

INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

All-Russia Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”

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**CHRONICLE
OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION
IN PRESENT DAY RUSSIA**

News, statements, appeals, analysis, commentaries

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Trial of human rights organization in Ingushetia resumed

The trial of the Regional Civil Movement Chechen Committee for National Salvation that has been going on for a year and a half resumed on 11 April 2006. The trial demonstrated that the Prosecutor's Office and the Republic of Ingushetia Department of the Federal Registration Service have not changed their position and continue to insist that press releases of the ChCNS are extremist by their nature, that they stir up hatred between nations, etc.

In their turn, defence counsel for the human rights organization Sharip Tepsaev and the head of the organization Ruslan Batdalov had to rebut these allegations by bringing forward well-grounded and logical arguments proving the contrary.

In the end, Federal Judge Khava Garakoeva proposed to the parties to adjourn the trial until 10 am 14 April 2006. However, the plaintiff – the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic – and the interested party – the Republic of Ingushetia Department of the Federal Registration Service – failed to appear at the designated time. The respondent waited for an hour and then was told that the trial would be adjourned until the 26 April due to non-appearance of representatives of the Prosecutor's Office and the Registration Service. The court does not know why the plaintiff and the interested party failed to appear.

*Press Service
Regional Civil Movement
Chechen Committee for National Salvation*

Concealment of Violent Treatment of Prisoners in Mordovia Prison Camps

On 17 April, two human rights press conferences will take place in the Independent Press Centre (Tverskoy Boulevard, 20, 2 floor, registration at the venue) one after the other:

At 1:30pm – press conference “Concealment of Violent Treatment of Prisoners in Mordovia Colonies”.

Attendees:

Rustam Pavlovich Chernov, a lawyer, a partner of Law Office Shcheglov & Partners;
Lev Alexandrovich Ponomarev, the Executive Director of All-Russia Movement For Human Rights; Oxana Petrovna Dzera, an expert of All-Russia Movement For Human Rights.

In March 2006, All-Russia Movement For Human Rights received information from families of convicts serving their sentences in prison camp IK-12 (Mordovia, Potma) that the inmates who had taken part in the act of protest against the fact that they had been forced to work with gross violations of the safety requirements and against the unlawful actions of members of the Discipline and Order Section [of the prison camp] were transferred to LIU-19 [Medical Correctional Facility No. 19] in February 2006. Some of the transferred persons committed an act of protest in the form of self-injury. The human rights advocates were told that the prisoners transferred to LIU-19 were forced to spend long hours standing undressed in the cold. They were also subjected to regular beatings. Prisoners from IK-4 and IK-12, who were also transferred to LIU-19, are likewise systematically beaten.

On 4 April, Mr R.P. Chernov, a lawyer, came to LIU-19 to check the information contained in the applications of the prisoners' families. The Chief of LIU-19, Mr S.T. Abramov, not only refused to allow the lawyer, who presented his lawyer's ID and the authorization, to visit his clients but also gave a specific instruction that the requests for visits not be registered. Under the pretext that the lawyer's ID and originals of the authorizations presented required checking, the documents were seized from R.P. Chernov and not returned for long hours. By so doing, the officers deliberately prevented the lawyer from going to the UFSIN for the Republic of Mordovia [the Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments, Department for the Republic of Mordovia] to find out about his clients' whereabouts.

On 5 April 2006, Mr Chernov applied to the Prosecutor for the Republic of Mordovia, Mr A.A. Serghienko, complaining against the actions of the authorities of LIU-19. However, Mr Serghienko failed to take measures to redress the violations and refused to receive the family of convict O.G. Popkov who reported about the beatings of the inmates of LIU-19 who had been transferred to LIU-21.

Mr Chernov and the All-Russia Movement For Human Rights have applied to the Prosecutor General and the Federal Chamber of Lawyers.

The title of the second press conference is "Advantages and Disadvantages of the New Policy of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation Concerning Drug Users".

Attendees:

Yevgeny Arsenievich Chernousov, a lawyer of the Moscow Chamber of Lawyers;
Lev Alexandrovich Ponomarev, the Executive Director of All-Russia Movement For Human Rights; Nikolai Anatolievich Trukhin, doctor specializing in substance abuse treatment; Alexander Nikolaevich Duka, veterinarian.

The Russian Supreme Court has prepared a draft decree On Judicial Practice Concerning Criminal Cases in Connection with Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic, Potent and Poisonous Substances for the Plenum on difficult issued in the judicial practice with regard to crimes connected with narcotic drugs and psychotropic and potent substances. The draft is to be presented to the journalists. Like any piece of bureaucratic art of the recent years, it is "sort of a compromise" – positive innovations nullifying idiotic absurdities that made trials of veterinarians and doctors specializing in substance abuse treatment possible are balanced with return of the view of drug usage as a crime.

The draft has obvious positive points: in future, use of potent drugs [by doctors and veterinarians] to treat human beings and animals when there are medical indications for such use, will stop being a criminal offence. However, obviously under pressure of law enforcers – first and foremost, FSKN [the Russian Federation Federal Drug Enforcement Service], MVD [the Ministry of Internal Affairs], FSB [the Federal Security Bureau], and Prosecutor General's Office – it brings back into legal practice the demand for criminal prosecution for selling potent and narcotic substances purchased for personal use upon provocation of law enforcement bodies.

IA For Human Rights

Mercy for fallen

Amnesty as a measure against judicial errors and accusatory incline of the Russian justice

Russian parliamentarians are preparing a present for people who are behind bars. Some convicts and persons on remand will leave their prison camps and pre-trial detention facilities

under the amnesty to be announced in honour of the hundredth anniversary of the First Russian Duma. However, prison beds will not become empty. This present of the Deputies is addressed to few convicts and remand prisoners. According to the Pavel Krasheninnikov, the Head of the Duma Criminal, Procedural, and Commercial Litigation Legislation Committee, this amnesty will be for minors, retirement pensioners, pregnant women and mothers of minor children. Only persons who have committed crimes of small or medium gravity (i.e., those for which a person can be sentenced to up to five years of deprivation of liberty) will qualify for this amnesty. At the moment, there are 12,000-15,000 of such persons in Russian prison camps and pre-trial detention facilities. Yukos lawyer Svetlana Bakhmina, mother of two young children, will not be among them – she is charged with a grave offence.

Source: Vedomosti

The Kremlin increases pressure on Yukos Oil Company

What can one call it if not fury? While former CEO of Russian oil company Yukos Mikhail Khodorkovsky, sentenced to eight years of deprivation of liberty on charges with fraud, had just spent his 900th day in jail, the newly appointed vice-president of the company, Vasily Alexanyan, was arrested in Moscow and thrown to jail. The arrest of Vasily Alexanyan became the most recent episode in the relentless fight of the Russian state against Yukos – the fight which is coming to its end with every passing day. This lawyer, who graduated from Harvard University, was appointed the company vice-president by an order of the Administrative Council of Yukos, which was placed into receivership by a Moscow court judgment. For the last two years, Alexanyan, a former head of Yukos's legal department, had been called for questioning on numerous occasions.

Two days after his appointment, police burst into his flat and forced him face down on the floor. All this happened in front of TV cameras of NTV – a television channel controlled by the state-controlled company Gazprom. The arrestee, who denied charges of theft and money laundering, started a hunger strike. According to his lawyer, he was put into a solitary confinement for ten days for refusal to undergo medical examination.

Svetlana Bakhmina, his former deputy, has already spent 492 days in jail. The Prosecutor's Office has just requested that she be sentenced to nine years of deprivation of liberty. For five months of her detention on remand, she had not been allowed to speak to her children (one of whom is three and the other is seven years old) by phone.

As concerns Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former head of Yukos who was sentenced to nine years of correctional labour in a Siberian prison camp in May 2005, he continues his fight. Having spent seven days in the punishment isolator of the prison camp, he returned to his cell. He was guilty of having drunk tea in a room where this is prohibited by the rules. Recently, a court in Krasnokamensk, the city where the camp is located, granted his appeal against this unlawful punishment.

However, this court judgment has already been appealed against. All this does not touch most of Russians: they think that the country's richest man is a thief.

Inopressa.ru
Fabrice Nodé-Laglois

Russian Orthodox Church Is in Line with the Kremlin

“It is the God that wants to test me. There I was just doing my job, and who should appear but a political prisoner: will I keep silent or not?” These were the words of Father Serghei Taratukhin said in November in his new church built in a remote Siberian city of Krasnokamensk, where tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky is now serving his eight years’ prison term. Five months later came the punishment – if not from God, at least from the Russian Orthodox Church: churchman Taratukhin, who dared to call Khodorkovsky a “political prisoner” and refused to bless the administrative building of the prison camp where he was being held, was first moved to another parish and then completely prohibited from conducting religious services.

“This is a political prohibition on practicing my profession” – commented Father Serghei, 49, announcing that he would look for another job and refrain from contacts with journalists for a while. The Decree of the Russian Orthodox Church says that Father Serghei was punished “for political activities and involving parishers into them”. This explanation sounds especially cynical from the Church, which is notorious for its links with KGB and which now advertises its good relationship with President Putin. “Churchmen have the right to express their opinions about political questions but not to be involved in politics” says in justification the spokesman for the Moscow Patriarchate Vladimir Bighilyansky.

A railwayman by his first profession, Father Serghei himself accepted Christ in jail, where he spent four years, from 1974 to 1978, for an attempt to organize a youth anti-communist organization committed at the age of 18. “These four years were the best in my life. In prison I realized that the most important thing is internal freedom,” said recently the churchman. He told us that in the camp he had met people who influenced him a lot, including the dissident Serghei Kovalev. “My bishop told me that I would be punished,” he said in November. “But if we keep silent, more political prisoners will appear in Russia”.

Inopressa.ru
Lorraine Millot
Liberation²,

From Putin’s Advisor to Dissident

Liberal economist Andrey Illarionov repudiated the Russian President and has been denouncing his policy ever since

So far, no chess-board has been broken against his head, as was the case with the former World chess champion Harry Kasparov, who is now an opposition politician. Nor has anybody frozen his bank accounts, as recently happened with the Open Russia Foundation. But if Andrey Illarionov continues to do what he is doing, it will not take long before some unknown persons come and teach him a lesson or the Prosecutor General’s Office opens a criminal case against him.

¹ Translated from the Russian translation from www.inopressa.ru. For French original, see http://www.lefigaro.fr/international/20060413.FIG000000060_le_kremlin_s_acharne_contre_le_groupe_petrolier_youkos.html

² Translated from Russian translation from www.inopressa.ru. For French original, see <http://www.liberation.fr/page.php?Article=374606>

Only several months ago Illarionov, 46, was sitting in his luxury office in the Kremlin with an equally luxury title: the Economic Advisor to the Russian President. Under the Kremlin etiquette, this position requires discretion, and it looked like Illarionov had problems with this etiquette for the entire period of his stay in the Kremlin.

When in April 2000, Illarionov, a top-ranked liberal economist and the head of the Institute for Economic Analysis, agreed to become the Economic Advisor to the newly elected President Vladimir Putin, he, in his own words, did that in hope that it would be possible to turn “partly free Russia” into a completely free country.

However, the longer Putin stayed in power, the weaker this hope of Illarionov grew. In 2003-2004, the Kremlin and the Prosecutor General’s Office ripped the Yukos Empire into pieces and then after *de facto* expropriation awarded Yukos’s main asset – Yuganskneftgas – to the state-controlled Rosneft; at the end of 2004, Illarionov called this affair “the swindle of the year”. But then he went further: the obstinate Advisor attended the trial of the Yukos founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky and then condemned it as farce.

Critical interviews and essays

In reply, Putin stripped Illarionov of his right to represent Russia in G-7. Finally, on 27 December 2005, Illarionov resigned from the post of the Advisor to the Kremlin. As he said himself, the last drop that made the cup of his patience run over was the fact that the Kremlin began to use gas supply to former Soviet republics as political weapon.

Since then, the Russian policy under the lead of Vladimir Putin has been seriously criticized by Illarionov in his interviews, at press conferences and in his essays in the leading Russian daily newspaper *Kommersant*. Today, “**Russia is the champion in destruction of political liberties**”, it is a “not free” country of the level of Nepal, Tadjikistan or Zimbabwe; it is a corporate state governed by a narrow clan, belonging to which is not determined by experience, professional qualities or merits but rather but pure loyalty. Those who demonstrate it receive money, positions and power; those who go against the stream can, like Mikhail Khodorkovsky, find themselves in a prison camp – this is Illarionov’s analysis of the situation.

Lack of political freedom led to prohibition to discuss hot issues in Russia, “from Chechnya to Yukos, from acts of terror in Nord-Ost and Beslan to the cartoons of Mohammed.” Instead of solving real problems, to remain in power the Kremlin throws all forces to fight oligarchs and political movement, democrats and adherents of peaceful political revolutions like the Ukrainian one.

The former presidential advisor, who now came back to his institute, does not regard Russia as a competitive country in the long term, either in the economics or in politics, and thinks that a revolution is imminent. This however is only his forecast; the fall of the Putin regime can be still far away. In no small degree because Western governments support it.

Inopressa.ru
Florian Hassel
*Frankfurter Rundschau*³

“This is a courtroom, not a theatre”

Lawyers failed to get the sentence for the head of Yukos Administrative Department reduced.

³ Translated from Russian translation from www.inopressa.ru. For German original, see http://www.fr-aktuell.de/ressorts/nachrichten_und_politik/nachrichten/?cnt=846632&

14 years of deprivation of liberty for Alexey Kurtsin is upheld

Yesterday, the Moscow City Court denied the cassational appeal of Alexey Kurtsin, former Acting Head of Yukos Administrative Department, who had been convicted and sentenced to 14 years of deprivation of liberty in November last year for having thieved and laundered 342 million roubles, which Yukos had sent to regions, allegedly for charity. The court upheld original sentences – from eleven to thirteen years of deprivation of liberty – for four convicts, whom it found to have been active accomplices of the theft and the laundering, while reducing the sentences for the other three.

The Reporting Judge pointed out that the verdict to the convicts had been delivered by the Lefortovsky District Court on 28 November 2005. According to the verdict, from January through July 2004, Alexey Kurtsin in “criminal conspiracy” with “first another person [*sic*]” (that is how the court referred to the First Vice-President of OOO Yukos-Moscow Mikhail Trushin, for whom the Prosecutor General’s Office had issued an international arrest warrant) signed orders to transfer monetary funds to bank accounts of organizations from some Tula, Izhevsk, Neftekamsk and other cities as charitable contributions. Then, this money were cashed by other defendants and handed over to Alexey Alexandrov, a friend of Mr Trushin’s, and to other persons who were wanted or not established by the investigation.

Mr Alexandrov’s defence lawyer Andrey Romashov was the first who surprised the court. He submitted a document from Russian Federal Centre for Forensic Examinations: a comparative analysis of the Prosecutor General’s Office bill of indictment and the aforementioned verdict of the Lefortovsky Court. As follows from the analysis, 85% of the text of the verdict, including commas and typos, is identical to the bill of indictment. Nevertheless, the state prosecutor from the Prosecutor General’s office objected against attaching this analysis to the case file saying that the verdict is signed by Judge Elena Kaneva, so there is no need to try to find its authors. Convict Alexandrov argued saying: “If I sign *The War and the World*, I’ll not become the Leo Tolstoy.

Judging by the text of the verdict, there was no trial. For example, it says that I am one of Yukos managers, although I have never been its employee. I don’t understand this verdict”.

Then, Mr Leonid Kheifets, Mr Kurtsin’s defence lawyer, spoke and said that his client had been sentenced to 14 years of deprivation of liberty merely because he worked for the disgraced oil company. “The same acts imputed to Kurtsin – signing orders for reporting purposes – are simultaneously classified as theft and money laundering,” said the defence lawyer. “I have been practicing for 20 years, and have never seen such constructions before. After all, Yukos Administrative Department, where my client worked, was not a presidential administration but just a registry dealing with the document flow of the company. There was a judicial error committed with regard to Mr Kurtsin, and I believe that it should be corrected.”

Another defence lawyer for Mr Kurtsin, Yuri Larin, underscored the lack of proof of the assertions made in the verdict that the money that was stolen and laundered was allegedly handed over to his client: “Where is this money then? Kurtsin turned out not even to have a flat in his possession: he lived together with his elderly parents-pensioners in a small two-room flat built at the time of Nikita Khrushchev.” According to the lawyer, the main goal of this criminal case was to enable the Prosecutor General’s Office to prepare extradition of Mikhail Trushin (who lives in London).

“But such an unfair verdict will not lead to extradition but rather to another shameful experience for Russia.” These words received loud applause in the courtroom. “This is a courtroom, not a theatre,” Presiding Judge Olga Kononenko interrupted them.

The lawyers of the convicts said they would appeal the verdict under the judicial review procedure. The Prosecutor General's Office in its turn is now going to file an extradition request concerning Mikhail Trushin to London.

*Author: Yekaterina Zapodinskaya,
Source: Kommersant*

Kasyanov is planning to review Khodorkovsky's case after he wins the elections.

Mikhail Kasyanov, the former prime-minister of Russia said in his interview to Gazeta.Ru he is not only planning to run the elections, he wants to win.

"I am not planning to reach the 7% barrier and enter the State Duma, not at all," he said. "My goal is to change the policy, since it is destructive, and not to allow the succession take place. We need to win both elections to be able to change the policy. Our Goal No 1 is to have at least 25–30% of votes for the united democratic opposition during the State Duma elections and to have a democratic candidate as a winner of presidential elections. I think there might be 1, 2 or 3 Kremlin's successors, Zhirinovskiy, Yavlinskiy, probably and Zyuganov. Of course, me too".

Besides, in case of victory Kasyanov is planning to suggest the court "re-examine all the details of Khodorkovsky's and Lebedev's case". "I want to underline the phrase "all the details" because the court hearings did not consider all the details. I have already stated that as of me and the information I have, there are no grounds to find Khodorkovsky and Lebedev guilty. However, this is the prerogative of judicial bodies, of course." he said.

*Source:
Noviye Izvestiya*

British citizens were not officially charged with spying in Russia

Russian authorities have not officially charged the employees of the British embassy in Moscow of spying, Anthony Branton, the British Ambassador in Moscow, said at the press conference. According to him, all the persons involved in the scandal are still working in the embassy, RIA News Agency informs.

In January 2006, "Russia" TV channel broadcasted Arkadiy Mamontov's documentary called "The Spies". It was said in the film that last year the FSB of Russia revealed a group of British spies working at the British embassy. The names of the diplomats were mentioned in the film: Marc Doe, Christopher Pirt, Paul Crompton and Andrew Fleming.

It was said in the documentary that "one of the British diplomats, or, better say, spies, was related to some Russian nongovernmental organization". The Foreign Office of Great Britain rejected the charges. "We reject any allegation of improper conduct in our dealing with Russian NGOs," the Foreign Office stated. After the broadcast, colonel Sergey Ignatenko, the head of Public relations Centre at RF FSB said that the question about the fate of the British diplomats involved in the spy scandal would depend on the political decision.

Alongside with the spy scandal, Branton commented on Boris Berezovsky's possible extradition to Russia. According to him, the British Government will not interfere in the case. "The decision should be made by the British legal system," the diplomat stated. In 2003, Berezovsky got a political asylum in Great Britain. The demand of the RF Prosecutor General's Office to extradite Berezovsky was declined. In March 2006, the Prosecutor General's Office sent another request for Berezovsky's extradition, where it was charging Berezovsky for an attempt of coup d'etat.

Source:

<http://www.lenta.ru/news/2006/04/12/spy/>

In detail

The Dagestan Court refused to check the validity of documents in advocate Boliev's criminal case.

The judge refused to appoint a handwriting expertise for the signatures of the witnesses Vitaly Shamberg and Konstantin Novitsky, the Militia officers whose signatures are in the materials of the criminal case. Let us remind you that Osman Boliev's case was heard in Dagestan. He is charged of storage and acquisition of arms. Salimat Kadyrova, Boliev's lawyer, informed the correspondent of "Kavkazsky Uzel" about it.

"According to the Code of Criminal Procedure (UPK) the court is not a body of criminal prosecution and it cannot act on prosecution's or defense's side. The RF UPK does not entitle the court to find the evidence on the fault of witnesses. The subject of the legal proceedings of the criminal case, initiated under Article 222 Para. 1 of RF Criminal Code towards Boliev, and not the collection of evidence on false documents or signatures put by the witnesses of the case," the lawyer is quoting the ruling of Judge Yarali Ramazanov on the refusal to appoint a handwriting expertise upon the defense's request.

"We do not need the evidence on witnesses being guilty. The documents the defence wants to be examined are the evidence of the case. Does the false evidence have anything to do with Boliev's being guilty or not? It is an absurd statement. It follows from this statement that V. Shamber's and C. Novitsky's reports that served as a ground for Boliev's administrative and then criminal prosecution, were of no importance for the criminal case. Lawyer Umaev and I were astonished at this assumption," Salimat Kadyrova says.

"Then I filed a motion on questioning the two militia officers. One of them is the traffic police officer who came to O. Boliev's home on the day of the arrest and the assistance of the officer on duty of Khasavyurt's Militia. The latter was on duty that day and he can give the relevant evidence," Kadyrova says.

"Then the defence required that GOVD record books be brought to the court. These record books contain information on the crimes. We want to check the time when Boliev was taken to the registration department and the time when they found the grenade," the defence lawyer says. "I also asked the court to send an enquiry to the Prosecutor's Office on the material from Boliev's case concerning an unknown person who sold him the grenade. The relevant ruling is in the case. But we do not know what the decision was to be made on it. The court accepted the motion."

"The judge read out Shamber's and Novitsky's applications where they mention that the lawyers asked too many questions and exercised pressure on them during the court hearings, they were not very ethical and were trying to make some corrections of the evidence. I do not know what the aim of these statements was. There was nothing like that. The officers probably disliked

the questions we were asking. These statements resembled too much of the statements of the Prosecutor. I even asked the judge: “Did Shamber and Novitsky put the signatures there themselves?” These are groundless assumptions. It is not clear what they want from the court. These applications have no final part,” Kadyrova wonders.

“The protocols of questionings of Vitaly Shamber and Konstantin Novitsky are absolutely identical, the words are matching. The reason can be that it was the investigator to write the protocols and to give them to the witnesses for signing. But Novitsky and Shamber rather did not sign these protocols, because their signatures on other documents don’t look like these ones,”- the lawyer says.

Let us remind that the court hearings on Osman Boliev’s case restarted on the 16th of March, after a one month break caused by Boliev’s medical treatment. Osman Boliev had been released earlier, on the 13th of February. Sergey Brovchenko, his Moscow lawyer, thinks Boliev’s detention was illegal.

Osman Boliev was arrested on the 15 November 2005 by traffic police officers, who said they were checking his vehicle that resembled another hijacked car. However, as he was driving to Khasavyurt’s Militia, Boliev’s car was stopped as he was stopped by the officers of the RF Ministry of Interior, the operative- search department (MO MVD RF ORD). The traffic police officers showed them Boliev and left the place. The officers from the Ministry of Interior put Boliev in the car, handcuffed him and put a sack on his head. They took him to the Department of Interiors of Khasavyurt. According to the advocate, he was tortured there for several hours, and then searched. After the search, they “found” a knocked-down grenade.

At first they were trying to charge Boliev of the membership in illegal armed troops. The next day, November 16, 2005 RIA “Dagestan” referred to the Ministry of Interior of Dagestan and informed that member of illegal armed group had been arrested in Dagestan, his name was Osman Boliev, he was a member of Arslanbek Abdulsheikhov’s group, the latter being killed in Moscow in 2003 in “Nord-Ost” theatre. According to the same source of information, the law enforcement bodies had information that the arrested man was a participant of the Chechen military actions and was fighting against the federal troops, and that when he was arrested, he had a grenade RGD-5 in his possession”.

“Boliev was searched only in GOVD. According to this logic, Boliev could easily get rid of the grenade on his way there, as he was driving after the traffic police car, but he did not do that,” says the “Public Verdict’ nongovernmental foundation. “Secondly: there was no description of the grenade in the documents submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office. Thirdly: there were no protocols with questionings of the witnesses of the search, when the materials were submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office to initiate a criminal case (these materials were submitted several days later). Fourthly: there were no documents on administrative arrest in the materials submitted to the Prosecutor’s Office to initiate the criminal case”.

A number of experts think the main reason for Boliev’s detention and prosecution was his professional occupation. Boliev is the head of “Romashka” nongovernmental organization that initiated a scandalous criminal case when Yarala Israilo from Dagestan was kidnapped by the officers of Khasavyurt GOVD. Karinna Moskalenko, the legal expert from the International Protection Centre and a commissioner of International Commission of Jurists filed a motion to the European Court of Human Rights. Besides, there was another fact to be made public by Boliev - the murder of Summai Adburashitova, a 6 years old girl. She was killed right in her bed on the 14th of March, 2005 in Solnechnoe community of Khasavyutrovsky rayon during the

special operation of the officers from Dagestan law- enforcement bodies. She was killed with a piece of a large calibre shell. The motion on this case was filed to the European Court, too.

The “Memorial” advocatory centre stated on the 16th of March that “Osman Boliev’s criminal prosecution is obviously politically motivated.”

Kavkazsky Uzel

SOS from Yasnogorsk, Tula oblast

It is already for the 21 day that the workers of OJSC “Yasnogorsky Machinery Plant” of Tula oblast are on a hunger- strike. The participants of the hunger-strike are expressing their gratitude to all their supporters in Russia and abroad. They are starting the regular dissemination of leaflets with the lists of organizations, mass media and individuals supporting them.

Two participants of the hunger- strike are still in the hospital. One of them was taken to Tula oblast hospital; the other hospitalized woman has heart problems. A. Yeroifeev, another participant of the hunger- strike, a 71 year old man was taken to hospital, too. Today, 3 people are in the hospital, 30 are on a hunger- strike.

According to deputy B. Kibirev’s initiative (The State Duma Committee on Labour and Social Policy and Committee on National Security) the State Duma (April, 7, at 16: 55) adopted the following protocol mission: to enquire from the Russian Federation Ministry of Health and Social Development and from the Tula oblast administration on the situation with Yasnogorsk machinery plant, the measures taken to eliminate the indebting and to inform the State Duma about the situation.

The participants of the hunger-strike say that the RF Constitution is not observed in Tula oblast and that A. Korablev, the vice- governor of Tula oblast is telling fairy tales to the local television in giving out the certificates for salary indebting. Instead of asking the law-enforcement bodies and the Prosecutor’s Office to start criminal investigation and to sell the plant at invaluable price, he’d better solve this problem in a more humanistic way.

The participants of the hunger- strike address President Vladimir Putin, the warrantor of the Constitution: Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich! Please interfere in the situation with Yasnogorsky machinery plant, ask the bureaucrats to pay our salary. We gave our votes to you and United Russia Party!

Their health is getting worse and worse. They say they’ll fight on, even is the final is tragic.

Organizations, physical persons and Media, supporting the participants of hunger-strike in Yasnogorsk:

1. **Vladimir Shaklein**, Inter-regional centre for Human Rights – Ural branch of ANM “For Human Rights”: “We are objecting against the negative performance of authorities involved in the criminal deeds and guilty for the failure to pay the salary!”
2. **Yelena Kharitonova**: “Robbers and torturers, pay out the salary! The non-payment of salary is an awful sin. The Bible says that. Be afraid of the Lord. Everyone is responsible for his deeds. My sympathy and support to the participants of the hunger- strike”.
3. **Galina Platova**, journalist of *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, article of 11 April “SOS! Hunger strike of workers!”

4. ***Ella Pamfilova***, Chairwoman of the Council at the RF President on the assistance to the development of civil society and human rights addressed V. Dudka, the Tula oblast governor asking to solve the conflict at Yasnogorsky machinery plant.
5. ***Nikolay Kuchma***: “How can I be helpful exactly?”
6. ***“Plus 12” Tula TV company***, regular and objective TV reports on the course of hunger- strike
7. ***Yelena Grishina, Regional nongovernmental organization “Centre of Public Information”***, information support
8. ***“Demos” Center***, information support
9. ***Information agency “For Human Rights”***, information support
10. ***Sergey Udaltsov, AKM***: “We are leaving for Tula to support the striving men”

Please, send the information on the support and sympathy to: e-mail: tpc@tula.net, fax (4872) 43-09-04)

*For additional information:
The starving men: 8-(48766) 2-16-64, 2-31-95
Information provided by “Tula Advocatory Centre”
Viktor Kurenkov, Chairman of the Nongovernmental Organization,
Cell phone 8-905 –118-09-91
Tel. / fax: (4872) 43-09-04*

Friends, if you do not wish to receive the news reels, please let us know.