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### **“This power suspects everyone”**

*Platon Lebedev, the Head of the MFO «Menatep», who is currently serving his eight-year sentence in the prison located in the village of Kharp, has given a written interview to the German newspaper “Frankfurter Allgemeine”.*

He has stated that he does not believe that “under president Vladimir Putin or under the successor appointed by him Russia again will be able to move forward towards the liberal democracy”: “In Russia, the authorities are not just overswollen with the political cynicism, but they are also criminal”.

Platon Lebedev believes that there is no economic growth in Russia at the moment: “We talk about the would-be economic development, and at the same time the dollars earned by Russia resulting from the sale of oil are kept in the country, where these dollars are printed. This is indicative of the fact that this power does not trust itself, neither does it trust others, it suspects everyone”. According to Platon Lebedev, the budget revenue of the Russian state is approximately equal to the amount stolen from the OAO «NK «Yukos».

Platon Lebedev has confirmed that he plans to apply both to the Supreme Court of Russia and to the European Court of Human Rights: “I believe in the future of Russia, which means that I trust the courts of this country. I try as much as I can to help them be competent, independent and unbiased”. Platon Lebedev is confident that in Strasbourg the decision will be made in his favour; however, he has not excluded the possibility that Russia will refuse to fulfil this decision.

*Source: KOMMERSANT*

### **Platon Lebedev: the Russian authorities are “cynical and criminal”**

Platon Lebedev’s answer to a lengthy question: “Do you still have any hope that Russia, under president Vladimir Putin or under the successor appointed by him, again will be able to move towards the liberal democracy?” was very short: “No, I do not”. The former manager of the destroyed Russian oil company «NK «Yukos», who used to be the authorized representative of the Chairman of the Board Mikhail Khodorkovsky, from the mid-October of 2005 has been serving his eight-year sentence beyond the Polar Circle in the penitentiary institution OG 98/3 located near the village of Kharp in the northern Urals, almost 2000 kilometers away, northeast, from Moscow.

In a written interview given to the newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, he has presented a hopeless and cheerless picture of what is going on in Russia, where the authorities “are not just overswollen with the political cynicism, but they are also criminal”. “It is difficult to say what outweighs what”. In the opinion of Platon Lebedev, the true reason behind the destruction of the OAO «NK «Yukos», which, just two years ago, used to be the largest oil company in Russia, is the “banal robbery”. While, at first, the process against OAO «NK «Yukos» had also some political motivation, later the only real concern of those who initiated this case was just “to distribute the money filling different pockets with it”.

### ***Bad state of health***

Platon Lebedev has a sick heart, and he also suffers from the chronic hepatitis. In the opinion of Platon Lebedev’s defence lawyer Evgheny Baru, under the Russian laws the state of health of his client actually excludes any possibility of sending him to the penitentiary institution of such a type as the one located in the village of Kharp, where the temperature at this time of year may drop down to minus 50 degrees Celsius and there is no opportunity to receive any appropriate medical services. In one of the Moscow courts, the complaint filed by Platon Lebedev’s defence lawyers against his having been sent to the Kharp prison is due to be considered. However, the hearing was postponed

until 26 December 2005, because the representative of the state Federal Service for Execution of Punishments (FSIN) failed to be present at the court hearing. At the same time, the prison administration lodged a complaint against the defence lawyers of Platon Lebedev and Mikhail Khodorkovsky accusing them of distortion of the facts relating to the detention conditions of their clients during the press-conference held in August of 2005. There is every reason to expect that the first hearing within this case to be held on Monday will be attended by the FSIN representative...

### ***"Surplus of dollars resulting from the sale of oil"***

...According to Platon Lebedev's defence lawyer Evgheny Baru, in the environment of the penitentiary institution, his client continues to closely follow the political events in Russia. Platon Lebedev warns: "If we live in accordance with the laws of the criminal world, then the wealth accumulated in the country vanishes very quickly. All of us, including the government, may again find ourselves in the poverty conditions, with our leaky pockets".

### ***The Yukos affair is typical of Russia***

According to Platon Lebedev, the Yukos case is typical of the present-day situation in Russia: "On the one hand, there is the valid constitution and laws, while, on the other hand, they make unlawful, criminal decisions, which acquire the validity of law"...

With regard to his chances for success in Strasbourg, Platon Lebedev has expressed the optimism. Taking into account the numerous violations of the Russian laws, he does not have any doubts that the relevant decision will be made in his favour: "Today, the authorities in Russia not only violate the human rights, but they even ignore the decisions by the Russian Constitutional Court, which, naturally, are obligatory for them". For the same reason, he thinks it possible that Russia will refuse to fulfil the decision of the Strasbourg court: "In our fabricated cases the Russian authorities have already violated the international obligations many times with enviable persistence, verging on insanity, and it concerns not only the human rights".

*Frankfurter Allgemeine,  
Rainchard Weser  
Inopressa.ru*

### **Mikhail Khodorkovsky: "Never give somebody up as beyond recall"**

*Karina Moskalenko, the defence lawyer of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has agreed to share with the NOVAYA GAZETA newspaper her impressions resulting from her recent trip to the Chita oblast, where in one of the penitentiary institutions the former head of the OAO «NK «Yukos» is currently serving his sentence.*

*"How is Mikhail Khodorkovsky?"*

"He is not broken. I can assure you that he has not betrayed his principles, he has not lost his goodwill, which is inherent in this man, he is not hardened in heart, not even against his persecutors. Just an example. When talking, we touched the issue relating to the notorious "letter signed by the fifty signatories"(in summer of 2005, there was published the open letter in support of the Procuracy General's position with regard to the Yukos case, – the author). Now it became known that the consent of many people, who acted as signatories to this letter, was received by trickery. I told Mikhail Khodorkovsky about the recent statement made by Anastasiya Volochkova (in summer the ballet dancer signed the notorious letter alongside with other figures of culture against the former head of the OAO «NK «Yukos», and quite recently she has publicly stated that Mikhail Khodorkovsky is "a noble person" and that she is willing to dance for him, even in the relevant penitentiary institution. – the author). Mikhail Khodorkovsky was agreeably surprised to hear this: "Now you see!", he exclaimed. "Never give somebody up as beyond recall, which you, the human rights advocates, sometimes do".

*"Is it true that the new charges have been brought up against Mikhail Khodorkovsky?"*

“I do not know anything about that”.

*“How do you assess the results of your trip?”*

“Having covered almost seven thousand kilometers and having lost a week of precious time, I have left the prison with almost not results: we have made the tenth part of the planned work at most. The specificity of the work of the European Court of Human Rights consists in that it is only the person, whose rights are violated, but not his lawyer, who has the right to decide, which of the violations will be a subject to his application to the court, and which will not be subject to such an application. In a case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, there are plenty of the violations. Therefore, we needed much time for our work. However, the very possibility for our meetings was endangered. Therefore, probably, at first we shall submit to Strasbourg the preliminary complaint, while the final document will be submitted later. The necessity for submission of the preliminary complaint is caused by the circumstances, which prevent the timely submission of the completed version of the complaint. In our case, we have confronted with the obstacles created by the administration of the penitentiary institution”.

*“What kind of obstacles?”*

“The obstacles, which are ostensibly stipulated by the rules of the internal procedure of this prison. As a matter of fact, the true reason was, I think, the relevant order from the top headquarters: it is necessary to discourage the lawyers of Mikhail Khodorkovsky from going all the way to the Chita oblast to see their client. On having arrived in the prison, I went directly to the head of the penitentiary institution and informed him of the purpose of my visit, which is the filing of the complaint to the European Court of Human Rights. I was told in reply that Mikhail Khodorkovsky was busy doing his daily routine work and, therefore, I could see him only after six o'clock in the evening.

We were devoid of the possibility to work with the documents at the same table, instead we communicated, while being separated from one another by bars – for the “safety reasons” as they explained to me. I can tell from my professional experience that even when I came to the prison, where those sentenced for life were held, I nonetheless had an opportunity to freely speak with the people convicted for life. The reference to the safety requirements, whether my safety or Mikhail Khodorkovsky’s, sounds absurd to me. Moreover, I could not hand to him any of the documents, since this is “forbidden by the instructions”.

The lawyers were let in one by one, while the prison administration could not say, what specific instructions regulated this procedure. They just kept saying that they “cannot violate the instruction”, but there are no instructions forbidding all the lawyers to work with their client simultaneously. At the same time, the prison administration reproached us for “having distracted so many people from their work”, because they had to search us.

The administration of this penitentiary institution made a practice of searching female lawyers, too, stripping them almost to the buff. As for me, I declared right away that I would not allow this kind of arbitrariness neither with regard to myself, nor regarding my colleagues: in case of such a treatment I was going to bite, to spit and to render any other resistance adequate to such a monstrous arbitrariness. The Procuracy General already tried publicly to frighten me by deprivation of my lawyer status, however, they failed. Certainly, they can succeed in deprivation of my lawyer status, but I shall never allow them to subject myself to any similar humiliating procedure”.

*“Do you mean a search?”*

“Yes, it is a search, which is both humiliating and unlawful. We, lawyers, shall protest against such a barefaced arbitrariness. We shall also appeal against the instructions signed by Yury Chaika, since this document allows such actions. In our opinion, this contradicts to the existing Correctional Code.

*“Mikhail Khodorkovsky is going to write the dissertation. What is the relevant subject?”*

“He does not know for sure yet. He thinks a lot about the destiny of the territory, where he lives at the moment. He collects the items of information on the relations of Russia with its nearest neighbours in this region, that is with China and Mongolia. He is keen on the topic of the local self-government. He believes that the development of the local self-government could benefit Russia a

great deal, and, probably, it could offer a real chance for the country's development. Mikhail Khodorkovsky is experienced in these matters, since he was personally engaged in creation and development of the infrastructure in the areas, where the OAO «NK «Yukos» was active.

*“Does the prison administration allow him to work on the dissertation?”*

“Mikhail Khodorkovsky insists on his right to be useful to his own country. He insists on his right to be engaged in the relevant scientific activity; this opportunity is provided to him by the law. He thinks, he writes, and it is precisely this attitude of his that the authorities cannot put up with. The authorities want him to stop thinking. It is precisely for this purpose that they made Mikhail Khodorkovsky to do the senseless, wearisome and monotonous work (even the painful work, if we take into account his eye disease), which is namely the sewing of gloves! This is done by the prison administration under the slogan “We do not make for him any exceptions”. What is it, if it is not the expression of hypocrisy or even a sheer lie? The largest exception was made namely for him. This penitentiary institution does not have enough orders for work, and not all the prisoners, who wish to work, can work there.

The authorities understand too well that Mikhail Khodorkovsky is dangerous as long as he continues to think, as long as he remains a spiritually rich and charming person. Now we clearly see that he is a political prisoner. When the priest, who visited Mikhail Khodorkovsky in the prison, said this, they subjected the priest himself to the reprisals.

*“What is your attitude to the sentence, which has been recently pronounced in respect of Alexey Kurtsin, one of the top managers of the OAO «NK «Yukos»?”*

“14 years of deprivation of liberty is certainly a retaliatory measure. It is quite obvious. It seems that now the authorities are prepared to make short work of Svetlana Bakhmina, too.

*The author: Igor Kovalevsky,  
Source: NOVAYA GAZETA*

### **The authorization of the arrest of the lawyer of the «NK «Yukos» is appealed against**

*Alexander Gofstein, the defence lawyer of the Chief Legal Counselor of the OAO «NK «Yukos» Dmitry Gololobov, has submitted to the Moscow City Court the complaint against the decision of the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow, which on 30 November authorized the arrest in absentia of his client. Alexander Gofstein asks the Moscow City Court to recognize as unlawful the order to arrest his client and eventually to cancel it.*

Dmitry Gololobov is currently abroad. He is charged with the laundering of the illegally acquired money, as well as with the misappropriation of shares of the Eastern Oil Company in the amount of 3 billion roubles. The Moscow City Court will consider the lawyer's application on December 26.

*Source: GAZETA*

### **The further developments in the Yukos case**

*In the Simonovsky District Court of the City of Moscow, there continues the consideration of the case of Svetlana Bakhmina, the legal councilor of the OAO «NK «Yukos», charged with the theft by way of fraud of the property of the company «Tomskneft», as well as with the tax evasion. The representatives of the «Tomskneft» state that they have learned for the first time about the damage inflicted to their company by Svetlana Bakhmina or by the OAO «NK «Yukos» from the investigators of the Procuracy General of the Russian Federation.*

At the moment, the witnesses for the prosecution state their evidence. Around half of these witnesses have been already questioned (they make up the total of over 50 people), but, according to the lawyers, all those called in by the state prosecutor Nikolai Vlasov have stated in court

absolutely nothing that could compromise the defendant. The case is actually falling to pieces right in the court room before the very eyes of those attending the legal proceedings.

On 7 December 2005, it was exactly a year from the day of Svetlana Bakhmina's arrest. Now, according to her lawyers, the legal councilor of the OAO «NK «Yukos» is held in the investigative isolator "Matrosskaya Tishina". She was brought there on the day when Mikhail Khodorkovsky was escorted from Moscow to Krasnokamensk. Since then, Svetlana Bakhmina, despite the permission she was given, cannot call her children just because in the investigative isolator "Matrosskaya Tishina" there is no telephone.

Also, the law-enforcement bodies prosecute Elena Agranovskaya, the managing partner of the legal office ALM Feldmans, who worked together with the OAO «NK «Yukos». On having held Elena Agranovskaya, taken ill with the arterial hypertension, for a week in the prison hospital, they let her out on her own recognizance. The procuracy suspects the legal councilor of the misappropriation of 2,4 billion US dollars belonging to the branches of the OAO «NK «Yukos», as well as of the legalization of about 810 million of US dollars, and, moreover, of helping the enterprises of the OAO «NK «Yukos» evade the payment of taxes.

Platon Lebedev, convicted to 8 years in prison, will celebrate the New Year holidays in the Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous District. The lawyers request that Platon Lebedev should be transferred to a penitentiary institution, which is located closer to Moscow: in accordance with the existing legislation the convicts shall serve their sentences either in the region, where they lived, or in the region, where they were convicted.

As a matter of fact, there are three options, when a convict may be sent to serve his or her sentence to a far away place: 1) at his or her own request; 2) for the safety reasons; 3) for the reason of his or her poor state of health. We will not take into account the first option, and the third option either, since Platon Lebedev's poor state of health is well-known, while the Far North is far from being a health resort. So, what is left is the second option: safety. Recently, the FSIN Head Yury Kalinin has explained Platon Lebedev's "business trip" to the arctic prison by a special concern with his safety, which cannot be guaranteed for the former chief of the MFO «Menatep» in the overpopulated prisons located near the country's capital city. Flimsy arguments. It is well known that thousands of convicts, other than Platon Lebedev, are regularly escorted to the European part of Russia.

The lawyers of Platon Lebedev have appealed in court against the actions of the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments (FSIN). The Zamoskvoretsky District Court of the City of Moscow will consider the complaint on 26 December.

*The author: I. K.,  
Source: NOVAYA GAZETA*

### **The Moscow City Court has refused to satisfy the request by Leonid Nevzlin's lawyer**

*to familiarize himself with the materials of the relevant case*

The Moscow City Court cancelled the decision of the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow, which earlier had obligated the investigator of the Procuracy General to familiarize the defense of the shareholder of the OAO «NK «Yukos» Leonid Nevzlin with the materials of his criminal case. Now, the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow will have to consider anew the complaint of the lawyer against the actions of the investigator.

Yesterday, the Moscow City Court considered the protest filed by the Procuracy General of the RF against the decision of the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow, which, on 17 October 17, 2005, satisfied the complaint filed by Dmitry Kharitonov, the lawyer of Leonid Nevzlin. The lawyer requested to recognize as unlawful the action of the investigator Yury Burtovoi, who investigates the second case in respect of Leonid Nevzlin and who denied the lawyer his right to familiarize himself with the documents relating to the case. It should be noted that in the

summer of 2004 Mr. Nevzlin was charged, in absentia, with the implication in murders and with attempts on murder.

The above-mentioned positive decision of the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow made in October was not the first one of this kind. The first time, on 8 September of 2005, the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow satisfied another complaint filed by Dmitry Kharitonov against his having been denied the right to familiarize himself with the documents relating to another case initiated at the beginning of 2004 against Leonid Nevzlin charged with the tax evasion, misappropriation and embezzlement (the case was conducted by the investigator Mikhail Tumanov). The above-mentioned decision of the Basmany District Court of the City of Moscow, which earlier repeatedly denied all requests filed by the defense of Leonid Nevzlin, was also appealed against by the Procuracy General in the Moscow City Court, which, in turn, sent the case for a new consideration, and at the beginning of December the Basmany District Court, on having considered the complaint anew, refused to satisfy it. However, it was too late: the investigator Tumanov, during the months that were between the two opposite decisions of the Basmany District Court, had time enough to familiarize the lawyer Dmitry Kharitonov with all the relevant documents of this case.

It seems that this time, too, the situation develops in line with the same scenario. The Moscow City Court, on having considered the protest by the Procuracy General, has found the decision by the Basmany District Court made on 17 October unlawful, while the position of the investigation has been recognized as correct and, on having cancelled the decision of the Basmany District Court, just like the last time, the Moscow City Court has sent the case for new consideration ...

Now, according to the lawyer Dmitry Kharitonov, the events may develop in accordance with the two possible scenarios: "It is likely that the investigator Burtovoi, like his colleague Tumanov, will, nevertheless, during the time still available, familiarize me with the materials of the case that I need to know. Then, just like the last time, it will turn out that the Basmany District Court recognizes the actions of the investigator as being lawful; however, by the time it happens I shall be already familiarized with the relevant papers. Probably, the Procuracy General has realized its having been wrong, and it thus tries to redeem the error. If, for any reason, the investigator Yuri Burtovoi refuses to give me the necessary documents, it will just mean that the guys in the Procuracy General treat the law differently in different cases: they have given me for the purpose of familiarization the documents relating to one case, and they, for some reason, refuse to give me the documents relating to the other case". The lawyer has reminded that the Constitutional Court obligates the investigation to familiarize the defense with the documents relating to the case, in particular, with such documents as arrest orders, extension of the investigation term etc. and – what is important – the familiarization with the documents should be done in good time. The lawyer Dmitry Kharitonov has stated that he will continue to assert his rights under this law, and, if such a need may be, he will apply to the Constitutional Court.

*The author: Marina Lepina,  
Source: KOMMERSANT*

### **They have a king in their heads**

*"The steep route" of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and the current attack by the Russian state on the strategic branches of the country's industries, the rearrangements in the President's team, and the so-called national projects ... In line with the existing tradition, Professor Evgheny Yasin, the Scientific Head of the Higher School for Economics, sums up the political and economic results of the expiring year on the pages of NOVAYA GAZETA.*

"The period of the new economic policy is over, the nationalization has begun. This is what many economists think, including Andrey Illarionov, the adviser of President Vladimir Putin. But the nationalization is rather strange, anyway. For example, the oil company, which was sold in the 1990s by the state to the private sector for 100 millions of US dollars, now is sold back to the same state for as much as 13 billion US dollars!"

“The essence of the nationalization is simple: a certain part of the enterprises is transferred from the private property sector to the state-owned property sector. What price is paid for such a transfer is a question of the second priority. As it is, they have redeemed the company «Sibneft», which used to be owned by Roman Abramovich, by having paid the price, which is close to the market one, while the OAO «NK «Yukos» owned by Mikhail Khodorkovsky has been transferred into the state property at the price of nine years in prison for each of its two former owners. But in both cases we certainly have the increase of the state-owned property sector.

I hope that the story similar to the Yukos case will not be repeated any more, although the state continues its expansion in the national economy. For example, they thought for quite a long time what to do with the packet of shares of the company “Power Machines” of the RAO EES, and then they have eventually sold it to a state company. The helicopter plant «Kamov», once purchased by the «Interros» company, has been eventually transferred to the state-owned property, too. The license for production of gas in Kovykta is owned by the TNK-VR, but the company cannot start the development of this deposit. So, it applies to the state monopolist «Gazprom», but this giant itself wants to develop the deposit and waits for an opportunity to do it and it says, at the same time, that it is inexpedient to do it now. The course towards the nationalization is currently the main direction of the Russian economy. On this point, I completely agree with Andrey Illarionov.

The state could not put up with the idea of establishment of the transnational company on the basis of the OAO «NK «Yukos» and including such companies as “Shevron” and “Exxon”. Many experts believe that this fact was the driving force of the attack carried out by the state on the OAO «NK «Yukos» and Mikhail Khodorkovsky. At the same time, the state gas monopolist «Gazprom» has recently declared about the free sale of its shares to foreign investors and thus it has embarked on the road towards acquiring the transnational status. I wonder, whether there is any contradiction here. Why is it possible for some people and impossible for the others?

“Mikhail Khodorkovsky went to the Kremlin to have a consultation with the authorities on whether such a merger could be possible to carry out. They did not give a clear answer to him, but I assure you: if they had told him that he should not do it, he surely would have followed the advice. He would have found some other way for development of the OAO «NK «Yukos», for example, the merger with the «Sibneft» company. It seems to me that the main reason behind the attack on the «NK «Yukos» is a banal one: somebody in the Kremlin had a desire to dispossess Khodorkovsky of his company. Today, they say that Mikhail Khodorkovsky was engaged in preparation of the coup d'etat, that he wanted to seize seats in the national parliament. However, it is clear to everybody that it is a lie and a political provocation. One thing is quite clear: the owner of the OAO «NK «Yukos» company was independent, which characteristic of his for many of those in power was hard to put up with.

<...>

“The 2006 budget became a social one: the expenses of the state for the needs of the public health, education, and other social programmes have been increased significantly. At the same time, the inflation for 2006 is planned at the level of 6,5 % to 8,5 % to 9 %, although this year it is already at the level of 11 %. In autumn, we heard a warning by the leading financial analysts of Russia of a possibility of default resulting from such ambitious social obligations of the state.

“The financial analysts warned of the danger of weakening of the budget policy, they said that the sharp increase of expenses can result in a rise of inflation. In general, the increase of the inflation is predetermined, in the first place, by the inflow of financial resources. For instance, in Russia the inflow of money due to the increase of prices for the energy resources has resulted in a rise of prices by 8 to 9 times since 1998. In the second place, the economic growth rates are predetermined by the business activity. The businesses borrow loans, issue shares, or, in other words, absorb the money supply. Provided the economy is on the rise, the inflation dies away. However, following the attack by the state on the OAO «NK «Yukos» the activity of the Russian business has decreased, while the threat of the inflation has increased. Then, the government has established the Stabilization Fund and began to repay debts, to save money. However, the inflation in Russia is still high, the government has failed to solve this problem. Although it should be stated that since the middle of

2005 there has been observed some improvement in the economy, which has immediately resulted in the reduced rates of inflation.

<...>

*The author: Irina Timofeyeva,  
Source: NOVAYA GAZETA*

### **“I will not leave the politics”**

*The leader of the Kazakh opposition is going to continue the struggle*

The court of the city of Ekibastus (Kazakhstan) has made the decision on the conditional release (probation) of Galymzhan Zhakiyanov, the well known representative of the Kazakh opposition. In 2001, he established the opposition movement “Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan”, and in a year he was convicted to seven years in prison for the excess of his jurisdiction when he was the head of the administration of the Pavlodar oblast. Galymzhan Zhakiyanov told Vladimir Solovyev, the correspondent of *KOMMERSANT*, about his plans for the future.

*“People name you Khodorkovsky of Kazakhstan. Have you anything in common?”*

*“There are, in fact, many similar things in our lives. The same unrighteous court, the same kind of behaviour of those in power. Both in my and his case, outside the court room, where the judicial proceedings took place, there worked the asphalt pavers producing the rattle sound in order to muffle the voices of our supporters in the street nearby. Both of us were unlawfully devoid of the visits by our lawyers. My wife, as well as his spouse, could not get the rights provided by the existing legislation. Finally, we were both sent to the prisons located far from the places, where, under the law, we were supposed to serve our sentences. The methods applied by the current authorities in Kazakhstan and in Russia are similar, since they have the same origin: the totalitarian society. Both the Kazakh and Russian authorities have the common experience of struggle with the dissent, absorbed by them from the same Soviet textbooks.*

*The author: Vladimir Solovyev ,  
Source: KOMMERSANT*

### **The human rights advocates state that they have become victims of the provocation**

*The theme of protection of human rights sounds today not only in connection with the day of memory of Andrey Sakharov. Today, the Russian human rights advocates, participating in the investigation of the events in the Bashkir city of Blagoveshchensk, state that they have become victims of the provocation staged by the authorities. The meeting with the local inhabitants timed for the first anniversary of the notorious events, when the Bashkir special police forces, for three days running, subjected to battery the local young people, has been actually loused up, while the story featuring the unfriendly attitude by the local people of Blagoveshchensk to the visiting human rights advocates, which was shown last Sunday on the first TV channel of Russia is, in the opinion of the human rights advocates, indicative of the deliberately negative featuring of the visit ordered by the Kremlin.*

On 10 December, 2005, the Executive Director of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” Lev Ponomaryev and the Head of the Moscow Helsinki Group Ludmila Alexeyeva arrived in Blagoveshchensk, where on 11 December they were to meet the local inhabitants, whom they helped the whole year: talked, wrote the applications to the court and the procuracy, trying to achieve justice together.

This is what Ludmila Alexeyeva told above the meeting: “People here find themselves in a very difficult situation. They are not just threatened, but they are also persecuted. Among those with whom we worked, there are the people who were fired, beaten, against whom there were initiated the criminal cases just because they dared to submit the applications against the beatings. We have

decided to come and meet these people in order to encourage them, to tell them that that we are not going to leave this affair unheeded, we shall continue to help them”.

“In the hall, where the meeting took place, there were plenty of people. On a table, on the stage, there was a microphone. Hardly could Lev Ponomaryev take the microphone in order to address the people, someone in the hall seized the second microphone and started to shout in a very angry tone the phrase, which was obviously prepared beforehand: “Why have you come here?!”

Alongside the angry retorts “Why have you come here?” the human rights advocates also heard the accusations of their would-be intention to implement the “orange revolution” in Blagoveshchensk, using the money provided by Boris Berezovsky. In order to emphasize how strongly the human rights advocates are hated in the city of Blagoveshchensk, the First TV channel showed the act of pouring by a would-be local inhabitant of the mayonnaise from a two-liter glass jar on the head of Ildar Isangulov, the leader of the Bashkir branch of the All-Russian Movement “For Human Rights”. According to this human rights advocate, he was smeared with the mayonnaise not by a local inhabitant, but by a well dressed person, who, right after he did it, took a seat in a white foreign-made car and left. There is every reason to believe, judging by the speed of shooting and the well-chosen perspective, that the shooting was obviously a staged one, or, in other words, it was carefully thought out, which was done precisely in the same manner as the selection of the people for the meeting with the human rights advocates.

This is what Veronika Shakhova, the editor of the local newspaper *ZERKALO PLUS*, said: “They deliberately selected the people for this meeting. It is a well known fact that the city administration ordered to delegate from all the state budget-financed organizations, which are subordinated directly to the city mayor, at least 15 persons to participate in the meeting. And the order was that these 15 persons should not just sit in the hall, but they should also say something against the human rights advocates. From the very beginning, it was a provocation planned by the authorities, which got prepared for it well in advance. I know it for sure. For instance, we wanted to help the people, who were going, on their own initiative, to come to Blagoveshchensk for this meeting with the human rights advocates from the neighbouring village of Ilyina Polana, by provision of the transport vehicle for them. Well, I was called early in the morning and told the following news: “You know, the driver has been detained”. “For what reason?” “They stopped him on the road and asked, whether he was driving to Ilyina Polana. He acknowledged. They further asked him whether he was going to bring the people from Ilyina Polana to Blagoveshchensk. The driver acknowledged again. Well, you are detained, they told him”.

Lev Ponomaryev, the Executive Director of the All-Russian Movement “For Human Rights”, is sure that the action against the human rights advocates supported by the story shown by the First TV channel is far from being a casual one: “From my point of view, the participation of Vernitsky in this shooting is not accidental, and neither is the featuring of the story on a Sunday evening. The whole thing has been planned either right in the Kremlin, or in the circles, which are close to it, and certainly under the influence and under the pressure of the law enforcement bodies, as the action is designed to discredit the human rights movement, especially on the eve of voting of the Law “On public organizations” in the State Duma.

This is a symbolic event, indeed. Until now, such methods have been used to discredit the politicians: Nemtsov, Kasyanov, Khodorkovsky. The human rights advocates have never been raised so “high”. In this sense, it is a kind of escalation of the Kremlin propaganda machine”.

*Radio Liberty*  
*Lubov Chizhova, Moscow*

### **Blagoveshchensk: the human rights advocates are confronted with the provocation**

*The anniversary of the human rights violation events in Blagoveshchensk was marked by a large scale provocation. The recent featuring by the central mass media of the events in Blagoveshchensk (Bashkiriya), where, on 10 December 2005, there was actually crabbed the meeting of the visiting human rights advocates with the local people, who suffered from the so-called “cleanings” carried*

*out a year ago by the special police forces, is assessed by the human rights activists as a provocation on the eve of voting in the State Duma of the RF of the Law "On public organizations" coupled with the back-door struggle in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RF. The representatives of the human rights organizations spoke about it on 14 December at the press-conference in Moscow, the correspondent of the Information Agency REGNUMA reports.*

As the participants of the press-conference reported, last Sunday on 11 December 2005, in the evening issue of the news programme "Vremya" on the First TV channel in the prime time, there was featured the story entitled "The human rights advocates investigate the police special operation in Blagoveshchensk. A wrong side of the campaign". The story was devoted to the failed meeting in Blagoveshchensk intended for discussion of the results of the year-long investigation in response to the claims of over 300 local people with regard to the mass illegal arrests and beatings by the officers of the special police forces in December of 2004. The authors of the above-mentioned story, making reference to Vyacheslav Bikbulatov, the former coordinator of the regional branch of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement "For Human Rights", reported that the human rights advocates had received not less than one million US dollars from Boris Berezovsky for the purpose of organisation of meetings, rallies, and for the work with witnesses and journalists. Moreover, according to Mr. Bikbulatov, when the human rights advocates made the agreements on the assistance to those, who suffered from the police, they put forward a condition that 25 % of the amount of indemnification for the inflicted damage, in case of success, will be transferred to the account of the Movement "For Human Rights".

Lev Ponomaryev, the Executive Director of the All-Russian Movement "For Human Rights", termed this TV story as "the beforehand planned provocation and flow of slander". According to him, the human rights advocates, who came to Blagoveshchensk to talk with the city residents, as early as at the entrance to the city felt that something was wrong, when their car was stopped not less than 9 times by the road police officers, and later, when they found out that the microphone on the stage was switched off, but the other two microphones in the hall were switched on. These two microphones in the hall were used by the representatives of the city administration, personally by the deputy mayor of Blagoveshchensk Mr. Ivanov and by the recently appointed director of a local vocational school Mr. Kuznetsov, both of whom from time to time cried out the various accusations addressed to the human rights advocates.

"Around thirty people seated in the first rows applauded them", said another participant of the visit to Blagoveshchensk, the Chairman of the Moscow Helsinki Group, the member of the Council under the President of the Russian Federation on Promotion of Development of the Institutes of Civil Society and Human Rights Ludmila Alexeyeva. "Those, who were seated in the back rows, had the stone-like faces; they expressed no support for the applauding public, and they expressed no sympathy for us".

According to the editor of the local newspaper *ZERKALO PLUS* Veronika Shakhova, such an attitude can be explained by the fact that the city mayor, a day prior to this event, gave an oral order that all the state budget organisations should send to the meeting with the Moscow-based human rights advocates 15 people each.

Moreover, Ludmila Alexeyeva told at the press-conference that, when they left the hall, they saw right in front of them the cameraman and his colleagues from the team of the First TV channel prepared for shooting. At the moment, when the human rights advocates entered the frame space, a young man ran up to them and stopped one of the visitors; the next moment this young man poured two litres of mayonnaise from the glass jar on the head of the visitor. "It was obvious that this action had been planned beforehand. The cameraman was there and he shot the whole incident from the best position possible. I mean to say that the cameraman was positioned beforehand, while the young man with the mayonnaise knew where to stop the visitor; he approached the visitor from behind and poured the mayonnaise, then he ran away and took a seat inside a white foreign-made car, which waited for him and was gone in no time at all. It is not one of the local people. I think

that this young man is a part of the scenario prepared for the occasion by the First TV channel. They brought to Blagoveshchensk both the young man and a glass jar with the mayonnaise”.

The opinion expressed by Ludmila Alexeyeva was supported by Ildar Isangulov, the leader of the local branch of the All-Russian Movement “For Human Rights”, who said with a smile that the real inhabitants of Blagoveshchensk would never waste two litres of the mayonnaise in the way the young man did, it is an inadmissible folly for them. Moreover, he told about the conversation he had some time later with the press-secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bashkiriya, in which the man told him in plain words: “Be thankful that it was not the acid”.

Commenting on the charges with the would-be financial fraud, Stanislav Markelov, the lawyer of the victims of the police “cleanings” said that, in principle, there cannot be any talk about the transfer of a 25 % share of the amount of the indemnification to the account of the human rights organization, since to this day not a single claim has been filed for consideration in court aiming at reimbursement of the inflicted damage. As for the origin of the document shown on the air of the First TV channel, Lev Ponomaryev explained that this paper was surely fabricated, involving probably Vyacheslav Bikbulatov, who was ousted from the All-Russian Movement “For Human Rights” in summer of 2005. Lev Ponomaryev also explained that his organisation never received one million US dollars, not just this huge amount but even a single cent in the form of grants from the Fund of Civil Liberties established by Boris Berezovsky.

In the opinion of Lev Ponomaryev, the provocation pursued two basic purposes.

First, he is sure that the whole action was planned by the Kremlin-related circles under the pressure of the law enforcement bodies in order to discredit the human rights advocates on the eve of consideration of the draft Law “On public organizations” by the Council on Human Rights under the President of the RF. “Second, from the very beginning of the investigation the human rights advocates demanded that the Minister of Internal Affairs of Bashkiriya Rafail Divayev should retire and that a criminal case should be initiated against him. It is one of the key issues in this case”, said he. “The man should have retired a long time ago according to his age, and his destiny is actually suspended at the moment. If Rafail Divayev will be removed, then the present situation in Bashkiriya can still be corrected; this is the weakest link in the whole chain, due to which it is possible to get the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bashkiriya off the ground.

Moreover, as was reported by Lev Ponomaryev, on 6 December, the newspaper *MK IN UFA* published the article by Vyacheslav Bikbulatov entitled “The human rights business” slandering the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”. In this connection, according to the leader of Movement, the organization is going to submit the claim against the former coordinator.

As far as the position of the First TV channel is concerned, Lev Ponomaryev applied to its Director General Konstantin Ernst with the official letter requesting him, in accordance with Art. 152 para 1-3 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation and Art. Art. 43 and 45 of the Federal Law “On the mass media” to grant him an opportunity to air the refutation of the information issued by the TV channel, and – what is important – to be able to do it in the prime time within the framework of the evening issue of the news programme “Vremya”.

In accordance with the existing Russian legislation, the denial of refutation or the violation of the refutation procedure established by law may be appealed against in court.

## **Yevgheny Ikhlov**

*Comments by a human rights advocate*

### **The sovereign Blagoveshchensk democracy, or the Day of the forgotten constitution**

The likelihood and reality of the ideological thesis can be well tried by a step-by-step change of the scale of its application. Let us take, for instance, the programme doctrine of Mr. Surkov on the “sovereign democracy”. The hysteria related to the urgent protection of our president against the march of the fifth column represented by the nongovernmental organizations has almost overfilled the mass media space on the eve of adoption of the relevant law. And simultaneously, from the city

of Blagoveshchensk, known of late as a “beaten city”, there has come a heart-cry reporting about the evel interference of the troublemakers from among the human rights advocates.

The heart-cry has come from Vyacheslav Bikbulatov, the former activist of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights”, who was ousted from the organisation for the deeds, which, to put it mildly, were reduced to the promises of various benefits to the witnesses for the editing of their evidence to be given in the course of the court trial of the policemen involved in the beating of the Blagoveshchensk residents in December of 2004, and also the requests not to imprison these guys for what they did. The heart-cry of Vyacheslav Bikbulatov, among other things, has mentioned one million US dollars received from Boris Berezovsky for the purpose of staging the “orange revolution” in Blagoveshchensk, as well as other similar horrors.

Thus, we can clearly see the hierarchy of the sovereignties. While the OSCE and the US Senate should not talk in high voices about liquidation of the democracy in Russia and the Yukos affair, the Moscow human rights advocates, the Moscow-based mass media and the procuracy should not interfere with the organisation of the so-called “cleaning operations” carried out by the special police forces in the provincial cities.

The next step. The city procurator should have no right to reprimand the district investigator for his having violated the law, while the district policeman, of course, should not have anything to do with the sovereign right of a husband to “count the ribs” of his rightful spouse.

The slogan of sovereignty at the interface of centuries has eventually become the synonym of protection of the “right” to no rights. The international law is more humane and more democratic than the relevant national law in the 90 % of the countries. Russian federal law is of a more lawful nature than 90 % of the regional legal acts adopted in the Russian provinces. Therefore, the demand not to interfere with the provincial sovereignty is actually the protection of the sovereign right to subject the citizens to battery.

### **Trepashkin is being killed by the Federal Security Bureau (FSB)**

*The former FSB colonel Mikhail Trepashkin, who is currently serving his sentence for disclosure of the state secret in the penitentiary institution-settlement under the prison IK- 13 in the city of Nizhni Tagil, has stated that the Department of the Federal Security Bureau for the Sverdlovsk oblast carries out with respect to him a large-scale operation with the purpose of his physical elimination.*

During the last month, the administration of the penitentiary institution IK-13 repeatedly refused to provide the medical services to Mikhail Trepashkin needed for treatment of the heavy condition of the bronchial asthma; they do not let him apply to the specialized clinic of the city of Nizhni Tagil, as well as to buy the necessary medicines. Resulting from this attitude, the state of health of Mikhail Trepashkin aggravated considerably, being currently characterized by the nervous and physical exhaustion, the increased attacks of bronchial asthma and the worsening of his heart condition.

In spite of the fact that the prison medical workers confirm the need for Mikhail Trepashkin’s immediate hospitalization in one of the hospitals of the city of Nizhni Tagil, Sergey Zolotukhin, the head of the penitentiary institution IK-13, without any explanation of the reasons still refuses to sign the relevant order.

At the same time, the procuracy of the city of Nizhni Tagil for supervision of the activities of the penitentiary institutions, to which Mikhail Trepashkin has repeatedly applied with the request to ensure his right to receipt of the relevant medical aid, to this day fails to take any measures.

The situation has been complicated through the fact that the top management of the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments (FSIN) for the Sverdlovsk oblast, executing the recent order of the oblast procurator Pavel Kukushkin, has sharply reduced the number of convicts subject to probation. Simultaneously, the operative services of the FSIN Main Department are engaged in propagation of rumours among these prisoners “explaining” to them that the sharp decrease of the number of those, who may be put on probation, is directly related to the numerous complaints by

Mikhail Trepashkin regarding the detention conditions, the rough violation of the prisoners' rights and the arbitrariness of the prison administration.

According to the information obtained by Mikhail Trepashkin through his own channels, the operative officers of the FSB Department exert the psychological influence on the relatives of the convicts in the nearest penitentiary institutions, explaining to them that these convicts cannot be put on probation as long as Mikhail Trepashkin "is still alive".

Simultaneously, the employees of the FSB Department for the Sverdlovsk oblast headed by the officer named Nikodimov are engaged in a thorough collection of the information, as well as in the analysis of all contacts made by Mikhail Trepashkin both inside and outside the penitentiary institution.

Following such an analysis, the administration of the penitentiary institution IK-13 subjects to various punishments those convicts, who have been observed while contacting and talking to Mikhail Trepashkin. The special efforts are undertaken to find out the number and the names of the prisoners, who created the holocryptic security service to protect the life of Mikhail Trepashkin. It is also known that within the FSB Department for the Sverdlovsk oblast there has been established the special analytical group, which is engaged in collection of all articles of the press and materials published on the Internet sites, where the name of Mikhail Trepashkin is mentioned.

On the whole, the detailed coordination of the actions at the level of the top management of the law enforcement bodies, the procuracy, the Main Department of the FSIN and the FSB of the Russian Federation confirms the fact that the special operation aiming at the physical elimination of Mikhail Trepashkin has entered its decisive phase.

*Radio Liberty*

## **The appeal by the Polish nongovernmental organizations to the President of Russia**

*To the President of the Russian Federation  
Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin  
4 Staraya Ploschad. Moscow,  
Russia, 103132*

Dear Mr. President,

For a period of over ten years, the Polish public organizations cooperate with the Russian public organizations. We work together in the field of civil education, we implement the projects relating to support of the cultural activities, youth exchange, humanitarian assistance. We are deeply convinced that these joint Polish and Russian projects benefit the citizens of our both countries, and we would like these projects to be continued.

The Polish organizations greatly respect the activities of their Russian colleagues in the field of human rights protection, the assistance rendered by the Russian public organisations to children and disabled people, as well as the environment protection activities. Therefore, we are deeply concerned with the news of the planned amendments to the legislation of the Russian Federation, which will complicate the work conditions of our Russian partners.

In this connection, we request you to express your support of the activity of the Russian public organizations and to prevent the adoption in Russia of the legal acts, which discriminate the public organisations.

*Yours faithfully,  
The Polish nongovernmental organizations:  
Association "One World "  
Association of Educators  
Association "School of Leaders"  
Gdansk Educational Fund  
Democratic Society "East"*

*The House of Meetings named after Saint Maximilian Kolbe*  
*The House of Meetings named after Agnelus Silesus*  
*Collegium of Eastern Europe*  
*Polish Educational Society*  
*Association of the African Missions,*  
*Charitable Voluntary Centre "Solidary"*  
*Society "Mazury Garbate"*  
*The Polish Forum of Young Diplomats*  
*Fund of Christian Culture "ARTOS"*  
*Fund "KSHISHOVA" for the European Mutual Understanding*  
*Fund of the Polish-American-Ukrainian Cooperation PAUSI*  
*Fund "Novy Stav"*  
*Fund "Education for Democracy"*  
*Fund named after Stefan Batory*  
*Fund "Centre of Civil Education"*  
*The Helsinki Human Rights Fund*

*Portal "The Human Rights in Russia"*

### **The European Commission allocates 6 million euro to support the residents of Chechnya**

According to the General Directorate on the Humanitarian Assistance (ECHO), the European Commission has approved the allocation of the humanitarian assistance in the amount of 6 million euro to support the inhabitants of Chechnya: thus, in 2005, the total amount of the humanitarian assistance of the European Union to the region will make up 26.3 million euro. This money will go to the compelled migrants, as well as to the socially vulnerable groups of population in Chechnya, Ingushetiya and Dagestan. The support to the vulnerable groups of population will be rendered in several domains: the legal assistance, the distribution of foodstuffs and non-food items, the supply of water and the sanitation programme, the construction of the temporary housing accommodation, the educational projects, the social and psychological assistance, and also the training in the issues of the anti-mine safety.

"The work with the population will be carried out by the international agencies acting in the region", said the ECHO representative. The financial means provided by the European Commission will be also used for the purpose of improvement of the water-supply system and sanitation in Chechnya and Ingushetiya, repair of private houses in Chechnya. Moreover, there will be developed the activities aimed at the increase of incomes of vulnerable households in Chechnya. According to the information provided by the ECHO, the granting of the assistance will depend on the security conditions and access to the population. Today, all the organizations providing the humanitarian assistance continue to work in Chechnya using the method of "the remote control", which means that they do not have in this republic any permanent foreign representatives.

*Agency for Social Information*

### **In Ekaterinburg, there has taken place the picketing of the building of the administration of the authorized representative of the President of the RF in the Urals Federal Okrug**

*At the Interregional Centre for Human Rights there have been summarized the results of the pickets in the city of Ekaterinburg.*

According to the coordinator of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement "For Human Rights" in the Urals Okrug Vladimir Shacklein, in the period from 5 to 9 December the human rights advocates were engaged in the picketing of the building of the administration of the authorized

representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Urals Federal Okrug. And on the International Day of Human Rights, there was organized the picketing near the monument to the founders of the city. “In Chechnya, the war is going on for over 10 years already resulting in the suffering of the civil population not only in this republic, but also in other regions”, said Vladimir Shaklein. “Thousands of people of our region suffer from delay in payment of wages and salaries. The elections of the authorities are consistently transformed into the appointment of the people’s representatives by the higher up heads and chiefs. One can hardly be able to count all the facts of the arbitrariness of the authorities and all the infringements on the rights of children, invalids and other categories of our citizens. To the above-mentioned, there should be also added the torture-like detention conditions in our penitentiary institutions, the abuses that the young soldiers are subjected to in the army etc.”.

*Agency for Social Information*

### **Kaliningrad. The picketing in support of the political prisoners**

On 14 December, 2005 in front of the building of the oblast state administration in the city of Kaliningrad there was conducted the picketing in support of the political prisoners. Let us remind our readers that a year ago there were arrested 40 members of the National Bolshevik Party, and recently 8 of them were sentenced to different terms in prison. One of these 8 persons was Denis Osnach, the team leader of the NBP, sentenced to 3,5 years in prison.

The rally was attended by around 30 people, including the representatives of the Kaliningrad branch of the NBP, KPRF, RKR, “Rodina”.

The resolution of the rally read as follows: “We, the participants of the picketing action held on 14 December, 2005, express our indignation over the arbitrariness of the authorities with regard to the people, who dare have their own opinion and state it openly in accordance with the country’s Constitution. The recent verdict in respect of 8 members of the National Bolshevik Party out of 39 national bolsheviks arrested last year is a clear manifestation of the fact that the authorities use the terrorist methods against the public forces and movements, which make up the opposition in this country, likewise against any individual citizen, who chooses to disagree with the authorities.

The political reprisals are again on the rise, and, today, nobody can be guaranteed against the arbitrariness on the part of the state. We support the demands addressed to the president of Russia Vladimir Putin on 14 December, 2004, during the action of protest staged in the public reception room of the administration of the president in Moscow. We demand to stop the persecutions of the people, who disagree with the Kremlin, to release ALL political prisoners. We also address to the government of the Kaliningrad oblast: the people are dissatisfied with the policy pursued by the present regime, and the dissatisfaction is increasing with each passing day more and more. Let you remember the history: at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the people were compelled to defend their the rights in the streets taking their fate in their own hands”.

On the whole, the picketing was a rather quiet event. The policemen were on alert, while the participants of the rally made no attempt to violate the order. There were expanded the flags of the movements and parties, whose representatives participated in the event, and there was expanded the slogan “Freedom for all people!”. Approximately in 45 minutes after the beginning of the event the picketing was over.

*Press Service of the NBP*

### **The verdict in the “Decembrists” case: the authorities will win no applause**

*The comment by Lev Ponomarev, the Executive Director of the All-Russian Nongovernmental Movement “For Human Rights” regarding the verdict of the “Decembrists” case.*

Today, I have been a witness to the announcement of the verdict in respect of the participants of the action of protest in the public reception room of the Administration of the President of the

Russian Federation, which took place on 14 December, 2004. The parents have met with applause the decision on the conditional sentences and release of the majority of the defendants right in the court room. However, this has not been the expression of gratitude to the state, but rather the joy for their children. It is just natural that the parents applaud the release of their children. However, the authorities will win no applause on the part of the human rights advocates and representatives of the civil society.

The state has failed to show the humane attitude towards the young defendants; the state has tried to get out of the difficult situation with a real prospect for recognition by the international community of availability in Russia of forty political prisoners at a time, which is comparable only with the regime of Mr. Lukashenko in Belarus.

The conditional sentence for 31 “Decembrists” is an obvious proof of the fact that a one-year imprisonment of the “Decembrists” is unlawful. By having released 3/4 of the defendants, those in power try to make mischief between the “Decembrists”, to distract the attention from those eight participants of the action, including three girls, who will remain behind bars after this trial. One thing can be stated with confidence: the authorities have failed to intimidate the opposition.

It is for sure that the important role in this rather soft decision taken by the court has been played by the campaign of solidarity involving both the human rights advocates and the liberal politicians. It is necessary to do everything possible for the release of the remaining 8 convicts.

*Information Agency “For Human Rights”*

### **The Supreme Commercial Court has sided with the lawful residents of the hostel located in 19 Yasny Proyezd**

The Supreme Commercial Court of the Russian Federation has informed the long-suffering residents of the hostel located in 19 Yasny Proyezd that the decision of 2004 on the transfer of the relevant house to the Department of the Federal Service for Execution of Punishments for the city of Moscow is cancelled. The case has been sent to the Moscow Commercial Court for a repeated consideration. It should be noted that since December, 2004 the metropolitan jailers conduct a siege of the hostel, ousting the refugees, seizing the apartments, establishing the control posts. In court, the residents have been represented by the lawyer Evgheny Bobrov.

For further details, please apply to the public organization “Council of Residents of 19 Yasny Proyezd”; telephones: 8-916-926-27-06 (Irina Bergaliyeva), 477-48-54 (Valentina).

*Sobinform*

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