

INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”

Executive Director Lev Ponomarev

Room 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; <http://zaprava.ru/>

CHRONICLE

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IN PRESENT DAY RUSSIA**

News, statements, appeals, analysis, commentaries

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Mikhail Trepashkin announced a termless hunger strike



Yekaterinburg. Mikhail Trepashkin, who was sentenced to a 4-years term of being held in a settlement colony at FGU IK-13 of the city of Nizhniy Tagil and a month ago brought to SIZO-1 of the city of Yekaterinburg for participation in the cassational trial in the case of parole, announced the beginning of his termless protest hunger strike.

As Trepashkin stated during the meeting with his defence lawyer Sergey Kuznetsov, which took place after the Sverdlovsk Oblast Court refused to satisfy Trepashkin's petition of his parole, his hunger strike would be stopped only in the case if the authorities fulfilled the following demands:

- his immediate release from unlawful detention;
- provision to him of full-value treatment in a civilian hospital, which corresponds to the profile of his disease;
- establishment of an international medical commission to decide the issue of a possibility of his further serving the punishment due to his health condition.

The decision to start his termless protest hunger strike was made by Mikhail Trepashkin after the Judicial Collegium of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Court refused to satisfy the request of the convict to postpone the hearing in connection with impossibility for his Moscow-based lawyers Liptser and Brovchenko to come to Yekaterinburg and file with the court additional evidence in the case that they had at their disposal.

Trepashkin was personally denied to be familiarized with the contents of cassational appeals of lawyers Liptser and Brovchenko, and the newly admitted to the case defence lawyer Rozhin was denied familiarization with the case file materials of Trepashkin's parole. The court also denied provision of necessary time for Trepashkin's defence lawyers to prepare for hearing of the case in the absence of the Moscow-based lawyers and consultations with their defendant, and made a number of other blatant violations of the criminal-procedural law.

In the opinion of lawyer Sergey Kuznetsov, all these facts clearly attest to the ordered nature of the "Trepashkin's case", which was fabricated on political motives by the Main Military Procuracy, whose representative in the person of an officer of the Urals Military District Procuracy was also present in the courtroom and watched attentively the progress of proceedings.

It is interesting that Mikhail Trepashkin's protest action coincided with holding of the same type of hunger strike by convicts of the settlement colony IK-13 of Nizhniy Tagil, whose names are Naugolnykh and Valov, who protest against their numerous and unfounded placement into ShIZO [penal isolator] with the aim of further change for them of the regime of holding in the strict regime colony.

Earlier the IK-13 Administration took similar measures with respect of convicts Pranskus, Naumov and Starichenkov, which, in the observers' opinion, attests to the fact that such a "technology" will be certainly applied also with respect of Mikhail Trepashkin upon his return to the colony.

As it became known, on the eve of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Court session the IK-13 Administration made a serious personnel change, as a result of which there was sacked deputy chief of the colony Andrei Beloborodov, who repeatedly called, according to the testimony of lawyer Kosik, to stop unlawful "operational measures" with respect of Trepashkin.

The meeting of lawyer Kuznetsov with Trepashkin was held in the investigative room of SIZO-1 of the city of Yekaterinburg and lasted for about an hour and a half, during which time Mikhail Trepashkin complained repeatedly of his bad feeling, shortage of air and acute pain in his chest.

In this situation, the forthcoming dispatching of Mikhail Trepashkin to the Nizhniy Tagil colony and his transfer to the IK-13 strict regime territory will mean that **the decision of physical elimination of Trepashkin has already been put into operation.**

A picket in support of Mikhail Trepashkin in Yekaterinburg

Starting from 17 March this year, the Urals human rights activists will hold picketing in defence of lawful rights of political prisoner Mikhail Trepashkin. The slogans of the picket: “Dismiss Ovcharuks, Dementievs and other good for nothing judges!”, “Freedom to political prisoner Mikhail Trepashkin”, “No – to anti-constitutional actions of the Constitutional and other Courts of Russia!”, “Yes – to securing the constitutional rights of man and citizen of Russia!” ...

The venue of the picket shall be at the Sverdlovsk Oblast Court building. The time of holding it – during working days, termless, for the duration of Mikhail Trepashkin’s hunger strike until satisfaction of his lawful demands to protect his rights.

*V.A. Shaklein,
Chairman of the Council of Coordinators,
Coordinator of ARNGM “For Human Rights” for UrFO*

A well-known human rights activist, Vladimir Andreyevich Shaklein, addressed personally Mikhail Trepashkin:

“I am addressing directly Mikhail Trepashkin with a personal request to stop the announced termless hunger strike, the results of which are unpredictable for his health! I confirm that in Russia there are citizens who will use all lawful means to achieve repealing of unlawful decisions of the judicial and other bodies until your lawful demands are satisfied. I am convinced that there are citizens in Russia who with support of international public will achieve a lawful decision in defence of the rights of Russia’s citizen Mikhail Trepashkin”.

Human rights activists Yuri Samodurov was summoned to the procuracy because of slanderous charges

On 17 March, a well-known human rights activist, Juri Vadimovich Samodurov (director of Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre “Peace, Progress, Human Rights”) was summoned to the Tagansky Procuracy of the city of Moscow to senior assistant procurator N.G. Luneva “to give explanations”.

The cause of the summons is “verification of the information of the forthcoming exhibition of caricatures at the Museum”. As is known, the 1st TV Channel (in its news program on the night of 5 February and in the afternoon of 8 February) broadcasted false reports of alleged preparation by the Museum of an exhibition of “Danish caricatures”. This false information was accompanied by instigating commentary of the announcer: “So, maybe, Russian Moslems will manage somehow to influence the organizers of such exhibitions and I wish them all success in that”. Simultaneously, similar malignant gossip appeared also on the Internet.

During the questioning at the procuracy, the human rights activist informed that on 9 February he sent to Director General of “The First Channel” K.L. Ernsta [*sic*] an official request to give him air time to refute these insinuations. Yuri Samodurov also demanded from the procuracy that the culprits of dissemination of the slanderous information should be established and brought to criminal responsibility.

Sobinform

The All-Russian Movement “For Human Rights” demands carrying out a procuracy check

*To: the Procurator General
of the Russian Federation
Full State Counsellor of Justice
V.V. Ustinov*

*Re: Responsibility of officials of FSIN of Russia
for actions that resulted in incomplete check of the procuracy
concerning investigation into the facts of exceeding
official powers by officers of the Administration
of the OKh-30/3 Institution
(the city of Lgov Kursk Oblast)*

Dear Vladimir Vasilievich,

We have to apply to you again in connection with the events in the colony OKh-30/3 of the city of Lgov accompanied by numerous violations of human rights.

We believe that the procuracy had no possibility to carry out a full-value check of these events owing to the fact that many convicts were not questioned by the procuracy agency in time because they were hastily transported out to various institutions of UFSIN [Department of the Federal Service of Execution of Punishments] in remote regions and moved a number of times from one institution to another. UFSIN officials of various regions with knowledge of the central administration of RF FSIN committed actions that objectively resulted in incomplete check of the procuracy in the process of investigation into the facts of exceeding official powers by officers of the Administration of the OKh-30/3 Institution (the city of Lgov Kursk Oblast) and therewith in evasion of responsibility by the officials as well as in continued violation of the law.

A confirmation of the fact that this incomplete check resulted in evasion of responsibility by the culprits is the answer we received from deputy chief of the Department for Supervision of Lawfulness of Execution of Criminal Punishments O.B. Lysiagin (his Ref. No. 17-2019 of 01.03.06).

We ask you to consider this address as an application concerning a criminal attempt aimed at obstructing justice made under Art. 140-141 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation.

We apply to you because the Kursk Oblast Procuracy failed to give a necessary estimate of the causes and circumstances of the events that occurred on the night between 26 and 27 June 2005 at OKh-30/3 (FGU IK-3 UFSIN of Russia for Kursk Oblast) located in the city of Lgov where acts of mass mutilation were committed among the convicts.

The Kursk Oblast Procuracy carried out a check, in the course of which it was established that daily material, sanitary-hygienic and medical servicing of the convicts was in extremely bad condition, there was no proper control on the part of superior bodies, it was also established that the IK-3 Administration had not accepted complaints of the convicts against actions of the colony officials because during 2005 not a single complaint against actions of the correctional institution administration, conditions of serving the term of punishment etc. was sent to the procuracy from the colony.

The Kursk Oblast Procuracy drew a conclusion that the violations of the law revealed were a consequence of improper execution of his official duties on the part of chief of the colony Yu.I. Bushin, deputy chief of the colony logistics V.A. Nosov, deputy chief of the colony education A.N. Skorokhodov.

The Kursk Oblast Procuracy also instituted criminal proceedings with respect of two officers of the colony administration under Art. 286 para.3 "a", "b" of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and with respect of four convicts under Art. 321 para. 1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Despite the check carried out by the Kursk Oblast Procuracy and initiation of a criminal case with respect of two officers of the colony, we believe that it is far from being in full that the procuracy established all circumstances, which were the cause of the acts of mass mutilation among the convicts at IK-3, and not all officials that were subject to be brought to criminal responsibility.

About 300 applications were written to the procurator by convicts held at IK-3 demanding that criminal proceedings should be instituted with respect of officers of the colony administration, the applications stating specific circumstances of commission of unlawful actions by the administration officers including use of physical violence for refusal to cooperate with the administration.

Most of the convicts who wrote the applications were not questioned on the facts stated in their applications and, respectively, nobody was found to be a victim. Within the shortest possible time, all convicts who wrote applications of the facts of unlawful actions of the administration officers were transferred to other correctional establishments, which were located, as a rule, in other members of the Federation, sometimes remote from Kursk Oblast, most of them being transferred from one colony to another several times without staying long at any one place, at that most of the convicts being in transit or staying at a transit station were subjected to beating by the administration officers. As a rule, during these “educational measures” taken by the administration officers there sounded the same phrases “You have this for Lgov”.

By taking these actions aimed at transportation to different regions of the convicts who wrote applications and petitions concerning the facts of unlawful actions of the Administration of IK-3 Institution, the administration of UFSIN for Kursk Oblast as well as administrations of other regional UFSINs and the central administration of the agency actually deprived the Kursk Oblast Procuracy of a possibility of conducting the necessary effective check on applications of the convicts.

The above suggests an intent of somebody of the officials or a group of officials of the RF FSIN (i.e. collusion) aimed at obstruction of establishment of truth with respect of the events in connection to the acts of mass mutilation among convicts that happened on the night between 26 and 27 June 2005 at FGU IK-3 of UFSIN of Russia for Kursk Oblast and thus at obstruction of administering justice and conduct of preliminary investigation.

Based on all stated above, pursuant to Art. 10 of the Federal Law “On the Procuracy of the Russian Federation” and Arts. 140-141 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation, interdepartmental Order of 29.12.2005 “On the Single Accounting of Crimes”, we request:

- to conduct a check on the facts we stated above by forces of the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation;
- to conduct a check by forces of the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation on the facts and circumstances given in the enclosed herewith copies of applications and petitions of convicts including those that were addressed to the Commissioner on Human Rights in the Russian Federation;
- to conduct, in the order of the procuracy supervision, a wide check on the regime and observation of the rule of law and humaneness at FGU IK-3 of the UFSIN of Russia for Kursk Oblast;
- based on the outcome of the checks on the petitions addressed to the Commissioner on Human Rights in the Russian Federation and checks conducted in the supervisory order, to initiate measures of disciplinary and criminal persecution of the officials of the RF FSIN who were involved in violation of the law;
- to establish concrete officials who gave the order to transfer the convicts, which were held in IK-3 of FGU UFSIN of Russia for Kursk Oblast and wrote applications of the facts of unlawful actions of the administration, to other correctional institutions and to institute criminal proceedings with respect of these persons under Art. 294 para. 3 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation;
- to send us a reasoned answer on the merits.

*Yours respectfully,
L.A. Ponomarev,
Executive Director*

National Bolsheviks "captured" Sberbank

On 16 March at 12:30, about twenty National Bolsheviks entered the building of Sberbank [the Savings Bank] located at 8, Bolshaya Andronievskaya Street. Having warned the bank staff and visitors – "This is not a robbery, it is a political action!" – the NatsBols, bypassing the guards, broke into the office rooms of the bank as well as onto the internal balcony of the building where they unrolled their transparency "Government, Return the Debt to the People!"

The National Bolsheviks demanded that the citizens of Russia should be repaid the money from their deposits that were lost as a result of the "shock therapy" in 1992. "The state has money, the gold and currency reserves are about USD 200 billion", one of the participants of the action explained to the journalists. "Why are external debts paid and the debt to own citizens not repaid in adequate amounts?"

The action participants chanted: "Money to the people, the government on bread and water!", "Take away and divide!", "Return the deposits to the people, vermin!"

At the same time in the street in front of the entrance to the bank still another group of fifteen National Bolsheviks disseminated the leaflets of the following contents: "GOVERNMENT, RETURN THE DEBT TO THE PEOPLE! 70 million of Russian citizens lost their labour savings as a result of the "shock therapy" of 1991-1992. The total amount of the lost deposits is 216 billion roubles. Average losses per family amounted to 8-9 thousand roubles. These were full weight Soviet roubles, when one could buy a "Lada" car for 6,000 roubles and a cooperative apartment in Moscow for 12,000 roubles. Actually, it was robbing of the people.

On 10 May 1995, Federal Law No. 73-FZ "On Recovery and Protection of Savings of the Citizens of Russia" was approved, according to which all savings of citizens placed on deposits at the RF Sberbank prior to 20 June 1991 shall be recognized as the public internal debt. The state assumed an obligation to settle its debt with the citizens. But in practice these promises appeared to be another deceit. People get a trifling sum as compensation. But what are 1,000 roubles today? It is the cost of a "Single" ticket in Moscow for a month... The compensation is given to very aged people or heirs of the deceased depositors – for the funerals.

Well, should there be no money, but today the state is actually bursting of "easy" money gained by the sale of oil and gas! The gold and currency reserves of the RF Central Bank are almost USD 200 billion today! The Russian Federation pays properly and even ahead of schedules its external debt having spat on its internal debt at the same time. Russia pays to the French even pre-revolution (!), one hundred years old, debt and there is allegedly no money for its own citizens who were robbed in 1992.

We assert that there is money. It is the same USD 200 billion that today is invested into Western economies and "work" for the well-being of citizens of the western countries. By its purchasing power this amount is approximately equal to the amount of the lost deposits – 216 billion of Soviet roubles. There is money – pay!

The National Bolshevik Party demands from the President and the Government of the Russian Federation a real and not fictitious compensation to the Russian citizens of their deposits lost in 1992. The National Bolshevik Party demands immediate and honest execution of the Federal Law of 10 May 1995 "On Recovery and Protection of Savings of the Citizens of Russia". The National Bolshevik Party demands to recognize the priority of internal debt over the external one. First, the well-being of own citizens should be ensured and then external debts can be paid.

The National Bolshevik Party calls on the citizens of Russia to support our lawful demands with active actions. Justice should be restored! National Bolsheviks".

“The Military Procuracy as one of the factors of growth of crime in the Russian Armed Forces”

A pres conference on this theme will be held on 21 March at 2 P.M. at the Independent Press Centre (Tverskoi Boulevard, 20, 2nd floor).

The participants include:

L.A. Ponomarev, Executive Director of the All-Russian Movement “For Human Rights”;

D.Ye. Pyslar, Chairman of Penza regional nongovernmental movement for protection of rights of military servicemen “Soldiers of Motherland”;

T.Yu. Znachkova, Chairperson of the All-Russian Committee of Soldiers’ Mothers;

L.A. Yarilina, Chairperson of Vladimir regional organization of the Committee of Soldiers’ Mothers.

Representatives of other human rights organisations and representatives of the procuracy were also invited.

The main themes of the press conference:

Concealment of grave crimes;

Deserters as the main bread for the military procuracy;

Problems of reforming the military procuracy;

Our position with respect of introduction of Military Police;

On service by contract;

On transition from two years of service to one year.

Sobinform

The Russians defened human rights organisations

Как вы относитесь к действующим на территории России правозащитным организациям?

Опрос Romir Monitoring февраль 2006

What is your attitude towards the human rights organizations operating on the territory of Russia?

Romir Monitoring Survey of February 2006



Положительно	54%	Positive
Нейтрально	27%	Neutral
Отрицательно	6%	Negative
Ничего о них не знаю	11%	I know nothing of them
Затрудняюсь ответить	2%	It is difficult to say

The Russians have a positive attitude towards human rights organisations because they consider their activities to be useful. However, a greater part of the population of the country agrees to the need to control the money supporting the existence of these organisations.

Numerous human rights organisations operating in Russia cause dissatisfaction only with representatives of the authorities. Most Russians believe the activities of the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Committee of Soldiers’ Mothers, the “Memorial” Fund and other organisations to be useful because they help people to defend their rights. This point of view is held by 54% of Russians. Still 27 % of the population of the country believe that as any nonprofits the human rights organisations also have the right to exist. Only 6% of the people feel negative emotions with regard to NPO [Non-profit Organisations]. In their view, the only business of these NGOs is to attack government and destroy the underpinnings of the society.

Such results were obtained in the course of the survey conducted by the research holding company ROMIR Monitoring at the end of February among 1,600 Russians in more than 100

cities and populated areas of Russia, in all Federal Districts. The sociologists pay attention to the fact that human rights organisations cause more sympathy with women than men: 58 and 50%, respectively. The benefit of human rights organisations is mostly noticeable in the North-western Federal District where 62% give positive responses with regard to them. Also the work of these NGOs is valued in small cities with the population less than 100,000 – 67%.

The greatest number of people with negative attitudes towards human rights organisations lives in the Volga District, here 12% reported of their negative emotions. The percentage of Russians who know nothing of human rights organisations is not high being 11% across the country on the whole. Young people (17%), those who have primary education (23%) and people with low income (15%) know least of all about the NPO.

Although the attitude of the Russians towards human rights organisations is not bad, the idea of the authorities to toughen the control of financing of these organisations is approved by the majority. Two thirds of the respondents (67%) said these provisions of the recently approved law of NPOs to be correct having explained that the patrons pursue their political aims most often. Most frequently such explanation for their opinion was given by residents of the North-western Federal District (80%) and the cities with more than a million population (74%). The sociologists noted that on this issue the respondents of different ages are fully unanimous.

Only financing of human rights organisations from abroad causes questions with each tenth Russian (12%). A little smaller number of the survey participants (7%), on the contrary, is suspicious about Russian sources of financing of human rights organisations. And approximately the same number of people (8%) believes that in principle the control over financing of the non-profit sector should not be toughened. The analysts note that such a response is more typical for young people (12%), those who have higher education (12%) and a high level of income (11%).

We will remind that on 10 January Putin approved and signed a new law on nongovernmental organisations under which they should submit detailed reports of the sources of their financing from abroad with a subsequent description of the procedure of spending of these funds. Human rights organisations believe that in this way the authorities try to strengthen their control of the organisations that are independent of the Kremlin's opinion.

Text: "Gazeta.Ru" Chart: "Gazeta.Ru".

The Chechen Republic: "Targeted Mop-up Operation" in the Village of Noviye Atagi

On 14 March, law-enforcement officers conducted the so-called "targeted mop-up operation" in the Village of Noviye Atagi, in the course of which one of the local residents was detained. A resident of this settlement reported about that.

The circumstances of the event and the name of the detainee are being clarified. According to some data, he was charged with connections with the Chechen combatants.

Wide-scale checks conducted in Nozhai-Yurt Rayon

A few days ago a number of villages of Nozhai-Yurt Rayon were subjected to passport regime checks by forces of the law-enforcement and army units. According to the information obtained from local residents, the "special operations" were carried out in the villages of Zamai-Yurt, Giliyany, Balan-Su, Meskety and Galaity located near the administrative border with Dagestan.

According to some data, several persons were arrested in the course of the checks by the "siloviki" [armed law and order forces]. More specific information is being obtained about it.

A local citizen is detained in the Village of Sernovodsk

In the morning of 11 March, in the Village of Sernovodsk Sunzhensk Rayon armed law and order officers of the Republic of Ingushetia captured and carried away in unknown direction a 26-year-old local citizen, Rustam Umarov. As local villagers reported, at daybreak the Umarovs' house was surrounded by a group of "siloviki" about 40 men strong.

Having broken into the house, the "arm of law" seized Rustam and took him away with them without bringing any charges. At that, according to the statement of Umarov's relatives, Rustam Umarov's elderly mother was cruelly beaten. According to some data, at present Umarov is held at the SIZO [investigative isolator] in the Village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya.

SNO Information Centre

The Zamoskvoretsky Court of Moscow will continue checking the lawfulness of the decision to transport Mikhail Khodorkovsky to a colony in Chita Oblast

The Court waits for argumentation of the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments, which actually sent convict Khodorkovsky to Krasnokamensk. In particular, the Court requested for information concerning availability of free places in the general regime colonies broken down by regions that are adjacent to Moscow. Mikhail Khodorkovsky's lawyers do not believe that the nearest free place appeared to be only near Chita. According to the data of lawyer Yuri Schmidt, the Krasnokamensk colony is 241st when ranked by the distance from Moscow. Still farther than this colony there remain only eight colonies, the lawyer calculated. At the previous session, the Court denied the motion of the lawyers concerning summoning as witnesses the Director of the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments, Kalinin, and the Chief of SIZO Matrosskaya Tishina, Tagiev. It is worth to note that at the trial on a similar appeal of Platon Lebedev such a motion was satisfied, which gave hope to the plaintiffs. Although the final result of the trial was not affected by that.

Platon Lebedev's motion was denied exactly a month ago.

Moscow Echo

To finish off YUKOS

It is not easy to make an elephant out of a fly. And it appeared to be not an easier task to reduce to nothing the most expensive company of the country.

The attack against YUKOS and its owners started in 2003. But Mikhail Khodorkovsky established a strong company. It appeared to be not easy at all to destroy it, although unprecedented efforts were made to achieve it. The assault progressed on all fronts. YUKOS was beheaded: the head of the company and its main co-owner was put behind the bars and most of other shareholders and top managers left the country. The tax claims of USD27.5 billion dropped the value of the most expensive Russian company from USD40 billion to USD3.7 billion. The sale of the major production asset of YUKOS, "Yuganskneftegaz", resulted in the four-fold reduction of the company's oil production – to 20 million tons in 2005. All accounts and assets of YUKOS are arrested, the money received is written off on account of the debt and oil is sold only on the domestic market because the company has no money to pay export duties and its transportation. YUKOS stopped investing into production and it refines petroleum of "Rosneft" for mere pennies at its plants that remained jobless after the sale of "Yugansk".

After such an attack not every one would survive but YUKOS appeared to be tenacious. Even left without top management, money and main assets, it not only stayed alive but as before remains a large company: according to last year's results – the seventh company in the country. It already paid out the largest part of its tax debt –USD21.5 billion. And for sure it would soon pay the remaining USD10 billion (of these only a part was proved in court – USD6 billion). The record prices for oil would help it out. And if the government allowed the company to sell its "redundant" refinery plants, the settlement would be not far away.

But it looks like the Kremlin did not plan to leave still attractive assets for convict Khodorkovsky and his partners. It is the more so that they would be of great use for “Rosneft”, the current owner of “Yuganskneftegaz”: the state-owned company is catastrophically short of its own refineries to process the oil of “Yugansk”.

It was necessary to finish off YUKOS promptly so that it could not have time to settle its debts. The most convenient option – bankruptcy – was impossible. That is, because President Vladimir Putin reassured that the state was not interested in bankruptcy of YUKOS. But western banks helped the state out of this clumsy situation. They demanded to bankrupt YUKOS in court although it would be hardly possible for them to get their money back in the event of launching this procedure – the bankers’ place in the line of creditors is at its end.

And on 16 March it became known that they ceded the debts of YUKOS to “Rosneft”. Now the state-owned company may with calm conscience do the thing that the President so vehemently denied. And for sure tenacious YUKOS will not manage to pay its debts...

*Author: Tatiana Yegorova,
Source: VEDOMOSTI*

The general’s present from Moscow: the chief of the colony shall be dismissed, Khodorkovsky placed in ShIZO

Lawyer Karinna Moskalenko informed the IA “*For Human Rights*” of the causes of dispatching her defendant Mikhail Khodorkovsky to ShIZO [penal isolator] for 7 days: on 15 March a general of the RF FSIN arrived from the capital to the already world renown colony IK-10. First thing he did was to depose chief of the colony A.G. Yevstratov (apparently, for “rotten liberalism”). The administration officers understood the hint and drew their conclusions – Khodorkovsky got a 7-day term of confinement in ShIZO for “taking food in a wrong place”. It means that the political prisoner drank tea together with his other fellow-sufferers in the room where a tea-pot is permanently kept and where the convicts always have their snack. The fit of administrative zeal did not affect other convicts”.

Mikhail Kasyanov explained his moving to the opposition

Ex-premier and leader of a new opposition movement Mikhail Kasyanov met with representatives of the People’s Assembly, which unites the largest nongovernmental organisations.

The meeting was held at the Independent Press Centre already traditionally behind closed doors. As the “*Gazeta*” found out, human rights activists, environmentalists and NGOs activists were interested in the political orientation of his organization and his views of the situation in the country.

Such meetings already took place within the framework of a session of the People’s Assembly several years ago. Among the participants then there were SPS leader Boris Nemtsov, chairman of the “*Yabloko*” party Grigory Yavlinsky. As member of the Board of the “People’s Assembly” Fund Yevgeny Gontmakher informed the “*Gazeta*”, in the new political season this was the first event from a series of meetings with democratic leaders. “I told Mikhail Mikhailovich of the activities of the Assembly and he expressed a wish to meet with its participants”, said Yevgeny Gontmakher. Among the participants of the meeting there were president of the Institute of the National Project “Social Contract” Alexander Auzan, head of the inter-regional network “Migration and Law” Svetlana Gannushkina, president of the Centre for Development of Democracy and Human Rights Yuri Dzhibladze, chairperson of the Moscow Helsinki Group Liudmila Alexeyeva and other people.

Liudmila Alexeyeva set a friendly note in the event saying to the ex-premier: “We are not jealous”. The phrase concerned the new movement of Kasyanov, the constituent conference of

which should be held on 8 April. Although, as Kasyanov's adviser Yelena Dikun informed the "Gazeta", no one of the NGO activists expressed a wish for the time being to join the newly established movement. They were more interested in the question why it happened that the ex-premier joined in the opposition and when did he cross his Rubicon. According to Kasyanov, such a Rubicon became the detention of shareholder of YUKOS Platon Lebedev.

*Author: Lilia Mukhamediarova,
Source: GAZETA*

Safe rector

RGGU acquired a depoliticised head

One of the most renowned Russian universities acquired finally permanent administration and at the same time, apparently, political peace. After almost three years of staff reshuffle, the Russian State Humanities University (RGGU), which YUKOS shareholders never had time to turn into a model university, elected its permanent and legitimate rector. It became Yefim Pivovarov who acted in this capacity since December 2005. 166 delegates out of 205 voted in his favour.

The conference where the RGGU professors and students elected the rector lasted for more than eight hours although a winner was evident from the very beginning. Mr. Pivovarov was nominated by the academic council of the university while his opponent Irina Karapetiants only by the nongovernmental associations of teachers, the RGGU Museum Centre and several departments. In addition, Ms. Irina Karapetiants already was acting rector and yielded this position to Yefim Pivovarov in December 2005. And the third candidate, Professor of the Chair of Law and Culture of the Moscow Institute of Municipal Economy and Construction Dmitry Alexandrov received not a single vote.

It is noteworthy that academic pro-rector Valery Minayev who had the title of elected rector of the RGGU since December 2003 (he became this in January 2004 after retirement of co-owner of YUKOS Leonid Nevzlin), was not even placed on the list of possible new heads of the university. And it may be conjectured that the fact of the last participant of the time of unrest for the university leaving the foreground will move the RGGU from the unofficial black list of the Ministry of Education into the range of loyal educational establishments. Yefim Pivovarov marked in his election program as a priority task for the university improving relations with the outside world. As such are meant the Russian Academy of Sciences and "power structures of the federal and regional levels".

As far as the plans of research and academic development of the university are concerned, Mr. Pivovarov managed to compare them with surprising accuracy to the parameters of the university, which pretended already not to sponsor aid from oligarchs but to obtaining a grant within the framework of the Federal National Project "Education". In particular, the rector mentioned development of innovative activity, elaboration of interdisciplinary approaches to the academic process, establishment of complex research centres to carry out multidisciplinary studies, development of continuous education, international cooperation and joining in the Bologna process. And apparently, trying to calm down the Ministry of Education heads, the new rector pronounced clearly and distinctly that the RGGU was a depoliticised university where "any of us may have his own political platform but it can be expressed in political, organizational, propaganda ways only beyond the walls of the University".

*Author: Kirill Vasilenko,
Source: VREMIA NOVOSTEI*

They do not search for words for Slobodan

Miloshevich's death loosened the tongue of Russian politicians

The Russian servants of the people turned the mourning over ex-leader of Serbia Slobodan Milosheвич into a strange political show. If our politicians are to believe then the main threat to the world today is posed by not, say, Iranian ayatollahs obsessed with their nuclear ambitions. All universal evil, it appears, is concentrated in the International Tribunal of Former Yugoslavia. Such pronouncements of the left-wing and nationalist politicians are understandable. But the causes of these actions of the party in power, apparently, are absolutely pragmatic and rather sinister.

However contradictory were actions of Slobodan Milosheвич during his rule, he remains a former head of state. And being in this quality Milosheвич, naturally, deserves respect. The feelings of the family of the deceased are also quite understandable and explainable. That is why the actions of the Russian Government, which tried to help maximally the relatives of the ex-leader of Serbia, are absolutely correct.

But very many of our servants of the people went too far in their statements and appeals. Now Russian politicians of various political colours charge together the Tribunal in Hague with antihuman behaviour and double standards. But some time ago, in a similar position with Milosheвич was another well-known prisoner – ex-boss of YUKOS Platon Lebedev. This sick man was not provided adequate treatment in prison either. But then the people’s tribunes from the State Duma kept silent for some reason. There is also an example of our double standards related to the same Holland. A few months ago the Russian court did not let NatsBol Vladimir Lind to go to the Netherlands to bid farewell to his dying father. And this happened despite the government of that country providing all guarantees of Lind’s return.
(...)

*Author: Mikhail Rostovsky,
Source: MOSKOVSKY KOMSOMOLET*

The Russian cult of great martyr of great-powerhood

The Public Committee of Protection of Freedom of Conscience (its head is priest Gleb Yakunin) made a statement in connection with support of the idea of honourable burial of the Serb dictator in Moscow.

Below follows the text of the Public Committee of Protection of Freedom of Conscience statement:

“The bloody tyrant cult is atavism of the most primitive paganism

We do not think it necessary to comment on regular conspiracy seeking novelties on the theme of the guilt of “white-robed saboteurs” of the dictator’s death. We are very sorry that the parliament of Russia assailed the International Tribunal in Hague with rude and insulting accusations. The position of modern critics of the International Tribunal strangely repeats the position of those who rejected the Nuremberg Tribunal, which was also a trial by winners of the war who ignored the position of German people (what it was in 1945).

We think it necessary to remind that his own Serb people triumphed over Milosheвич by deposing him as a result of peaceful revolution, which started in the autumn of 1997 and consummated in October 2000. We should not forget that it was Milosheвич who provoked the 8-year-long, the most terrible war in Europe since 1945, the inter-ethnic war, by opposing to the movement of democratic renovation of Yugoslavia the idea of the Great Serbia Empire, a barbarous idea of cult of ethnic tribal identity. But the most shameful is the consolidation around the idea of worshipping to Milosheвич and “the cause of his life” of both the Russian MID [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] and the “party of power” and the nationalist opposition who lined in their aversion to western democracy and freedom of peoples.

The most primitive and barbarous paganism is the cult of a bloody tyrant. Worshipping the ruler only for his being a leader of a narrow tribal movement, personification of political violence and blunt political stubbornness, who easily trampled on heaps of human skulls calling to the most primitive and beastly instincts. Ideological and intellectual impotence of the current political elite of Russia is in this practicing of shamanism rites around the body. The present elite believe that if they determined the fate of our country 15 years ago then they would not allow disintegrating the Union and would “smartly” launch against the idea of democracy the idea of “reunification of the disassociated Russian people”. The reverence for Miloshevich includes all anguish and anger of those who failed in 1991 to turn Russia into a military fascist besieged camp engulfed in numerous internal and external wars.

*Pries Gleb Yakunin, Committee of Protection of Freedom of Conscience
15 March 2006 “.*

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