

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
OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION
IN PRESENT DAY RUSSIA**

News, statements, appeals, analysis, commentaries

Issue No. 35

23 September 2005

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The Kulikovsky battle of the Russian justice or launching their caps along the ballistic curve

Below we offer an editorial commentary of Ye. V. Ikhlov on account of kidnapping Trepashkin, the verdict in the case of YUKOS and new attacks against Khodorkovsky's defence lawyers.

There is a wonderful English saying “to fling one's caps over the mill”, which is an equivalent of our domestic “to let oneself go”. The Kremlin flung its “caps” very far during the last days. The last time a similar thing was observed after the intervention in Afghanistan, “if we have such a booze-up cut the last cucumber”, and by a secret decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Academician Sakharov was exiled to the city of Gorky – without time limit.

Let us pay attention first to the “intermingling of karmas”, those of Trepashkin and of Khodorkovsky. Lawyer Trepashkin was unlawfully detained (the secret service planted a pistol to him – the charge was dismissed by the Moscow Oblast Court on 1 July 2005 because the fact was not proved) on 22 October 2003. Three days after that the FSB special force carried out the capture of billionaire Khodorkovsky. On 18 September 2005 the secret service officers in plain clothes kidnap in Moscow Trepashkin who was released on parole and drive him in a “civilian” car to the Urals where unlawfully, without a court decision on a sanction, transfer him to investigative isolator No. 1 of Yekaterinburg. Four days after that the “Moscow City Stamp” completes the protracted comedy of trial of Lebedev and Khodorkovsky having mockingly sliced off a trifling year from the 9-year sentence for each. It is already after the expiry of the limitation period in two main episodes (privatisation of “Apatit” and the Chemical Fertilizers Research Institute) and lifting the charge against Khodorkovsky on crediting “MOST”. In the same manner scientist Valentin Danilov who was an absolutely innocent victim of the Putin-Patrushev spy mania was also reduced his sentence term – from 14 to 13 years. In a word, this is fit for the collection “The judges are joking!”

A horrible in its cruelty and meanness sentence to Lebedev and Khodorkovsky has been delivered. 8 years is a lesson to all those who thought to defend against the punishing hand of the [Kremlin] power with traditional methods: defence lawyers, micro rallies, appeals to the PACE and the US Congress. It was necessary not to “lay down the law” but to beg for mercy: take everything, the company – personally to Sechin into his good hands,- the money, leave only my life, I agree also to a five-year term and I can confess that together with Nevzlin I hired Basaev on Khottab's money to kill Putin ... and during the “Nord-Ost” added to the cylinders with gaseous Dimedrol the trimethylfentanyl, wherewith slandered our Agencies having forced them to an act of state terrorism... Then, with due account of partial merger of sentences, the “shady characters” would get four years each and the “Moscow City Stamp” would have reduced it to two years and released them owing to their having served the term...

But the sentence for the “proud oligarchs” has been issued. Now the time has come to teach the defence lawyers: this Amsterdam who launched the indelible “Basmanny justice” shall be denied his visa, the Russian defence lawyers who disrupted our issuance of the verdict on the eve of expiry of the limitation period shall be debarred... Swing the arm, let it itch for action...

Putin believes that he has calculated everything well: there is discord and hesitation in the West – the USA got the Iraqi “trap” an hurricanes; Germany got a tie-up of both parties; oil prices are going up; the “orange revolution” is in a state of acute crisis, the EU got entangled between the Cyprus, Turkey and under-approved constitution... But then also in the Political Bureau in 1979 (they were titans no match to the present chiefs of the homeland – Andropov, Gromyko, Ustinov...) they also studied the dispositions: the USA was “pinched its tail” in Iran (all diplomats were hostages); the West embraced by the energy crisis; the western leaders did not know how to humour the USSR... It looked as if you could do whatever you liked. Years passed and it turned out that all subsequent actions of the Soviet leadership – to tighten the screws, to release the screws - only drew the country to the inevitable ruin...

News of the affair of M. Khodorkovsky and P. Lebedev

P: Mikhail Khodorkovsky's and Platon Lebedev's lawyers have achieved today a mitigation of the sentence issued earlier. The term of their confinement has been reduced now from 9 to 8 years. The lawyers tried to postpone the hearings, to challenge all court and insisted that the 10-year limitation period in the case of misappropriation of the Institute of Fertilizers shares had expired already, the date being 21 September. The court disagreed. However, it removed some episodes from the old cases, and in some cases re-qualified "misappropriation and embezzlement" to "causing property damage to owners". The sentence for "fraud and non-payment of tax" remained unchanged.

Yuri Schmidt (M. Khodorkovsky's lawyer): Our main arguments were not taken into account by the court at all. And so our plans, naturally, include also further struggle to repeal this verdict. It is not clear yet how we will do it. We have some time to ponder it over. We will think and get ready.

Dmitry Shokhin (State Prosecutor in the case of M. Khodorkovsky, P. Lebedev and A. Krainov): The court of cassational instance found the arguments of the prosecution to be convincing, the adduced evidence on Khodorkovsky, Lebedev and Krainov as trustworthy and sufficient and found in essence the verdict of the court of first instance to be lawful, substantiated and fair.

P: ... Such is the result of this day in this long affair. Even Khodorkovsky's lawyers are not clear for the time being whether he would be able after this sentence to nominate himself to the deputy's seat; at least, they refused to comment on this question today.

Source: RTR # Vesti+

Moscow City Court issued its decision in the case of YUKOS

P: ...Mikhail Khodorkovsky turned into a convict from a defendant. The sentence in his case has entered into legal force. ... Sergey Morozov spent a day in the court.

Corr. Starting from today, Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev are considered to be convicted in full measure. The court of cassational instance affirmed the verdict of conviction having shortened the term of confinement from 9 to 8 years. It means that they shall be sent from the investigative isolator to a penal colony and deprived of his rights Mikhail Khodorkovsky will not be able to participate in the elections to the State Duma. ... The Moscow City Court repealed the verdict in the episode with embezzlement of monetary funds in favour of Vladimir Gusinsky. In his final statement Mikhail Khodorkovsky dwelt in detail on that. During an hour and a half he substantiated his position with adduced documents and a judgment of the Supreme Court and then expressed a pity that he had not been given time to prepare on all episodes. The lawyers demanded that the verdict should be repealed in full. Today, the defendant himself called the trial as "political".

Mikhail Khodorkovsky: It has no relation to justice. And with regard to the rest of the episodes of the case, I enumerated the simplest and most easily understandable aspects of the fact why, properly speaking, neither is there my participation in these acts, I simply did not speak about it, nor are there any crimes.

Corr.: The court did not repeal the verdict on one of the main episodes of the case – the fraudulent misappropriation of the shares of the Research Institute of Fertilizers. Khodorkovsky's defence believed that the limitation period in it expired last night but the state prosecutor stated that the limitation period was expiring this midnight...

Source: NTV # Segodnya (Today)

Amsterdam is expelled from Russia

Mikhail Khodorkovsky's international lawyer Robert Amsterdam may be expelled from Russia. His Russian visa was cancelled, reports Khodorkovsky's press centre.

“On Thursday afternoon representatives of law-enforcement agencies came to the company that had organised a visa for Amsterdam to conduct an inspection and check. They were interested in the details of legalisation of the lawyer’s papers”, they said in the press centre. .

They also added in the press centre that on Thursday night five police officers came to Amsterdam’s suite in the hotel “Ararat Park – Hayat” who seized his passport, conducted an inspection of his documents and personal belongings.

“One of the law-enforcement agency officers told that on Friday Amsterdam would be expelled from the Russian Federation”, emphasised a representative of Khodorkovsky’s press centre. Later the plain-clothed people who took his documents returned them with a note in the passport on the necessity to leave Russia on Friday. “At the same time, Amsterdam had a visa for the period until July 2006”, stressed Moskalenko as RIA “*Novosti*” reports. Unless he leaves the Russian Federation on Friday, his stay on the territory of the country will be considered unlawful, she stated. According to Moskalenko’s data, Amsterdam stayed in Russia on invitation of one of consultancy companies. “It is alleged that this company applied to the visa office that they did not know the whereabouts of Amsterdam”, added the defence lawyer. When asked whether this decision would be appealed, Moskalenko stated, “they do not know against whom a suit should be filed, although, in all appearance, the matter concerns representatives of the passport and visa service. Moskalenko also informed that the strangers refused to answer her question of their affiliation with the law-enforcement agencies. She was told in the hotel that upon entrance these people presented an ID of police officers”, noted the defence lawyer. “I will complain against their actions, but for the time being I have not got their names”, said Moskalenko. Moskalenko stated by phone on Friday night that “this situation is an intimidation action”... ..

*Sergei Morozov,
Vladislav Dubovitsky,
Boris Halkin.
NTV, Moscow*

Khodorkovsky’s defence prepares a new action to the Strasbourg Court

Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s defence will submit a new application to the Strasbourg Court, reported one of the lawyers of the ex-head of YUKOS, Karinna Moskalenko.

As she said, in the new complaint the lawyers bring to a focus that in relation to Khodorkovsky his right to a fair trial was infringed. “The Meshchansky Court of the city of Moscow and the Moscow City Court violated Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights”, Moskalenko told RIA “*Novosti*” ...

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Lawyer: Khodorkovsky may be freed in three years

Mikhail Khodorkovsky will get the right to be released on parole in three years.

One of the lawyers of the ex-head of YUKOS, Yelena Levina, informed about it. As RIA “*Novosti*” reports, Levina reminded that after the cassational appeals were considered Khodorkovsky should serve his term of punishment for 8 years. This term includes also these almost two years, which he spent in custody, noted the lawyer. “According to the law, Khodorkovsky gets the right to be released on parole after he has served two thirds of the term he was convicted to, i.e. that right will appear for him in three years”, said Levina.

The profitable jail

I propose to consider the matter of appointment of M. Khodorkovsky as acting chief of the investigative isolator “*Matrosskaya Tishina*”. Or, at least, to make him a deputy on logistics. The economic indicators of the prison will immediately go up, the detention conditions will improve, and the wardens’ salaries will increase. I think, the prison will be able even to go over to self-repayment and in future to give also a good profit.

*Author: Victor Berg,
Source: IZVESTIA*

Is it necessary to appoint oligarchs as governors of the regions in crisis?

Konstantin Pulikovsky, representative plenipotentiary of the President in the Far East, confirmed to “Izvestia” that Roma Abramovich had not written an application of consent for a new term of serving in the office of governor of Chukotka. It looks like the future of Governor Abramovich is in question.

At the same time there is a confirmation of the information that another oligarch – Victor Vekselberg may be appointed as head of the merged in one region Kamchatka and Koryakia (although, they say, on a condition – if he is able to ensure additional revenues to the regional budget). There are examples that when the people who come from business are rather successful in management of regions. It is Alexander Khloponin in Krasnoyarsk Krai, Alexander Tkachev in Krasnodar Krai, and Dmitry Zelenin in Tver Oblast. So, maybe, it is worth while to make crisis managers for the regions in crisis out of Russian oligarchs?

Alexander Khloponin, governor of Krasnoyarsk

“Not every man who can make money may become a good governor”

It seems to me, the basic criterion when choosing a candidate to the post of a governor is not the last place of work of the person but his business qualities. If the underlying reason of the matter consists in the "oligarch" who becomes a governor to start investing his personal money in any form in development of "his own" territory then some specific problems can be solved in this way, probably. But to overcome a system crisis in the region, it is necessary to create comfortable conditions for operation of private capital. And this should be done within the limits of laws; it is a basis for long-term relations. Probably, knowing the rules of the game in big business will make it somewhat easier. However, not every person who can make money may become a good governor and *vice versa*. Therefore, I do not think that it should be turned into a system.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, vice-speaker of the State Duma

“Everything should be distributed. And let them sit and work.”

For sure. It is the best option for them to be able to legalise their money there, to invest and get what Khodorkovsky wanted. The feeling of power. Here’s a small territory for you, please, try it. If you manage it, we’ll give you more territories and everything will go on further. The money works, the oligarch is certain: he has immunity. He feels his inputs.

All rich must be sent from Moscow to these regions. They will make out, who to which place. Some of them have already indicated it: “INTECO” to Belgorod, and somebody is promised Kamchatka. Potanin is ready to take over Tver Oblast or Pskov, Novgorod Oblast.

Mordashov, he has got Cherepovets, Vologda Oblast. That is the regions where they have a good launching pad. Everything should be distributed. And let them sit and work.

...»

Source: IZVESTIA

Vasily Aksenov: “If they start to rehabilitate the monuments to Stalin I will repudiate the Homeland”

“Will the mind of our people still clear up sometime?” Writer Vasily Aksenov to “Izvestia”

Izvestia: You write in your article “Nostalgic schizophrenia” about a threat of formation of a society akin to the one during the rule of czar Alexander III with his jingoism, governmentalised church, the policy of imperialist expansion and quenching any dissenting thought. Do you think such a threat exists now?

Aksenov: Very much. It is a very alarming period now and it is not clear where all this may turn to. In any direction. Youthful maximalism under the red flag – seems to be a trifling matter, small groups, and in reality – everything begins with that. I do not think that everything is fully destroyed and censorship is recovered and powers to be know no restraint. For the time being they are not so ferocious.

But there grew up such horrible institutions as the Procuracy General where intrigues against democracy have been continuously designed. There appear tendencies to close all valves and to establish such a system although not communist but still a terrible system ... Recently I read an article entitled “Inevitability of new communism” in the “Literary Gazette”. The author writes there that a real consumerist society is developing in Russia, and in this trade frenzy, consumerism, in a certain sense a dream of the Soviet population of communism is expressed. And that, new communism is inevitable but it will be built on the basis of consumerism, in other words, it will be “fat communism”.

Izvestia: At the books trade fair that recently ended Stepashin dropped somehow that he would deal with the ideology of reading. What do you think, how may it turn out?

Aksenov: In my view, they understand not a bit just like all our people. There is such a mess in the minds of the people. Suddenly there appears a wild nostalgia for Stalinism; they demand rehabilitation of the monuments to Stalin. Here I have said already: “If there starts a recovery of monuments to Stalin in this country – I will repudiate my Homeland. There is nothing left for me.” (*Laughs.*) But in principle, it is nostalgia for that time. This last novel of mine also was born, strange as it may seem, on the yeast of nostalgia for the time, for youth, for those feelings.

We cannot wave away all this. I remember how in the horrible society of 1952 – from my point of view, it was a peak of socialism, after Stalin’s death disintegration already started – many people tried to deceive themselves: “We are not such nonentities still that simply lick his ass in fear of the NKVD, KGB, for there is something in him, it is not for nothing that somebody shouted at the congress: long live great Stalin eternally!” There was always present the theme of death of Stalin and eternal existence of the leader.

Pasternak also wrote verses extolling Stalin and Mandelshtam, too. That is, our system cannot be regarded only as a ferocious dictatorship for the sake of holding the power. There is some mystical sense in it.

Izvestia: Do you think it is tightening the screws?

Aksenov: The present-day situation is very complicated. Once I read an interview with Chubais. He is a real liberal, one of the pillars of democracy. He denounces humiliation of Khodorkovsky and dismantling of YUKOS but, on the other hand, he says in this interview that, God forbid, if this regime collapses then it is not clear at all where all this may go. However, is there any reason in the talks of stabilisation, which Putin brought? First, the value of this stabilisation is in big question, it may disintegrate with unbelievable speed when actually the activities of opposition are stopped and when censorship measures are applied towards TV.

Secondly, we see that it is not the final tightening up. RTVI television is telecast abroad and broadcasts of “Special Opinion” are on together with the “Moscow Echo” and there is such criticism of the regime. It is present even here. Today I watched a programme on Father Alexander Men. It is stated there directly that these are crafty designs of the persons who have assembled around the Procuracy General. It is a very courageous presentation. Or take the historical chronicles of Svanidze. Praise to them at least for their causing hatred for the red youths, which are so much fond of Stalin.

I was in the courtroom when Khodorkovsky’s case was tried there. When I walked out a woman ran up to me in the corridor and started to speak: “You should join us, you must help us, our children – like Decembrists, they threw a challenge.” At first I did not understand who she meant. Then, when she gave the figure of 49 persons I understood finally that they were Limonovites. I said: “Madam, I am sorry, of course, if you write a letter with a demand to release them I will sign it without any hesitation, but at the same time tell your son – how old is he? – 21 – that it is a shame to joint the party called Bolshevik”.

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*Author: Natalia Kochetkova,
Source: IZVESTIA*

There is a left turn six meters after

Will the enforced eviction from apartments increase the protest electorate base?

In the nearest days the bailiffs will start execution of the Liublino Court decision concerning the eviction of the Tupins family out of their apartment. The authorities of the South-Eastern Area of Moscow sued the Tupins for their non-payment of the rent and utility services. The persistent defaulters will be given some accommodation in a hostel in Kapotnya – one of the environmentally unhealthiest areas of the capital. “On Monday the court rendered a judgment of their movement in their absence because the respondents did not appear at either of the court hearings”, emphasized Vladimir Zotov, the area prefect.

Citizens in Russia always, even when housing was state-owned, considered it to be their own. Acquiring an apartment during the Soviet time was “a deed of the entire life”. They took up a job at such places where housing was promised within the shortest possible time. And if they used to say in the West, “My house is my fortress”, they could say in the USSR, “My apartment is everything I have”. Imagine what a citizen of Russia feels when this “everything he has” is taken away from him. What will there be a reaction of the society to mass evictions? Will the mass evictions not push to the “left turn”, of which Mikhail Khodorkovsky wrote recently?

*Author: Andrei Riskin,
Source: NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA*

A congress of the paralysed

Dissident thought is rooted out in the SPS

A scandal is brewing in the “Union of Right-Wing Forces” (SPS). As Ivan Starikov, secretary of the Political Council of the SPS on electoral policy, informed “NG”, at the congress, which is to be held on 24 September, the question of expelling from the party of him and the secretary on legislative initiatives, Boris Nadezhdin” will be put on the agenda. The cause is their initiative to nominate Mikhail Khodorkovsky as a candidate to deputy of the State Duma in the University constituency.

The threat of expulsion of both prominent party members confirmed the tendency in the tactics of the party leadership that became visible long ago. It consists of a striving for bringing distress to the country’s leadership as seldom as possible. The absurdity of the situation is in the

fact that the SPS is still considered to be the only opposition structure on the political right wing...

... It is known that not only the question of the position in the Khodorkovsky case will be raised at the congress but also about unification with “*Yabloko*” (Apple). The Moscow branches of “*Yabloko*” and SPS having already agreed about their joint appearance in the capital’s elections yesterday failed to announce that the pre-electoral union was established: according to head of the faction “SPS – New Moscow” in the Moscow City Duma (MGD) Ivan Novitsky, at the federal level there still continue “complicated negotiations”, the outcome of which will become known this night – on the results of the federal SPS Political Council meeting. As Novitsky told “NG”, the Moscow organisation will not be able to oppose the will of the party just because the candidates for the capital’s elections should be nominated by a congress. According to the information of “NG”, the essence of the negotiations conducted between Belykh and deputy chairman of “*Yabloko*” Sergei Mitrokhin concerns the issue who would take the first place on the list. In Starikov’s opinion, the condition of “*Yabloko*” should be accepted, which offers itself as the operator of the list and two first places in it given to the SPS members. “If the unification fails the parties will be thrown out onto the political cemetery”.

We shall note: of late the “Union of Right-Wing Forces” becomes more and more similar to a ship laid in a convenient harbour and covered with a mass of sea-shells of hurting nicknames. The party is called the right wing of the “United Russia” (*Yedinaya Rossiya*) and still more as a department of RAO “YeES of Russia”. The hint is transparent: the present leadership of SPS turned the party into small change in its relations with the Kremlin.

The rapprochement with the power vertical cost the Union much uncompensated losses. Khakamada left it to form her own political entity. Nemtsov plunged into business only nominally exercising his membership in the Political Council. Gaidar returned to science. And the main sponsor of the SPS whose stepping aside would mean immediate (and already unnecessary) death of the party recently got an opportunity to ponder on the theme of fragility of human organism in conditions of a sudden car accident. After which he seems to have lost entirely any interest in politics and the more so in opposition politics. In general, there happened no renewal of the party ranks that was promised after the failure at the last parliamentary elections. The king is dead.

In the meantime the SPS enjoys the reputation of being hardly the only abode of the right-wing electorate even today. Those 4-5% of the constituents who gave their votes to the “Union of Right-Wing Forces” in 2004 have not disappeared anywhere and when half a loaf is better than no bread they have no one else to vote for in 2007. The liberal zombie managed to stake a claim on an extremely important plot of land of the ideological map of the country. As a result, the field turned out to be barren, nothing useful grows there for a long time and it cannot grow – the place is occupied.

*Author: Lilia Mukhamedyarova,
Source: NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA*

To all who can still hear!

Something, which resists comprehension, happens at the trial of the 39 young Decembrists.

The charge has fallen apart. All witnesses for the prosecution confirmed that a group of young people who came on 14 December 2004 to the reception office of the Presidential Administration with an “Address” to him and the Constitution of the Russian Federation in their hands did nothing that could give grounds for the charge against them under Article 212 of the Criminal Code (Participation in mass riots). The defence lawyers of the young Decembrists file a motion with the judge to change the measure of restraint with respect of their defendants in connection with the fact that there were no grounds to keep them in detention but the judge left

the decision of their confinement in force because “the charge is too grave” (which is based on nothing, i.e. it is unfounded).

This fact confirms that the trial is clearly political. Was it the President himself who got hurt by the young patriots who dared to remind him of his presidential oath or was it somebody of his assistants – is not known to us. It is only the fact that the judge and the procurators persistently announce intervals in the hearings for telephone consultations with somebody from the Presidential Administration. Everybody says that it is useless to wait for impartiality and justice. Everything depends on a “call from the top”. The tyranny of the telephone rule is stronger than law. The court is reduced to a scaffold and the judge to the executioner who executes the sentence announced on behalf of the President.

We offer below to everybody who does not know it yet the Address, with which the young Decembrists came to the President.

We do not need such a president!

Address to President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin

Mister President, we have a long list of claims to you. You have on your conscience:

1. **Falsification of elections** – both the State Duma and presidential.
2. **Deprivation of citizens of Russia of their electoral rights**: the transition to appointment of governors from their elections. It is a coup-d’etat, destruction of the federal state.
3. **Robbing of the people through “monetization of benefits”**. Only naïve people believe the fairy tale about the unruly villains **Zurabov** and **Gref**. We know: nothing in the Russian state is done without your decision. With current oil prices the benefits could be not cancelled but doubled and tripled.
4. **Appearance of American military bases in Central Asia**. You let them in there after the well-known events of 11 September 2001. You curry favour with the USA.
5. **Transfer of Russian territories to China**. 35 years ago the islands in the Far East were defended in bloody fighting by our border guards. Judging by your pronouncements, you are going to do the same with the Kuril Islands – to present them to Japan. And also Kaliningrad to **Kamerad Gerhardt**?
6. **Friendship with horrendous regime of Turkmenbashi** who expelled the Russians from Turkmenistan.
7. **Shutting down independent television channels**. Thanks to you, the television stopped showing truth and gives daily lies to the people.
8. **Talentless interference in the elections in Abkhazia and the Ukraine**. It was difficult to spoil the relations with the friendly Abkhaz people but you managed it. And the Ukraine is through your efforts on the threshold of disintegration and civil war.
9. **The victims of “Nord-Ost” and Beslan**. There is no “international terrorism”, there is a war in Chechnya. Which you failed to win and now you have no courage to stop it. Confess that this war is waged not for the national interests but for your personal rating, for your reputation of a “tough guy”.
10. **Renewal of political repressions in Russia**. National Bolsheviks **Gromov, Tishin, Globa-Mikhailenko, Bespalov, Korshunsky, Yezhov, Klenov** who came out against robbing of the people are political prisoners now. Victims of political tyranny are also such people as physicist **Danilov**, lawyer **Trepashkin** who were punished only for their independent behaviour.

These are not all claims to you yet but even these are enough. You seem to imagine yourself a czar and not a president elected by the people and responsible to the people. You have forgotten the words of the oath you took when inaugurated in your office. “I swear to respect and protect the rights and freedoms of man and citizen, to observe and protect the Constitution of the Russian Federation, to defend the sovereignty and independence, security and integrity of the state, to serve the people loyally”. Probably, you act not on ill will; just you have no political

talent. Then it is the more so that you should find courage and resign. The sooner you do it, the better it will be for Russia.

National Bolsheviks

From our point of view, this address has nothing criminal. The Constitution of the Russian Federation secures the right to freedom of thought, speech and addresses to any government body. The young Decembrists were guided by their civil rights.

We appeal to the legislators and public figures: speak up in defence of our children. It is already the tenth month that they are left to rot in gaol. They are tortured by daily court hearings depriving them of normal sleep, medical service, normal meals of three times a day, a possibility to take a bath. They are driven for many hours in the prison vehicles across Moscow, exhausting them physically. The escort demonstrates unfounded cruelty and rudeness towards them. They are not permitted to obtain parcels with books, newspapers, medicines. All of them caught a cold and are coughing. Somebody's personal spite doomed them to that.

If anybody of you feels sympathy to our children and us, stand up for our children. Help to preserve their lives.

Parents of young Decembrists

"A trial on the secret orders of the MVD RF"

A press conference was held in the Independent Press Centre on the theme "Legal Proceedings on Secret Orders of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (MVD RF)"

Participants: S.Yu. Markelov, lawyer, who appealed the use of secret orders of the MVD RF; L.A. Ponomarev, executive director of ARNGM "For Human Rights", a member of the Public Commission for Investigation of the Events in Blagoveshchensk; Ye.V. Ikhlov, head of the Information Analytical Service of ARNGM "For Human Rights".

A year ago (21-22 September 2004) the OMON (Special Police Force) and militia organised mass assault and battery of the participants of a protest demonstration in Elista, the capital of Kalmykia. Then, in mid-December 2004, the militia beat up and put in filtration camps the residents of Blagoveshchensk (Bashkortostan) and its suburbs. Then in March-June 2005, although on a smaller scale, there took place mass beatings and "filtration" of residents of other cities and inhabited areas: Bezhetsk and Rozhdestvednno Village in Tver Oblast, Ivanovskoye Village of Stavropol Krai...

As the investigation into the facts of violation of rights of citizens by MVD officers in Blagoveshchensk showed, they occurred on the basis of Order of the MVD of Russia No. 870-DSP (for service use) of 10.09.2002 and inspired by it other confidential acts. Just like the February decision (2004) of Chief of ROVD (Police Department) of Blagoveshchensk concerning "destruction" – in pretence – of the protest action participants.

Analysis of the human rights activists showed that Order of the MVD of Russia No. 870-DSP of 10.09.2002 is in complete contravention with the Constitution of the Russian Federation. In the answer of the MVD to inquiries contradictory answers were given – the "Yabloko" Party was answered that the Order did not need any registration in the Ministry of Justice and in the answer to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, Lukin, it was said that the Order had been registered.

In connection with this, the defence lawyer of the victims in Blagoveshchensk, barrister Stanislav Markelov filed a motion, in accordance with which on 3 October this year in Ufa, in the Kirovsky District Court the matter of lawfulness of the filtration stations and emergency actions of the militia conducted on the basis of the notorious Order of the MVD of Russia No. 870-DSP shall be decided on the materials of the Blagoveshchensk affair.

The Movement “For Human Rights” applied on 22 September to the Procuracy General with an official application requesting to initiate a criminal case with respect of the leadership of the Russian MVD, which prepared and issued the anti-constitutional order 870-DSP (at the time – B.V. Gryzlov) – for exceeding official powers, which entailed grave consequences, and with respect of the leadership of the Ministry of Justice that had registered it, as well as the present leaders of the MVD who did not revoke the Order (R.G. Nurgaliev) – for criminal negligence.

Sobinform

Nongovernmental organisations of Orel Oblast establish public reception offices
Orel regional organisation “Civil Control”, Orel regional branch of OPORA of Russia, Coordinator of the National Anti-Corruption Committee for Orel Oblast together with the newspaper “Orlovskiy Novosti” (Orel News) proclaimed the beginning of new interactive public project – establishment of public reception offices for the population of the Oblast.

The organisers of the project addressed the inhabitants of the Oblast: " Problems of corruption in all structures of government, irresponsibility of officials, insuperable bureaucratic obstacles and indifference, social vulnerability, legal illiteracy - who did not face it? We wish to help you to be heard. We shall support your struggle for your rights. We shall try together to punch the blank wall of bureaucracy ".

As the organising committee of the project informs, the work of the public reception offices will be organised in several directions: free-of-charge legal consultations on social questions, civil and administrative law; a legal aid and methodological support of subjects of small and medium business; consulting support in the sphere of housing-and-utility services legal relations and establishment of partnerships of housing proprietors; organisation of journalistic investigations and direct applications to government through the newspaper “Orlovskiy Novosti” ; relaying of applications of citizens to the federal government bodies, law-enforcement and procuracy bodies, nongovernmental and human rights organisations, national mass media.

Qualified lawyers, staff members of the bureau for protection of rights of businessmen, experts in the sphere of housing legislation, and journalists will give consultations. A special page of the newspaper “Orlovskiy Novosti” will be devoted to the review of applications. The first *public reception office* begins its work on 24 September.

The organisers of the project promise Orel citizens that “in case the problems accumulated and people willing to express them are too many, then a travelling *public reception office* will be set up in the settlement, your area, your yard, on your street ...”

RO «Civil Controll»

Tiumen as a territory of lawlessness

A stiff resistance of the authorities to lawful demands of the population takes place in Tiumen. This is caused by a determination of the authorities to destroy part of the recreational zone of the city in the interests of a small company OOO “Sibirsky Landshaft”, whose director S.V. Volchenko also owns a small restaurant “Angliysky Dvorik” (English Garden) where sometimes the governor’s press conferences take place. Without a tender or bidding this company acquired the right to construction of an ugly 11-storey structure with various “entertainments” to be placed directly in the recreational zone of the city of Tiumen, in a small park (of 2 ha area) located in Microdistrict 5. This territory is a favourite place of rest, recreation of the population and the site for sports activities. Out of the 2 ha, the territory of 1 ha has been allocated for construction. In this, 280 full size trees, a football field for teenagers, shady lanes, sunny clearings surrounded by birch-trees are planned to be erased.

The Council of the fifth territorial public self-government (TOS-5) addressed the city head with a request to conduct a poll of the inhabitants of the adjacent houses with respect of their agreement to the change of their environment. This appeal was left unattended. Numerous multi-thousand-signed petitions with protests against the seizure of the birch grove and sports facilities were sent to the city government level...

The situation is heated up by the fact that the courts, as though on somebody's command, started to refuse admittance of applications to challenge the decisions, opinions, findings of expert examinations. The courts do not shun admitting as evidence deliberately forged documents. An officer of the city administration, Bolgova, produced with the aid of scissors and glue a report of selection of a plot of land in the interests of the company OOO "Sibirsky Landshaft", literally glued on the signatures from the report of 2002 kept in the archive to the title page of her own manufacture of 2003. The entire package of the permission documentation is based on this falsified document.

The official position of Governor of the Oblast S.S. Sobianin was voiced at the meeting with heads of mass media at the end of August 2005: "We have sufficiently much of reserve land and there is no need to place some 10-storey buildings on the site of gardens and children's pleasure grounds".

The decision to remove the zone of culture, rest and recreation of the population and the place for outdoor sports is a challenge to the civil society. There started mass protest actions including blocking of highways. In response, the staff of the customer company and "thugs" hired by it systematically organise assault and battery of the inhabitants. Such beating occurred on 16 August, no one has been detained until this time, and no one has been brought to responsibility. In the meantime, on account of the spontaneous blocking of the highway by the residents of the area accelerated trials were held against the "Green" Party members ...

The deputies of the City Duma sign petitions to preserve flowers on the streets of the city but, despite numerous appeals of citizens, have not taken any steps to bring this process into the legal framework. And what is more, the Duma approved a new Charter and elected the city manager V.V. Yakushev who actually got all power. In his turn, the Oblast Governor made Yakushev a member of the Oblast Government. It is difficult to say to what degree this situation complies with Article 12 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation ("The bodies of local self-government shall not be part of the state power bodies".)

At the same time there are expert opinions of the Charter being void and the election of the city head being invalid because Law No. FZ-131, on the basis of which the Charter was allegedly drawn up, will become effective only from 1 January 2008.

... The couldn't-careless attitude to public opinion, to decisions and appeals of the territorial public self-government body attest to the fact that at the city level temporarily (we hope) the Constitution of Russia ceased to be effective.

In these conditions the citizens have to put on the agenda mass non-violent actions to recover the rule of law on the territory of the city of Tiumen.

Vadim Postnikov,
Executive Director
Tiumen regional branch
All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement
«For Human Rights»
hrtyum@sibtel.ru

To the "Amnesty International" Organisation

On 18 September 2005 in his apartment in Moscow with participation of a large number of secret service plain-clothed officers there was actually abducted lawyer and human rights activist Mikhail Ivanovich Trepashkin who was recently released by court decision from the penal settlement colony. Although without determination by court of the measure of restraint for

him, he was unlawfully deprived of liberty and brought to investigative isolator No. 1 of the city of Yekaterinburg

Already last year Mikhail Trepashkin was recognised by Russian human rights activists as a political prisoner. We believe that Trepashkin's detention is kidnapping and a revenge of the authorities for his public position. A court has not chosen a measure of restraint for Trepashkin in the form of deprivation of liberty and his arrest on 22 October 2003 was related only to the fabricated charge against him of his keeping arms, which was dismissed when the cassational instance of the Moscow Oblast Court repealed the verdict on 1 July "due to absence of evidence of his involvement in the fact of crime"..

When repealing on 16 September 2005 the judgment of the Tagilstroyevsky District Court of the city of Nizhny Tagil on releasing Mikhail Trepashkin on parole, the Sverdlovsk Oblast Court did not take a decision on choosing a measure of restraint with respect of him in the form of deprivation of liberty. The reversal of the court judgment on release of Trepashkin was passed on demand of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Procuracy already after its entry into legal force and after the return of Trepashkin home.

On 16 September 2005 we came out with a statement, in which we assessed the decision of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Court on reversal of the decision of releasing lawyer Mikhail Ivanovich Trepashkin on parole on presentation of the procuracy as an evident revenge of the local authorities and Russian secret service to Trepashkin for his distinct civil position, as attempts to create obstacles for his human rights activities, to reveal the true causes of the acts of terror of 1999.

We believe that the actions of the authorities, which again deprived unlawfully Mikhail Trepashkin of liberty are an apparent reaction to the fact that upon returning to Moscow he immediately stated the investigation of the circumstances of explosions in Moscow in September 1999 would be continued, joined the human rights movement, headed the "Committee for Defence of Rights of Lawyers", to his active defence of rights of convicts.

We are convinced that the fierce persecution of Trepashkin is one of the weightiest grounds to consider that there is too much suspicious in the story with the terrorist acts of 1999 that gave a cause for the second Chechen war and liquidation in Russia of the buds of democracy...

Trepashkin is dangerous for government, first, because he made public the facts of suspicious indifference of the secret services to appearance in Moscow of terrorists as well as of possible involvement of the secret services in establishment – with assistance of provocateurs – of "managed" criminal and terrorist groups.

The second cause of revenge is the fact that during Trepashkin's stay in various investigative isolators including the "Matrosskaya Tishina" he repeatedly filed applications on terrible conditions in the detention centres... That is why the arguments of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Procuracy demanding reversal of the decision on Trepashkin's release on parole with references to his "passive behaviour", absence of public activity and of "firm intention to mount the path of correction" are false throughout. It is impossible to give a better example of adherence to law and public activity than the selfless defence of rights of convicts to human conditions in detention!

We have serious grounds to fear that Mikhail Trepashkin who is gravely ill is threatened with harsh treatment, that his very life is in danger. Based on all that, we call to immediately consider the matter of the status of "prisoner of conscience" for Mikhail Trepashkin because it may save his life in the conditions formed.

*Liudmila Alexeyeva, Nina Tagankina, Moscow Helsinki Group;
Yelena Bonnair, human rights advocate;
Yelena Grishina, ROO «Public Information Centre»;
Vladimir Bukovsky, dissident;
Yuri Samodurov, Museum and Public Centre named after A.D. Sakharov;*

Lev Ponomarev, Liubov Bashinova, Yevgeny Ikhlov, Svetlana Chuvilova, Alexander Liuboslavsky, All-Russian Movement «For Human rights»;
Lidia Grafova, Migration Organisations Forum;
Nikolai Arkhipov, Kamil Zartdinov, Rafit Abzalov, Andrei Maltsov, «United Tatarstanian Opposition»;
Ruslan Badalov, Movement «Chechen National Salvation Committee»;
Tatiana Vlasova, Moscow Merchant Society;
Valery Hatazhukov, Kabardino-Balkar Nongovernmental Human Rights Centre;
Grigory Pasko, journalist;
Viacheslav Feraposhkin, Anti-War Club;
Mairbek Taramov, Director Chechen Human Rights Centre;
Alexander Litvinenko, political emigrant;
Gennady Cherniavsky, representative of MOPCh for the Northwestern Federal District of RF;
Boris Panteleyev, «Committee for Assistance to Convicts» (Saint-Petersburg);
Venedict Dostovalov, Nadezhda Donovskaya, Pskov Human Rights Organisation «Veche»;
Igor Fedotov, Human Rights Organisation «Status», Lipetsk;
Mark Cooperman, Sakhalin Human Rights Centre;
Sergei Brovchenko, Vladimir Oivin, Foundation "Glasnost";
Ernst Cherny, Coalition "Environment and Human Rights";
priest Gleb Yakunin, Committee for Protection of Freedom of Conscience.

Statement of Sergei Kovalev, President Fund of Andrei Sakharov:

I came to know that my colleagues applied to the "Amnesty International" Organisation with a call to recognise the status of "prisoner of conscience" for Mikhail Trepashkin. I have already stated publicly that I was not going to apply to the "Amnesty International" Organisation any more and I am not giving up this position. But I am absolutely convinced that if Mikhail Trepashkin is recognised as a "prisoner of conscience" then it will undoubtedly be totally in line with the essence of this status.

Sobinform

Gratitude to the procuracy and UFSIN of Moscow and Moscow Oblast from human rights activists

Committee for Assistance to Convicts (St-Petersburg) and the branch of the Committee "For Human Rights" in the Eastern Administrative Area of the city of Moscow request to bring to notice of the public the following: We express our gratitude to officers of the procuracy of the city of Moscow and Moscow Oblast as well as of UFSIN (Federal Service for Execution of Punishments Department) for Moscow and UFSIN for Moscow Oblast. Thanks to their prompt reaction, during the last two weeks at least three crisis situations were averted in the investigative isolators, namely, on 6 September in Investigative Isolator 50/9 (Kapotnya), 7 September in Investigative Isolator 77/2 (Butyrka) and 9 September in Investigative Isolator 77/1 (Matrosskaya Tishina). Every time as soon as the convicts and their relatives raised a question of violation of rights and lawful interests and the thing reached collective actions of protest officers of the procuracies and UFSIN immediately took measures, eliminated the causes of dissatisfaction and even brought the culprits to responsibility. Keep on!

Sobinform

The militia and procuracy of Sverdlovsk Oblast persecute the Chechens only on the basis of their nationality

When publishing the letters a reference to the Civil Committee for Protection of Convicts of the ARNGM «For Human Rights» is obligatory

K-9.5. Adam Husievich Kalaev, Yekaterinburg: - The Militia and Procuracy of Sverdlovsk Oblast persecute the Chechens only on the basis of their nationality. For many years I have been chairman of the Yekaterinburg Centre of Chechen Culture “Vainakh” and do everything possible for adaptation of the Chechen families who came from the zone of armed conflict. My interethnic activity on the territory of Sverdlovsk Oblast is disliked by the leadership of law and order structures. It is just for this reason that a criminal case was fabricated against my son, Suliman Adamovich Kalaev, he is accused of robbery under Art. 161 para. 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and he has been held in prison since 22 March 2005. The following concrete facts attest to organisation of criminal persecution with respect of Suliman Kalaev, a participant of the Centre of Chechen Culture “Vainakh”:

- A week after the detention of my son, on 30 March 2005, the press service of the Sverdlovsk Oblast UVD (Department for Internal Affairs) disseminated provocative information through Internet and TV Company “Channel 4” that, “An international criminal group was detained in Yekaterinburg, the members of which robbed citizens of China and Vietnam under the threat of arms. The gang led supposedly by a Chechen acted under the guise of militia uniform and forged ID” The television report distorted and perverted even those facts of the crime that were brought in the falsified charge. On the same day, 30.03.05, the Tiumen Internet newspaper published a sensational provocative material disseminated by the secret services of the MVD under the title: “Under the guise of militiamen the CHECHENS robbed the CHINESE!” The slanderous inventions were telecast by the television channels of Moscow, Grozny and actually spread all over Europe. The procuracy accuses a Chechen Kalaev, a Russian Chernogorodov and an Azerbaijani Kerimov of robbery. My son Suliman Kalaev, born in 1985, is specifically charged with the fact that he allegedly checked the documents of a Vietnamese V. Nguen who is now a victim in this case. No use of violence is imputed to my son. And Kalaev did not steal any property. There was no armament; there were no Chinese, likewise there were no “CHECHENS who robbed the CHINESE”! The militia bodies did not establish in general that in the area of the market place “Tagansky Ryad” where allegedly the crime was committed any gang operated. It is a myth calculated for inciting hatred to the persons of Chechen origin, kindling interethnic hostility.

- After conduct of so refined informational mass discrediting of the Yekaterinburg Centre of Chechen Culture, members of which we are with my son, barbaric tortures have been applied to Suliman Kalaev. When escorting Kalaev from SIZO-1 (isolator) for investigative and judicial actions the operatives and escort officers constantly put on Suliman Kalaev’s head a black plastic bag and tie it up on his neck, handcuff his arms behind his back so that he could not facilitate access of air for his breathing. Lawyer V.P. Sinanov confirms these tortures. Personally I saw my son on 20.05.05 in the courtroom, to which he was brought in half-fainting condition and where the court extended the measure of restraint for him – holding in custody.

- Senior investigator of the Zheleznodorozhny RUVD of the city of Yekaterinburg Ye.A. Chebotareva does not allow me as a lawful representative of the defendant to defend S.A. Kalaev. Moreover, on Sunday 10 April 2005, Chebotareva summoned me with my wife under the pretext of giving a meeting with our son. But instead of the meeting Chebotareva suggested that we should refuse the services of lawyer V.P. Sinanov. When we expressed a doubt with respect of lawfulness of her request and reminded of the promised meeting Chebotareva said that she would not give that meeting and “the mother would never see her son any more”. My wife was put up in a hospital after such communications with senior investigator Chebotareva. Nevertheless, Chebotareva fulfilled her threat and on 13 April 2005, without participation of lawyer Sinanov, brought an additional false charge against our son but this time already of

alleged commission by him of robbery attack under Art. 162 para. 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. On the same day, 13.04.05, senior investigator Ye.A. Chebotareva presented S.A. Kalaev charged with robbery for identification lineup to Mr. V. Nguen having preliminarily shown Kalaev to the victim without attesting witnesses and supernumeraries. At that she cynically, in the presence of the defendant, asked the victim to remember for certain whom he should indicate during the official identification lineup.

- Lawyer of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Bar Association V.P. Sinanov (Yekaterinburg, ul. Malisheva, 92, tel. 335 42 43) is assigned to defend Suliman Adamovich Kalaev since 22 March 2005 under the contract made with the defendant's father –Adam Husievich Kalaev. Senior investigator Ye. A. Chebotareva really applied to the procurator requesting him to institute criminal proceedings against lawyer V.P. Sinanov who allegedly insulted her. At the same time she did not notify personally V.P. Sinanov and the Sverdlovsk Oblast Bar Association and did not submit a decision on challenging of lawyer V.P. Sinanov. When the Bar Association requested to give them a copy of the procuracy decision on initiation of a criminal case with respect of V.P. Sinanov the Procuracy of Zheleznodorozhny Rayon unlawfully evades it. There is no court judgment of depriving lawyer V.P. Sinanov of his powers. Investigator Chebotareva exceeded her official authority with a deliberately certain aim – to deprive defendant S.A. Kalaev of his right to defence..

As a result, a citizen of the Russian Federation of Chechen nationality is persecuted by the militia and procuracy of Sverdlovsk Oblast only on the basis of his nationality. He is held unlawfully in prison, declared to be a gang leader, subjected to cruel torture and deprived of the right to defence.

U-9.5. Aslan Mutsaevich Umakhanov, the city of Yekaterinburg: - I and my brother A. M. Umakhanov are citizens of Russia, have been living in Yekaterinburg for over 20 years, have here our families and permanent jobs but just because we are Chechens the law-enforcement agencies of Sverdlovsk Oblast discredit us, persecute, and infringe our rights only on the basis of our nationality. For example, on 5 January 2005, a drug carrier A.B. Karavaev was detained in the Koltsovo airport in Yekaterinburg, with whom my brother A. M. Umakhanov was simply acquainted. The officers who made the detention showed Karavaev a Xerox copy of my brother's passport and made him to state that my brother was a "drug baron". On the basis of this my brother was on the same day detained by the special services officers and searched without attesting witnesses. During the detention, drug was planted in his right-hand side OUTER pocket of his jacket. The planting of the drug was confirmed by the attesting witness who was invited to come up to A. M. Umakhanov when all his pockets were already unbuttoned during the preliminary search. The drug carrier A.B. Karavaev himself during the court hearing when his term of detention was extended, personally handed over to the judge his application, and the court received it, where the defendant stated that under pressure of the operatives A.B. Karavaev slandered an innocent person - A. M. Umakhanov.

My brother's lawyer filed with the court on 22 February 2005 a motion concerning questioning 5 witnesses who saw the process of detention of A. M. Umakhanov. But the judge denied the motion of the defence without substantiation. On 25 February 2005 we were called at home by attesting witness S.V. Sharapov who participated in the secondary search of Umakhanov and who told that FSB officers came to his place at "Yediar" petrol station and threatening him including that with dismissal from his job forced him to testify against Chechen A. M. Umakhanov.

On 28 February 2005 operatives came to the apartment of witness Yelena Bogdanova and in the presence of her minor daughter conducted an unsanctioned search, exerted pressure on her asserting that the Chechens brought arms and explosives into her apartment to carry out a terrorist act on the railway terminal of the city. On 3 March 2005, in the building of Verkh-Isetsk Court operative Yegorov threatened personally to me that they would put in prison not only my brother but also me. I am very worried about the fate of my brother, I am afraid for my life and

for the lives of all my close relatives. I ask you to help us in stopping nationalistic actions of the special agencies of Yekaterinburg with respect of us, peaceful Chechen families.

Civil Committee for Protection of Convicts

Yekaterinburg. The Nongovernmental Association “Chicaner” is anxious about the possibility of liquidation of the NGOs

As the letter from NGO “Chicaner” reads, in the nearest time more than 500 organisations may be liquidated.

In the opinion of the authors of the letter, the government removes in this way the disagreeable organisations thus violating the constitutional right to association. “In 2005 the Federal Law “On Public Chamber” entered into force, where one third of its members should be representatives of nongovernmental organisations. The first 42 members of the Chamber will be elected by the President of the Russian Federation, the second group will be formed out of the delegates of all-Russian nongovernmental organisations and the third part will be elected by those who have already become members of the Chamber. In connection with this, the Federal Registration Chamber arranged accounting of all NGOs, after which actions were brought in courts on liquidation of more that 500 all-Russian organisations”, says the letter. One of the reasons for their shutting down is absence of registration, note the authors of the letter. “Some of our colleagues in the Urals Federal District were denied a possibility to run for the Public Chamber exactly on this ground”, informs the letter. “We experience it on our own example that when the authorities do not wish any continuation of activities of an organisation they will find lots of ways to do it. We were denied registration under various pretexts during eight years”. NGO “Chicaner” assesses it as elimination of disagreeable for the government organisations that are engaged in protection of rights of citizens.

*Nongovernmental Association “Chicaner”
Telephone: (343) 355-36-51
Social Information Agency*

Friends, if you do not want to receive the newsreels, please, advise us.