had been video filmed by the FSB. His main duty was to manage the NGO fund of the British Foreign Office (the British government made a statement, which said that its work with the NGOs was focused only at “support of the civil society in Russia”.) Only a few days prior to this President of Russia Vladimir Putin signed the law requiring re-registration of all Russian NGOs and stipulating a more close control of their activity by the government (although the provision prohibiting them to draw their financing from abroad was removed under the pressure from the European Union and the USA).

It is more likely than not that it was not accidental that these events coincided in time. And it was for the first time after the demise of the Soviet Union that the FSB was openly used to achieve the political goals of the Kremlin. The so-called “black propaganda” was usual practice of the KGB when it was necessary to smear the dissidents but until present time the FSB avoided using such tactics. However, during the last months its actions call to memory more and more the years of the Cold War. Old films glorifying the KGB enjoy popularity on the Russian state-owned television and on the bus stops in Moscow there stand out the posters calling on the citizens to inform on any suspicious activity through the “hot-line” phone or to the address [fsb@fsb.ru](mailto:fsb@fsb.ru). In December, the Service Director Nikolai Patrushev stated that “foreign intelligence services stir up their activity” in Russia and promised that “counteraction to foreign espionage will remain one of the priorities for us”.

The intelligence goes in step with time and concentrates more and more on the economy. Patrushev also stated that unnamed “commercial entities” took steps to establish their control over the plants and companies that are of “strategic importance for defence and security of Russia” and to acquire possession of their assets. In December, the FSB protected against corporate aggressors the OMZ plant that produces and repairs the T-80 tanks. In addition, the secret services treat with suspicion the foreigners who work in the strategically important oil

sector and recently suggested to the oil companies that they should replace foreign top managers by Russian citizens because the law on state secrets prohibits foreigners to study high resolution maps. As a result of this decision, TNK-BP had to replace directors of some of its subsidiaries, and Salym Petroleum Development that belongs to Royal Dutch/Shell and Sibir Energy had to transfer the geological surveys related to state secrets on contract to the companies with Russian capital.

At the same time there appeared evidence of the fact that the FSB started to do dirty work for the most repressive regimes in the post-Soviet space. Close to the presidential elections in Kazakhstan that were held in December, the FSB officers visited the Moscow Internet Provider of the Kazakh opposition “Navigator” and achieved closing down of the website. And after shooting of the anti-government demonstration in Uzbek Andizhan that happened last May the FSB sent to Tashkent its investigators to help detain the suspects. Also accusations are voiced against the Service of the use of violence tactics in our own country. The relatives of Ruslan Nakhushev, a former KGB officer and head of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria), say that he disappeared on 4 November after leaving the FSB office where he was summoned for interrogation after the failed Moslem uprising in the city. Since that time he was not seen any more. “For those of us who had been here before, all this seems to be oppressively familiar”, said a Western diplomat who wanted to be unnamed because he still occupies the office of ambassador. “Most people remained the same, they use the same methods – old habits are difficult to get rooted out”.

The main force standing behind the resuscitation of the FSB is Putin himself. He was a KGB lieutenant-colonel, served with this Committee for 15 years including that in Dresden (GDR) from 1985 to 1990. After accession to power he began to advertise the FSB, increased the financing of secret services and surrounded himself with former KGB men who are also called the “*siloviki*”. At the grand reception in December, Putin stated to the FSB officers: “there is no such a notion as a former KGB man”.

Analysts say that since recent time the FSB focuses its attention in the same direction as Putin. During the last two years, democratic revolutions brought down the regimes that were friendly to Moscow in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. It happened with the aid of NGOs that spoke in support of civil society and many of them received their funding from abroad at that. Putin wants to be sure that Russian organisations will not become the focal points of a similar opposition movement. For former dissidents like Liudmila Alexeeva who heads the Moscow Helsinki Group the tactics of discrediting the critics by their exposition as agents of a foreign state looks more than familiar. “I have a *deja-vu*”, says the human rights advocate who faced the KGB campaign in 70s and 80s. “Their goal is to prepare the society to destruction of the human rights organisations”.

The problem is that the civil society elements, which could oppose further strengthening of the secret services, are gradually destroyed, say human rights activists. Putin established the control of the Kremlin over a significant part of the mass media, loyal to him deputies dominate in the State Duma, and the businessmen who thought of supporting the political opposition were demonstrated visually that it was not worth while doing it, on the example of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who serves his 8-year term now in a Siberian colony. “We, the NGOs, are the last bulwark of independent thought in our country”, says Alexeeva. “Having subjugated all other institutes of democracy, the state has now tackled us”. And this is much more dangerous for the future of Russia than any actions of foreign spies.

*"Newsweek", USA  
Inosmi.ru  
Owen Matthews and  
Anna Nemtsova*

### **The stumbling block**

*A well-known journalist, politician and critic of the powers, Victor Shenderovich, in his programme "Plavleny Syrok [Cheese Spread]" reacted in the following way to the activity of the FSB around the stones and PR-campaign unleashed against the NGOs.*

The second Lubianka federal television channel made public an operational video film where it is seen clearly how a group of unknown lured dogs raise in turn their hind leg at the special stone lying not far from the British Embassy. Commenting this video film the weekly "Diversion" expresses its admiration at the fact that President of Russia in advance, still a month ago, signed the Decree banning nongovernmental dog-breeding clubs...

And now the news from the invisible front. You have guessed what I am talking about. Well, yes, of course: it is about it, the cache stone, on which some man called an Englishman pissed and then another man called another Englishman carried it away from the pissed bush in the unknown direction.

Why was this second Englishman not caught red-handed although both he and the cache stone were watched and all this time were video filmed – I have no idea, the Che-Ka [KGB] men did not explain it.

And why this TASS fell on us, wet to state in the best time on the main state-owned channel, the country understood at once, it must be not for the first time.

Well, it goes without saying! We should at last realize how wisely Vladimir Vladimirovich did having taken in control the funding of all and sundry human rights advocates!

Because the young mineralogist, the one who in the operational film of the FSB picked up the stone with the cache from the ground and left, for some reason not being apprehended red-handed, - he, it appears, also signed the documents to finance the Helsinki group! That is for the sake of what this film is!

Properly speaking, I have never doubted that Liudmila Mikhailovna Alexeeva is a British spy, simply I, in contrast to the Che-Ka men, was not in a hurry to jump out in public with a bare ass but accumulated evidence, and watched Alexeeva on my own, as a true patriot, at the meetings of the "Committee-2008".

So it is, she is a spy, I am dead sure of that! It is a pity there is no operational film of her notebook, but I saw with my own eyes: during all the meetings, while hearing the presentations and speeches, she draws all the time some squares there! It is nothing but sketches of the caches.

In general, congratulations on the success to you, the soldiers of the invisible front, and to you congratulations on the success, Arkasha Mamontov, a former journalist, now an outstanding officer of the FSB PR-service.

Only, mind! Do not stop at the achievement! There are still many undisgraced human rights organisations in Russia, independent newspapers are still published somewhere and as for the cobblestones, there are heaps of them at the road side, thank God, there will be enough of them for all. Saw, Shura, saw!

Ahem... The cache stone, English spies, rotten intellectuals who sold themselves out to foreign intelligence. I have such a feeling that we saw such a film already... I would rather say: for decades running we watched only this film. Then we were let out for a brief space of time from the dusty cinema house, given a chance to catch a breath of fresh air... And now it seems the next performance is announced... Have you got a spare ticket, gentlemen? To some other cinema room, where they demonstrate something of a different kind ... which would not make me sick already?

*Source: "Cheese Spread"*

### **Gusinsky is interrogated again**

... A businessman, owner of the TV channel “I-TV-I” and co-owner of the Israeli newspaper “Maariv” Vladimir Gusinsky was summoned to the police for questioning in the department on international crime in the Israeli city of Petakh-Tikva. This is at minimum the fifth questioning already. At the end of last March there appeared information that the Israeli police watched for almost a year the 535<sup>th</sup> branch office of the bank “Apoalim” in Tel-Aviv. It suspected the bank clients of money laundering in particularly great amounts. At that, there were registered in the case about 45 businessmen, among them there were well-known in Russia Vladimir Gusinsky and Leonid Nevzlin.

<...>

*Author: Maria Grishina,,  
Source: VREMYA NOVOSTEI*

### **Orel: the authorities exert pressure on the candidate deputy nominated from a nongovernmental organisation**

*From among all candidates nominated for participation in the elections to the Mayor’s office of the city of Orel, the greatest difficulties in overcoming the arbitrariness of the authorities has Marina Ivashina, a leading expert of OOO “Region 57”, chairperson of the Board of NGO “Civil Control”, coordinator of the National Anti-Corruption Committee for Orel Oblast.*

Until this time she got no answers to inquiries and applications from the Municipal Elections Committee on the absent from official publications rules of the law “On Elections of Deputies to Representative Bodies and Elected Officials of Local Self-Government of Orel Oblast” and on its interpreting. In addition, to heads of local enterprises there come threats demanding not to participate in funding the election campaign of Ivashina.

We will remind that legal entities have the right to transfer to a candidate’s account 10 thousand roubles each. This is successfully used by other candidates to the Mayor’s office. Ivashina’s supporters in answer to that organised transfer of private contributions. Taking into account that the amounts of private contributions may not exceed one thousand roubles each, the only branch office of the *Sbergatelny Bank* [Savings Bank] authorized to service the city elections is overwhelmed by those who wish to make their contributions on M. Ivashina’s account. Owing to the fact that the work of the bank on election accounts is organised on one desk, hardly 15-20 persons manage to “pass” it during a day. That is why those one hundred and fifty Orelovites who come to put the money on the election account of Ivashina have to stand for hours already and register in the queue early in the morning. But their problems do not end on that. The administrative resource is actively switched into the pressuring of the people who contributed the money. Already the facts of threats, bullying, and promises of reprisals against those who dared to make their contribution in support of Marina Ivashina’s election campaign became known.

If the “pressure” of the authorities against the citizens of the city who support her does not stop, OROO “Civil Control” intends to file an application with the Procuracy concerning the facts of banning free will expression of the citizens and conduct of detailed verification on each fact of threats and intimidation for their political preferences.

*Press-service of Orel  
Regional Nongovernmental Organisation  
“Civil Control”*

**Unlawful discontinuation of the criminal case on the fact of assault and battery by OMON troopers of head of the Association “People’s Land Use” V.I. Grigoriev is found by the Tverskoi District Court of the city of Moscow to be unjustified. Hurray!**

On 31 January 2006, the Decision of judge of the Tverskoi District Court of the city of Moscow Ye.V. Stashina that found the decision of the Savelovsky inter-district procuracy of the city of Moscow to be unlawful and unsubstantiated puts a full stop in the multi-year struggle against the unlawful dismissal of the criminal case on the fact of assault and battery by OMON troopers of V.I. Grigoriev in the process of his arrest on the night between 6 and 7 February 2002. The criminal case was initiated on 15 May 2002 after insistent interference of the RF State Duma Deputy V.I. Cherepkov and the public.

The Court Decision gives a hope to fair and lawful resolution of the matter and punishment of the persons who permitted beastly battery of the 63-year-old scientist, UN expert, deputy of the Moscow Soviet of the 23<sup>rd</sup> convocation, candidate deputy to the RF State Duma of the 2<sup>nd</sup> convocation and head of the Association “People’s Land Use” V.I. Grigoriev who was falsely accused by the Moscow Oblast procuracy of establishment of an organised criminal group and of fraud.

<http://grigorievanz.narod.ru/>

**The case of “Ivanovo Uzbeks”**

*Memorial Human Rights Centre*

*Civic Assistance Committee*

*Consideration of the appeals of “Ivanovo Uzbeks” against the refusal of the FMS [Federal Migration Service] to give them the refugee status has been set*

Judge of the Frunzensky District Court of the city of Ivanovo, member of the International Association of Judges S.V. Belov set the dates for consideration of appeals of 12 citizens of Uzbekistan and a citizen of Kyrgyzstan against the refusal of the Department for Migration Affairs of Ivanovo Oblast to recognize them as refugees on the territory of the Russian Federation.

The appeals will be considered from 13 to 15 February in accordance with the following time-table:

13 February: Makhmud Rustamkhodzhaev, Kabul Kasimhuzhaev, Izzatullo Mukhametsobirov, Abdurrauf Mukhamadsobirov;

14 February: Umarali Alimov, Mamirzhon Tashtemirov, Hurshid Hamzaev, Sardorbek Ulugkhodzhaev;

15 February: Shukrullo Sabirov, Rustam Naimov, Iskandarbek Usmanov, Obboskhon Mahmudov, Ilkhomzhon Ismoilov.

Lawyer of the Network “Migration and Law” of the Memorial Human Rights Centre Irina Sokolova who conducts defence of the detainees told that the court satisfied the motions concerning obtaining on demand of the extradition check materials from all agencies that participated in it, including the procuracies of all levels up to the Procuracy General, UFSB [Department of the Federal Security Service], and UBOP [Department of Organized Crime Control] of Ivanovo Oblast. Also because of discrepancies in the documents, which the lawyer read in the Investigative Isolator and at the Court, materials from the SIZO [Isolator] will be obtained on demand.

In addition, the reasoning of the applicants’ requests to give them an asylum may get additional confirmation if answers are received from Uzbekistan to the respective inquiries sent there.

We will remind that after receiving a refusal from the Department for Migration Affairs of Ivanovo Oblast to give them the refugee status, all 13 “Ivanovo Uzbeks” sent appeals to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg with a request to suspend the extradition procedure.

*Yelena Riabinina,  
Head of the programme “Assistance  
to Political Refugees from Central Asia”  
Of the “Civic Assistance” Committee*

### **OMON troopers from KhMAO have been announced in federal search**

Former commanding officer of the criminal police of Khanty-Mansi OMON A.S. Prilepin and Lieutenant-Colonel of KhMAO [Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug] OMON V.A. Minin accused by the Chechen Republic Procuracy of the crimes prescribed by Art. 286 para. 3 “a, b, c” of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation *have been announced in federal search*. The criminal case was initiated in connection with disappearance of resident of the city of Grozny Zelimkhan Murdalov, which was performed under the leadership of these officials.

Previously in this case the Groznensky Court of the Chechen Republic sentenced the KhMAO OMON officer S.V. Lapin to 11 years of deprivation of liberty.

At present *a search case has been initiated* on A.S. Prilepin and V.A. Minin by the RF Ministry of Internal Affairs agencies.

*Sobinform*

***Friends, if you do not wish to receive the news reels, please advise us.***