

# INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

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## CHRONICLES OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN PRESENT-DAY RUSSIA

*News, Statements, Appeals, Analysis, Commentaries*

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### Political Discrimination on the Eve of Inauguration

#### Police Daily Routine at the President Changing Time

#### ***Around 50 people blocked off traffic and marched along Pyatnitskaya street carrying slogans***

Around 50 people blocked off traffic and marched along Pyatnitskaya street carrying slogans: “We need The Other Russia” and “False Dmitry, get out of the Kremlin”. The group broke up when the police arrived. It is known for certain that two of the United Civil Front (OGF) activists were detained there and taken to Zamoskvoretskoye OVD.

More than 70 persons have been detained in all. 23 of them still remain at Krasnoselskoye OVD, 10 persons stay at “China-City” OVD. 7 persons, including NDSM leader Yulia Malysheva are at “Basmany” OVD. Twelve more opposition activists were detained at “Prospekt Mira” Metro Station in an attempt to launch an alternative action. Others were detained in the area of Chistiye Prudy.

*Information provided by Press Service of the Opposition Coalition “The Other Russia”*

### ***Police detain dozens of opposition activists in Moscow***

**On Tuesday Moscow police detained 60 opposition activists heading for a protest meeting timed to the morrow's inauguration of President Dmitry Medvedev. This information was conveyed by the Coalition Press Secretary Lyudmila Mamina.**

Meeting in central Moscow has assembled over a hundred of participants protesting against what they called 'usurpation of powers' by stepping out President Vladimir Putin who intends to head the government and the largest parliamentary party under Medvedev's presidency.

Police did not block the meeting and organizers of the action decided to abandon the "Dissenters' March" on the city streets which was planned in defiance of a ban by city authorities reasoning their decision by the existing threat to the security of the participants.

In the meantime, police have detained a number of supporters of "The Other Russia" anti-Kremlin movement hastening to their protest action.

"I can confirm that 38 participants have been detained on the way to Chistoprudny Bulevard, and 10 more - at Pokrovka. Subsequently 12 more persons have been detained at Prospekt Mira", said Lyudmila Mamina, according to [Reuters](#).

Earlier, "VZGLYAD" business newspaper has published information on the 11 participants of the abandoned "march" and the 17 NPB opposition activists blocked by police in an apartment and therefore unable to leave to protest.

Last year's application by the police of force to participants of anti - Putin "Dissenters' Marches" held in Moscow and St. Petersburg was strongly condemned by the West. Putin and Medvedev called the dissenters "political marginals" that do not enjoy widespread support of the society.

**Source: VZGLYAD. Business Newspaper, 7 May 2008, 10:14**

### ***Organizers of the "Dissenters' March" in Moscow urge protesters to disperse***

**RUSSIA, Moscow. On May 6, on the eve of Dmitry Medvedev's inauguration as the Russian President, a "Dissenters' March" was supposed to take place in Moscow, however one of its organizers, Executive Director of the United Civil Front Denis Bilunov used a megaphone of a police minibus to urge several hundreds of protesters who gathered at 6.00 p.m. near the Statue of Griboyedov to disperse in order to avoid jeopardizing participants' security as the Moscow City Hall had rejected authorization of the "March".**

Denis Bilunov reminded that the request for the "Dissenters' March" under the slogan: "Down with the autocracy and succession to the throne!" had been submitted in proper time pursuant to the law, however the city authorities which had to ensure official reaction to the request within three days could only do it in eight days. They refused to authorize the route of the "march" and, in violation of the law, failed to suggest an alternative one. Bilunov mentioned that the "March" organizers had lodged a complaint to the court appealing against actions of the civil servants however the date of the court hearing was not yet fixed.

Soon after Bilunov got off the police minibus, Chairman of the Committee "For Civil Rights" Andrey Babushkin got on it and also urged the protesters to disperse.

Those who assembled at the Statue of Griboyedov included opposition activists from the OGF, "For the Human Rights" movement and participants of the anti-war movement.

Leader of "We" Movement Roman Dobrokhotov emphasized that president-elect Medvedev is a representative of the elite currently at power; however many people in Russia consider that certain liberalization is possible in the country when he comes. Talking about the abandoned "Dissenters' March" Dobrokhotov said that it was another reason for the state media to describe "dissenters" as losers. Failure of a number of organizers to attend the protest action and suggesting to those who assembled for protest to disperse seem counterproductive; I hope that abandoning of the "March" is somewhat exceptional, the leader of "We" Movement said.

Witnesses told PRIMA-News correspondent appearing at the Statue site 20 minutes before the scheduled "March" that one person holding an OGF sign was arrested. Later, another person was detained who shouted "Freedom to political prisoner Grigory Grabovoy!" when being taken to the police vehicle. At the same time, a civilian-clothed policeman tried to push away a

cameraman who was shooting the detained. Generally speaking, there were a lot of civilian-clothed police around the Statue.

A number people were detained on the way to Chistiye Prudy, seven of whom were taken to “China-City” OVD.

At a later stage, the “Live Journal”, “Dissenters’ March” and the Press Service of Opposition Coalition “The Other Russia” have jointly communicated that, following the abandonment of the “March”, some of the protesters moved to various other places in central Moscow and held alternative protest actions. As a result, a few dozens of people were detained. The communication says that the total number of the detained amounts to 71 protesters including those arrested on the way to Chistiye Prudy. The list of those detained includes the following persons: Oleg Kozlovsky, Alexey Kazakov, Yulia Malysheva, Alexander Kuzan, Vitaly Konstantinov, Feoktistov, Pavel Zherebin, Stas Yakovlev, Roman Dobrikhotov, Suren Yedigarov, Pavel Mitronov, Oleg Maximov, and Lolita Tsariya.

On May 6, the Executive Committee of Opposition Coalition “The Other Russia” obtained information on the imminent 15-days’ arrest of the Coalition leaders Garry Kasparov and Eduard Limonov. The purpose of the arrest allegedly was to prevent from participation of Garry Kasparov and Eduard Limonov in the National Assembly scheduled for May 17-18. Pursuant to the information obtained, the decision was made by the executive committee to recommend Garry Kasparov and Eduard Limonov refrain from participating in the “Dissenters’ March” at Chistiye Prudy which was illegally banned by the Moscow authorities, “The Other Russia” Press Service says.

In the meantime, “The Other Russia” Press Service communicated that, upon arrival to Kolomenskoye of the landlord of the rented apartment, the Coalition activists – members of the National Bolshevik Party (NBP) who had locked themselves in the apartment made up their minds to let the police into the premises. The opposition activists have spent about half an hour outside at the entrance to the building after which the police took them to “Kolomenskoye” OVD.

The detention reasoning was in the alleged loss from the apartment of a DVD. Previously, the police had stated that the NBP members were to be questioned in connection with a “dead body of a man found in the neighborhood”. However, it’s the current “Dissenters’ March” that is the reason for detention of the NBP activists, communication says. The NBP members continue their hunger strike.

*Source: PRIMA-News Information Agency [2008-05-06-Rus-21]*

### ***Are people prohibited to celebrate the Victory Day???!?***

An official from the UVD for Murmansk Oblast who had come to my place to get written confirmations both from my son Yevgeny Vasilyev and myself has just left. The idea of those confirmations was for us to “swear and sign” that we would not be participating in the events related to inauguration and the Victory Day celebration (May 9).

The UVD official had an impressive list of persons he was to pay visit to. I asked him about who else was on that list. He answered that the contents of the list were classified.

The answer to my question about the parties included in the list was ‘negative’ as well. However, while talking to him I managed to learn (actually, to “notice” as I still have good eyesight) that the list of persons that had to provide “confirmations” also included skinheads, members of “Yabloko”, communists as well as Afghanistan and Chechnya war veterans. It’s a pity I was unable to see the whole list which, judging from the number of pages, included at least 400 people residing in the Murmansk Oblast.

I can understand the fear of the forthcoming on May 7 “coronation” felt by those civil servants. Falsification of the elections made a huge number of people care about the developments and not to stay indifferent to this event.

I did sign the “confirmation” stating that I was not planning to travel to participate in the “Dissenters’ March” in Moscow or in the meeting related to inauguration of the president. That is true - I did not intend to do it.

**BUT NOW I DO AND I DO URGE EVERYONE TO GO OUT ON THE INAUGURATION DAY AND JUST WALK ALONG THE STREETS WITH CREPE BANDS ON YOUR SLEEVES AND TO DISTRIBUTE SUCH BANDS AMONG PASSERSBY.**

What would be the reason to forbid us go out into the streets on May 9? Both of my grandfathers laid down their lives to save their motherland. And no “confirmations” that I sign can prevent me from participating in wreath-laying ceremonies held at the memorials on May 9. It is my right. And it is my son’s right to be proud of his grandfathers - holders of the Orders of Glory and of the Gold Stars of the Hero. This memory is still in our hearts and no one would be allowed to take it away from us!!!

And if the existing political regime wants to keep the veterans of the most recent wars from celebrating the Victory Day and to forbid us all to go out into the streets on this day we just must unite and rebut all those “false dmitry’s” and “putinoids”!

I would like to thank that UVD official who reminded us that we have our right and our memory to protect and to glorify our warriors and also to learn from them not to be afraid to face the enemies.

*E. Vasilyeva, Murmansk*

5 May 2008

*Source: ECO-HR.2831, 5 May 2008*

### **25 filmgoers arrested in Moscow at a screening of the movie about nationalists**

On Sunday night representatives of UBOP (Administration on Fight against Organized Crime) and other police units “paid a visit” to Jerry Rubin club of Moscow in Leninsky prospect which is very popular among the informal youth, RIA “New Region” says.

At the time of the police raid there was a movie screening - “Panther” - describing history of the American organization of black nationalists - “Black Panthers”. It should be noted that in Russia the movie has been released on licensed DVD’s, included in the television coverage and that it has not been included in the list of the so-called “extremist” movies. However, witnesses say that it was actually the movie screening that became a reason for the police raid to the club.

Witnesses describe in their internet blogs that the police claimed it had reacted to a “hint that a screening of banned movies and planning of riots were taking place in the club”. “At first officers of some police bodies headed by a colonel came to the club and were very rude when they started asking questions like: “Who are you?”, “Why do you look like that?”, “Are you drug addicts or what?”, journalist Vlad Tupikin told us. When they were asked: “Why are you talking to us in such a rude manner and what is the reason of your raid?” representatives of the law enforcement bodies replied that there was a fight in the club a couple of weeks ago and that they were now in the club in connection with that fight.

After that, UBOP and FSB officers arrived and started making inquiries about what informal groups those present belong to and what do they do in the club. The filmgoers were asked the same questions when they were taken to “Gagarinskoye” OVD. They were actually questioned and forced to write explanations without any charges being brought against them.

At the end of the day, all 25 arrested filmgoers were released by 9 p.m. Some of those released came back to the club hoping to resume a screening but in a while two more police groups arrived at the club. Witnesses say that this time the police officers themselves were unable to explain “what they came for”.

It might be possible that yesterday’s action was caused by a desire of the authorities to close Jerry Rubin club, a meeting point for this kind of “problematic”, in their opinion, type of people. This is quite possible given the fact that similar police “visits” have taken place in the past as well.

Police initiates raids against young people who dress in a “wrong” way.

It's worth mentioning that the confrontation is increasing between the Moscow police and the "informal" youth groups. It is very possible that this is just a payback of the police which can be explained as revenge after a couple of successful actions by punks and anarchists (unauthorized March on Tverskaya Street on April 18 and punk discotheque at the Kremlin Wall on May 1).

The police officers have now tightened control over a number of sub-cultural organizations by having automatically equated them with the extremist ones. Human rights activists have been lately receiving regular communications concerning some operation called "Neformal" (Member of an informal social group) conducted in various regions of the country. Communications on the detentions were not only received by the human right activists but also by the journalists; in March and April the community of anarchists, antifascists, apolitical members of informal social groups – all those who look and dress in a "wrong" way constantly discussed on where, how and who "was accepted", "Novaya Gazeta" says.

Let us remind you that at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Heads of Special Services and Law Enforcement Bodies held on March 28, the Head of the Interior Ministry Colonel General Rashid Nurgaliyev stated that "under the mask of humanitarian and pseudo human rights organizations, the rampageous young hoodlums switched to a new tactics of flashmobs". Consequently, peaceful flashmobbers are now also attributed to the "black list" of human rights activists.

*Rimma Polyak*

**Source:** <http://newsru.com/russia/05may2008/kinoman.html>:

### **Look out, police!**

Quite an unusual event took place in Moscow on April 18 – some 200 people blocked Tverskaya Street and made their unobstructed way from Pushkinskaya Ploshchad up to Belorussky Vokzal; in front of them they carried a huge unfurled sign saying "DOWN WITH INFINITE LAWLESSNESS OF COPS" and shouted "Get into the street – get your city back!" On their way to destination protesters were handing out leaflets to passersby; the contents of the leaflets explained the idea of the action - to protest "Against lawlessness of the police" and included "Recommendations on how to deal with the police". A huge number of people, who could observe it, take pictures and even shoot video managed to share their impressions in the Internet. And following are the comments on the event provided by the official sources: "On Friday night OMON riot police was called to Tverskaya Street where some 20 football fans tried to cross the street in the wrong place, RIA Novosti Source with the law enforcement authorities in Moscow said".

A couple of weeks prior to this event there have been another unusual incident in our city. On April 4, a mass beating up of young people by policemen took place close to "Sokolniki" Metro Station; beating up was initiated on the square in front of the Metro Station and then continued at the police station. One of the young guys beaten up by policemen was taken to the hospital with a heart attack after being stunned with a taser. Many people have witnessed this surprise attack of the police against a group of quietly standing young people as well; pictures were also taken, videos were also shot and it was broadly discussed through the Internet and in the press but the official sources present it as a fight between informal youth groups stopped by heroic representatives of the OMON riot police called by the people in the neighborhood.

On April 11 young anarchists – friends of those members of informal groups who had been beaten up in Sokolniki – organized a protest action "Stop infinite lawlessness of the police", however, this peaceful and authorized action (its participants were mainly sitting on the stairs in front of the monument to Cyril and Methodius on Slavyanskaya Ploshchad) was once again brutally suppressed by the police: people were beaten up again, dragged to the buses and taken to OVD; 15 of them have been kept there for twenty four hours. The GUVVD official summaries of that day showed no detentions.

These incredible bacchanalia of the police cruelty towards the youth and these incredible lies spread by the official GUVVD representatives in Moscow did not only start on April 4 – it all started much earlier. Let me give you just one of the examples which have not been exposed to

the public attention. On March 29 an authorized rally - March for a voluntary army - took place in the area of "VVC" (All-Russian Exhibition Center). Prior to the March, the OMON riot police raided the area and seized all the young people who happened to be there, threw them into special police patrol vehicles and took them to various OVDs. Next day I talked to a few teenagers who were detained at the "VDNH" Metro Station. They said they were taken to "Sviblovo" OVD as all of those closest to VVC were already full. No detention reports were drawn up. Having kept all those people including minors and adults, men and women - all placed together in a fish tank - for about 3 hours, police started releasing them - two at a time with 15 minutes' interval. Two drunken civilian-clothed policemen behaving as superiors (swearing dirtily at the other officers in OVD) stripped the last two detainees to the skin and beat them up heavily; they beat the guys both on their bodies and on their heads and they were doing it very professionally and leaving no traces.

But even this case is far not the first one. It's for more than two months now that the Moscow police regularly detain teenagers - mainly punks - on the city streets, take away their passports and deliver them to the district units of OVD where their fingerprints are taken and where they are photographed as criminals - full face and in profile, as well as in full length against meter measure ruler, then the data of their passports are recorded, the contents of their pockets and bags is checked, after which they are released. Parents are not informed that their children are taken to the police station. No charges are usually brought against these children - indeed, it would hardly be possible to write down in the official papers that the teenagers were detained just because of the way they look like as there's actually nothing else they've done wrong. The police openly and unscrupulously misuse absolute legal ignorance of our children who learn a lot of things at school except the basics of law and ability to protect themselves against arbitrary rule. I have talked to many teenagers who underwent unlawful detentions - they all are scared and absolutely sure that there are no ways or methods to protect them from the police.

Without even being a lawyer and just using publicly accessible information, I can specify the list of unlawful acts regularly committed by the police officers in Moscow:

- unjustified and, consequently, unlawful inspection of documents;
- unlawful withdrawal of passports;
- unjustified and, consequently, unlawful detention;
- unjustified and, consequently, unlawful search (particularly, in the absence of identifying witnesses);
- unjustified and, consequently, unlawful registration, taking fingerprints, photographing in the absence of voluntary written consent to such actions or in the absence of parents and/or of their voluntary written consent in case the detainees are under 18;
- preventing detainees from exercising their right to inform relatives of their whereabouts. In regard to minors, notifying their relatives should be a must but this provision is oftentimes ignored or violated.

Therefore, actions of the police officers include violations of the following legal acts:

1. Law "On the Militia", paragraphs 2 and 15 Art. 5 and Art. 11
2. Charter of the Police Patrol and Point Duty Services, paragraph 100
3. Regulations on Passport of a RF Citizen, paragraph 22
4. RF Code on Administrative Violations, Art. 19.17, Art. 27.7
5. Order of GUV D Moscow No. 98 of 22 February 2003, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1.1.

These lawless acts committed by the police were first mentioned in the media as early as in February (Article by Boris Korablev "Did not beat, was not involved ...", "VREMYA NOVOSTEY" No. 31, 27 February 2008). It was the eve of the presidential elections and the article concerned the fact that the police was "clearing" the city of informally looking young people and that in this connection there existed a special secret MVD Order which originated from FSB. For the sake of convenience, this "preventive action" was called "Operation 'Teenager'". However, the Head of GUV D for Moscow Mr. Pronin persistently dissociated himself from this information and used the GUV D Press Service to assure the public that there

existed no “Operation ‘Teenager’” and as for the unlawful detentions of the teenagers that took place, he said that it was nothing but just “individual cases” when some field police officers “went a bit too far”, and that “those of the officers who did it would certainly be punished”.

I’m fully responsible for my words when I say that General Pronin had lied – not only the detentions of the teenagers were not stopped but their number continues to increase. Every day a lot of children appear to be taken to police stations for the only reason that, in the opinion of these “myrmidons of order” (I’m sure you understand that, in a situation like this, such definition cannot be applied to the police officers), they are dressed in a wrong way. And this can only be explained by the existing order “from the above” rather than “individual cases in the fields”. The police officers themselves make no secret of the fact that they carry out detentions within the framework of an on-going operation and that they had been ordered to do so. However, they would rather disclose this information anonymously, in private discussions or whenever they talk to arrested teenagers in the absence of witnesses or documentary confirmations.

I asked Chairman of a human rights organization “The Committee for Civil Rights”, Member of the Experts Council with the Ombudsman of the RF Andrey Babushkin to comment on this situation. According to him, there does exist Order 231 for GUVD Moscow directing to strengthen efforts against skinheads required in connection with the increased number of xenophobia beatings up and murders. This Order empowered police officers to detain anyone resembling skinheads in the city streets and enter their data in the database of disloyal individuals; in the meantime special attention should be paid to teenagers between 12 and 18. I could not find any reference to this Order in the public sources.

It’s probably time for me to explain the reason why I am so much concerned about this problem and why I am so absorbed in it. The problem is that my daughter is a punk. At least that’s the way she calls herself. It means that she listens to punk rock, adores Dima Spirin, the soloist of the “Tarakany” (Cockroaches) group, reads to tatters and smudges his autobiography and does her best not to miss infrequent concerts of this group with such an unaesthetic name. Then she decided she would like to dress as her idol that is to wear T-shirts with photographs of punk-musicians, rocker- style leather jacket and high lace-ups. And, of course, she began looking for friends with similar interests.

At first I was really worried that my daughter’s new friends – the punks – could “teach her do some wrong things”. But then I calmed down – they turned out to be regular Moscow teenagers; moreover, many of them were much more pleasant to deal with compared to other boys and girls of the same age as neither aggression nor snobbism – those two extremities which are widely spread among teenagers – were typical of them. And, finally, verses of the songs performed by the “Tarakany” definitely have more sense than many of pops hits going like: “... Boys are dancing, girls are dancing...” or “... Kiss me everywhere, I’m already 18...” Little by little I could even accept the rocker- style leather jacket although I still believe that a young girl should dress in a more romantic way. However, at the age of 15 a person should have a right to individual taste and own choice of the clothes style.

It turned out that there were many other things to worry about including the aggressive youth groups of the so-called ‘bons’ (neonazi) and ‘hools’ (football fans) who attack peaceful punks and assault them. And even more important was the fact that, unlike with the good- natured and harmless fans of the songs by “Tarakany” and “Orgasm of Nostradamus”, these spiteful kids with bats and knuckle-dusters obviously have sponsors and organizers among the adults. Last year I happened to observe one of such “sponsors” – at the meeting of Baburin, Savelyeva and Alksnis, former (thank God!) deputies of the State Duma with their “voters” held at the Fountain “Kamenny Tsvetok” (“Stone Flower”) at the VVC Exhibition Center. A certain Mr. Artemov instructed the kids he was in charge of, some of whom wore nazi paraphernalia, on how to capture and beat up teenagers in “informal” clothes. The deputies did not interfere with it and when I tried to draw their attention to this obvious disregard of all moral and legal norms which was taking place in their presence and with their connivance, the glossy “elected representative of people” Baburin loudly inquired about my nationality.

But even in this case the threat was not that serious. It turned out that it was the police that constituted the biggest threat for teenagers. Around 4 p.m. on March 13 my daughter and her classmate were detained by the police near the square with a missile at the VVC Exhibition Center. Both of them were 15 years old and they looked their age. They had no passports with them but there is no law saying that teenagers should walk in their native city with passports in their pockets. Two policemen forced the children get into the vehicle (“Gazel”) which was already full of the detained adults (pretty much looking like Gastarbeiters from the local construction site) and took them to the “VVC” Police Station. As there were no seats available in the vehicle the kids had to travel standing. When they finally arrived, they were told to take everything out of their pockets and bag; then the police officers put down the data provided by the guys and told them to also write down their personal information, after which the police officers took their fingerprints and photographed them – full face and in profile, as well as in full length against meter measure ruler. In about an hour and a half they were released. The police officers did not inform the parents that the children were arrested; moreover, they made the children to switch off their mobile phones saying that it was not allowed to use mobile phones at the police station. The kids who were frightened to death believed them.

On the same day I described the event in my blog of the “Live Journal”. The post got to the top 5 most discussed topics as it turned out to be a very serious problem related to the most important thing – the security of our children. Many bloggers who took part in the discussion of the post advised me to draft an application to the Prosecutor’s Office appealing unlawful detention of the children by the police officers of the VVC Police Station.

I did not write the application immediately as I thought that the police officers who should be made accountable under the law may try to defend themselves by exerting pressure upon my daughter and her classmate. And since there were no independent witnesses of what had happened I thought that the police officers would have no problems about “finding” a witness from among their colleagues or from among those poor Gastarbeiters who were deprived of all their rights and obtain the evidence they wanted which meant that my chances for restoring justice and lawfulness were not really great.

However, during the following week my daughter was nearly arrested and taken to the police station for two times at the same VVC and near the “VDNH” (this place is patrolled by OVD “Alexeyevskoye) Metro Station. First time it happened near the Metro Station. Fortunately she called her father who happened to be in that area and managed to liberate her from the unlawful pursuit by the police officers (actually, when they saw that there was an adult ready to protect the child the “myrmidons of order” just ran away). Second time it also happened at the VVC Exhibition Center – this time my daughter managed to get free on her own. She was probably lucky to have had a photocopy of her passport with her – the police officer took it in his hands, looked at both sides of it and gave it back. At the same time, two other girls who were with my daughter – both of them 15 years old too – handed their passports over to the police officers who did not give them back thus forcing the girls to take their car. Fortunately the girls managed to call their parents and the police officers heard it, therefore they did not search the girls or take their fingerprints but just made a record in the registry of detentions at the Police Station and after putting down their passport details immediately released them. By the way, this time there were three policemen sitting in a car and when they saw three young girls without the adults or boyfriends of the same age they tried to get the girls into their car. And who knows what could happen if the girls failed to call their parents?

I must say that it is not incidental that each time my daughter appears to be at or near the VVC Exhibition Center – we live in the neighborhood. And she just does not have any other place for having a walk. Therefore I understood that either my daughter would have to stay inside or she would be running risk of being arrested each time she walks outside because of her age which seems “suspicious” to the police officers in Moscow, and I came to the conclusion that there was actually no way for me to protect my daughter other than write official papers to all the authorities concerned. Therefore I drafted and Application to the Interregional Pprosecutor’s

Office of Ostankino and to the Human Resources Inspectorate of GUV D for Moscow; in addition to that I wrote a letter to a Deputy of the Moscow City Duma Sergey Mitrokhin and described the matter to him after which Mitrokhin sent an inquiry to the Head of GUV D for Moscow General Pronin requesting for “an internal service investigation be held and disciplinary sanctions be applied to those responsible for unjustified arrests and taking teenagers to the police station”.

More than a month has passed since then. The Prosecutor’s Office gives no sign of life. The police, on the contrary, display increased activity caused by the inquiry sent by the Deputy of the Moscow City Duma, however this activity is only addressed to me. According to the procedures and rules established by and for all types of bureaucrats the inquiry from the top was sent down. The first one to react was Deputy Head of the VVC Police Station - Lieutenant Colonel Sotnikov who invited me to come and have a “heart-to-heart talk” with him. He made no secret that he would rather have me take away my application. I refused. Then he openly told me that my leaving the application makes no sense at all since the only thing he could do was to fine the PPS (Patrol) police officers who had detained my daughter. But he said he would not like to do it as in response they might quit and this was the last thing he would want to happen as the unit was already understaffed and they were suffering serious problems because of it (which is absolutely true as the staff of the VVC Police Station had been cut significantly, which resulted in current problem of ensuring control over the situation on this huge and problematic area). I must say that out discussion with the Lieutenant Colonel and two more police officers who participated appeared to be quite honest. “Please realize that normally several internal instructions and directives are issued to complement every official Order; sometimes those instructions and directives contradict the main public Order but... we have to follow them,” one of the police officers told me. He confirmed that this much talked about Order 231, pursuant to which my daughter – a schoolgirl – was arrested, searched and her fingerprints were taken. All this happened just because she had high lace-ups on her feet which were included in those internal confidential instructions. He also said that the police officers throughout Moscow have to fulfill this Order and indiscriminately arrest all the teenagers and that oftentimes they happen to arrest same children since there exists no common database and all the data collected, including fingerprints, personal data, photographs are just stored with the Police Stations. However, despite this very friendly atmosphere of the discussion Lieutenant Colonel Sotnikov mentioned at the end of it that the local homeless tramps would always provide with the required evidence if need be.

A few days after the discussion at the VVC Police Station I got a phone call from Mr. Alexeyev from UVD SVAO who did not specify his rank or position and invited me to come to his office as he “had to question me”. When I said that he should probably question those who had arrested my daughter rather than me, he coldly responded that it was my right to refuse to come. Just in case I told him that I provided all the details in my application and that I actually had nothing else to add to it. “You will get a written answer at a stated time,” – finalized Alexeyev in a way that left me no hope that I would get anything else except a formal runaround. However, I didn’t even get that one. Up until now when all the official deadlines established for the investigation and responding to the application of citizens have expired, I still haven’t received any feedback from the Prosecutor’s Office of Ostankino or from the Human Resources Inspectorate.

As for all these stories concerning unlawful detentions of the young people and teenagers I’m particularly amazed by this unbelievable lack of professionalism of the police officers whose work - from the point of view of its efficiency - reminds me of one of Pushkin’s characters – that old man who throws his net into the deep sea. I’m also deeply impressed by the incredible cynicism of the top administration of the police in Moscow that, on the one hand, do not hesitate to openly lie to the society and, on the other hand, to cross up their employees who have to always feel themselves between the hammer of the law and the anvil of confidential instructions oftentimes contradicting that law.

I was thinking a lot about the reason why all this that I'm describing here happens. Why would they arrest informally dressed youth most of which consists of absolutely harmless children between 13 and 17? And why would they distract the police officers from doing their main job—landing criminals, so numerous in the capital? I failed to find any reasonable or logical explanation to it. Then I started asking this question to the teenagers themselves; for the last couple of months many of them have been subject to unlawful arrests for 2, 3, 4 or even 5 times. Do you know what the children say? They are convinced that the new President Medvedev dislikes members of the informal social groups and therefore the police try to capture and register them in the two main cities of Russia – Moscow and St. Petersburg (unlawful acts of the police have been initiated there much earlier than here).

I don't think that everything is as simple as the kids say. Medvedev is not Karabas-Barabas from a fairy tale. But it is an obvious fact that children who are not involved in politics – just like normal children should be – children who are mainly interested in music – these children are now compelled to protest against the system which oppresses them and it's obvious that many of them will become followers of Limonov or of the communists. I am sure that most of them will really follow those of the political trends that only have revolutions and not reforms on their minds since young people are usually more characteristic of maximalism. And once again, I do not understand the reason why they are doing it. Is the system of power in this country which has no opportunity to regenerate, that removed all the competitors so stupid, rotten and unable to adequately assess its actions that it saws the branch it is sitting on? Or is it a trick aimed at deliberate increase of fear, aggression, intolerance and hatred in the society? And what will it lead to? Who is the true player in the “special operation”? Medvedev who pursuant to someone's plan should not stay in the president's chair for too long? Or, on the contrary, he'll manage to ensure triumphal entry on a white horse and solving all those artificially created problems right after inauguration?

I dislike all those syllogisms as they strongly resemble the theory of conspiracy and smell paranoia. But our reality is like that – we live in the environment of general paranoia. Because, if the police are busy with unlawful capturing in the streets of harmless children dressed in the punks outfit and pay no attention to the aggressive neo nazi killing people in the streets of the same cities – that is frightening, gentlemen, very frightening.

05.05.2008

Source: [www.civitas.ru](http://www.civitas.ru)

### ***Informal campaign***

#### ***Police initiates raids against young people who dress in a “wrong” way. Think too***

At the end of April Head of the Public Relations Department Valery Gribakin announced that the internal ‘service investigation’ held on the facts of beatings up of young people at OVD “Sokolniki” on April 4 and dispersal of the authorized meeting on April 11 has not revealed any violations committed by the police officers. It's noteworthy that the statement appeared right after the public hearings on April 25 in regard to the beatings up at which video films and photographs as well as other evidence were submitted to the top ranking people from GUVB.

And it's not just about the events of April 4 and 11. Everything that happened on those days resulted from mass abuses of the police officers towards the young people. It was just an accumulation of the critical mass. During the public hearings of April 25 held in the House of Journalists an expert of the movement “For the Human Rights” Yevgeny Ikhlov specified the major point of the process: “On March 29 Head of the Interior Ministry Colonel General Nurgaliyev directed police at actions against the youth. At the International Congress of Special Services he stated that “under the mask of humanitarian and pseudo human rights organizations, the rampageous young hoodlums switched to a new tactics of flashmobs”. Then he paralleled between sub-cultural and extremist organizations. At the same time human rights activists receive a message about some operation called “Neformal” (Member of an informal social

group) conducted in various regions of the country”. Communications on the detentions were not only received by the human right activists but also by the journalists; in March and April the community of anarchists, antifascists, apolitical members of informal social groups – all those who look and dress in a “wrong” way constantly discussed on where, how and who “was accepted”.

We received a letter from a famous blogger and editor of the “MOSTOK” Journal Rimma Polyak. On March 16 the journalist’s minor daughter was arrested and taken to the VVC Police Station and already next week two more attempts were made to detain her again. As a result, her mother submitted an Application to the Prosecutor’s Office and the GUV D Human Resources Inspectorate; at the same time pursuant to her request a Deputy of the Moscow City Duma Sergey Mitrokhin sent an inquiry to the Head of GUV D for Moscow General Pronin.

The letter then says: “More than a month has passed since then. The Prosecutor’s Office gives no sign of life. The police, on the contrary, display increased activity caused by the inquiry sent by the Deputy of the Moscow City Duma, however this activity is only addressed to me. According to the procedures and rules established by and for all types of bureaucrats the inquiry from the top was sent down. The first one to react was Deputy Head of the VVC Police Station - Lieutenant Colonel Sotnikov who invited me to come and have a “heart-to-heart talk” with him. He made no secret that he would rather have me take away my application. I refused. Then he openly told me that my leaving the application makes no sense at all since the only thing he could do was to fine the police officers who had detained my daughter. But he said he would not like to do it as in response they might quit and this was the last thing he would want to happen as the unit was already seriously understaffed. “Please realize that normally several internal instructions and directives are issued to complement every official Order; sometimes those instructions and directives contradict the main public Order but... we have to follow them,” one of the police officers told me. He confirmed that Order 231, pursuant to which my daughter – a schoolgirl – was arrested, searched and her fingerprints were taken was also an internal, confidential one and that now the police officers throughout Moscow have to fulfill this Order and indiscriminately arrest all the teenagers”.

It wasn’t only confined to Moscow. During March and April members of informal social groups in Kirov were taken from works and schools “for a discussion” in FSB. In Izhevsk 54 persons were arrested on April 19 right before a punk concert by the OMON riot police without any explanations; 30 of them were later taken to UBOP. According to the data of the “Indimedia” website, it was announced to the arrested young people that they are working on the right youth and now would like to also work on neo nazi. On April 22 a senior high school student was taken from classes at School No. 16 of Sergiyev Posad and questioned right in the school building in connection with his alleged participation in the extremists’ groupings. These are just the most notorious cases disclosed via Internet. It’s obvious that a widely spread explanation of “some field officers who went a bit too far” was not really acceptable in this case but that was actually the kind of explanation provided by the GVD representatives at the public hearings of April 25. “Young people similar to those in this room work with the police, - stated Deputy Head of GUV D for Moscow, Head of the HR Department Vladimir Chugunov in his introduction. – We have been cooperating with the human rights organizations for a long time, and we’ve been striving to achieve mutual understanding that would help us to avoid making mistakes which might be typical for the young people, including the police officers”.

Being directly asked about the existence of “Neformal” operation, Vladimir Anatolyevich gave an evasive answer saying that he had heard nothing of such an operation. Member of the Experts Council with GUV D Andrey Babushkin made it clear that: “There exists operation on skinheads. The operation was required due to the increased number of xenophobia murders which took place at the beginning of the year in Moscow. Unfortunately, field police officers are not prepared very well. When they are instructed to pay special attention to the youth organizations of destructive nature, they do not really distinguish between them. It even happened once that skateboarders were detained among others. Well, we can only keep educating them”. In this

connection, it should be mentioned: first, for some five years now the nazi do not wear skinheads outfit, and it is even more true for those who commit murders. By the way, this is mentioned in the information available on their sites and in their instructions on the street terror.

It's just antifa who currently observe the skinheads culture. Second, it is hard to imagine difference in the appearance more striking than that between the skinheads and the "informals". The major topic of discussion at the public hearings on April 25 was that related to the fact of torture in OVD "Sokolniki". After the photographs and video were shown, Defence Lawyer Stanislav Markelov took the floor: "Attention should be paid to a few things visible and obvious on these shots for a professional. During the incidents were "clean", if I may say so, they bear no traces of beating. Whereas after the incident - ... well, you've seen the pictures. Where else except the police station could they be beaten? Besides, you all know that should a person with injuries be delivered to a police station, the policemen are obligated to carry out thorough examination and, in the event of severe injuries, call a doctor. In this particular case, those injuries are at least moderate.

Second point – resistance to the police officers. Things like coupling, shouting: "Show me your documents", "Observe your law" may not be considered a resistance to the police officers. In the best case we could talk about disobedience here which is an administrative rather than criminal offence – it gives no right to police to apply force.

Third point – if there were any offence committed by these guys an administrative case should have been initiated against them. There is no single case resulting from this incident. Conclusions – no violations, even in the opinion of the police officers, were there in the actions of those guys. Therefore, we have every reason to suspect the police officers of the abuse of powers.

On the 29<sup>th</sup>, that is on the day when General Gribakin's speech was made public GUVVD hosted another "round table" discussion on the same subject. For whatever reason, the Leader of DPNI Alexander Potkin and odious Leader of an ultra-rightist organization "Slavyansky Soyuz" Dmitry Demushkin turned out to be there as well. The outcome of the discussion was covered by a human rights activist Dmitry Makarov: "A decision was made to establish a working group that would draft recommendations on improving activity of the police. However, I don't think it's acceptable to join any associations with people stirring up ethnic hatred. A few years ago we urged the police to find Demushkin as there were threats on his website to murder the Chairman of the Moscow Helsinki Group Lyudmila Alexeyeva. At that point we were told that they were unable to spot him. And now you can see him here. It's just ridiculous".

*I. Donskikh*

Source: "Novaya Gazeta ", 5.05.2008

<http://novayagazeta.ru/data/2008/31/15.html>

### ***The way the authorities fight with the youth in Kaluga***

In February 2008 two young girls from Kaluga were detained and without any reason escorted to Leninsky ROVD of Kaluga. Two policemen - Captain Nikitin and Head of the Section for combating political extremism V. Chechenkov detained the girls.

At the Leninsky ROVD of Kaluga body search of the girls and general search of their stuff were conducted. As a result, more than twenty CD's and DVD's were withdrawn from one of the girls. Up until now the belongings were not returned to the girl.

Bringing of the girls to ROVD has never been documented. No charges have been brought against the girls. However, the policemen made the girls write some "explanations".

With the assistance of the Kaluga human rights activists the victims of the police unlawful actions applied to the court.

Today the Kaluga District Court delivered a judgment prescribing to deny application of one of the victims". The Judgement of the court of original jurisdiction will be appealed.

But does it mean that the police officers of Kaluga will now be allowed to capture people in the streets for no reason at all?

***In-house information***

***Criminal charges brought against Yury Samodurov right before inauguration***

Moscow, 6 May 2008 –a summons was delivered today to Director of the Andrei Sakharov Museum from the Investigation Department for Tagansky District of Moscow which had been issued by Investigator and 1<sup>st</sup> Rank Lawyer E.E. Korobkov and prescribed Yury Samodurov to arrive for interrogation and bringing charges against him in connection with Case No. 402588 initiated about a year ago in regard to holding in March 2007 of the Exhibition “Forbidden Art - 2006” at the Andrei Sakharov Museum and Public Centre in Moscow.

According to Yury Samodurov, the OBOP officer who brought him a summons still had a few more summonses to be delivered issued in the names of the Chairman of the Museum Council A.E. Shabada, PhD in physics and mathematics; Deputies of the Chairperson of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation: L.B. Litinsky, PhD in physics and mathematics; B.E. Bolotovskiy, PhD in physics and mathematics; and former employee of the Museum Yevgenia Lezina (who was not a Sakharov Center employee by the time of the Exhibition but who became an Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee at the International Conference “Modern Art and Taboo” organized by the Sakharov Center and the State Center of Modern Art under the auspices of Embassies of Poland, Finland, Sweden, etc.).

On April 25 L.A. Bazhanov, Art Director of the State Center of Modern Art was interrogated in connection with the case related to the Exhibition “Forbidden Art -2006”.

Two more employees of the Modernism Section at the Tretyakov Gallery were also summoned for interrogation in connection with the case related to this Exhibition (Head of this Section A.V. Yerofeyev was in charge of this Exhibition).

Yury Samodurov himself thinks that: “Investigator and 1<sup>st</sup> Rank Lawyer E.E. Korobkov and his superiors probably feel that now, under the new president, they have vast and exciting opportunities, so dear liberals, don’t you even expect any rule of law in this country after May 7!”.

***In-house information***

***Search in “Falanster” Bookstore***

**On May 6, a search was conducted at the “Falanster” Bookstore, says the “Falanster” website in the Live Journal. On May 5, Director of the Bookstore Boris Kupriyanov was summoned to arrive as witness in connection with the criminal case initiated in regard to the banned NBP party and to Investigator Alexey Galkin at the Prosecutor’s Office of Severny Okrug (Northern District) of Moscow.**

Communication placed on the [“Falanster” website](#) says as follows: “Investigator was mainly interested in distribution of the “Limonka” newspaper, i.e., phone numbers, passport details and distinguishing features of the newspaper suppliers. All the arguments of the witness proving that the “Falanster” was not involved in selling “Limonka” and that there already was an inspection on this subject held by the Prosecutor’s Office of Presnya last November did not really impress Mr. Galkin. So at 11:10 today, on May 6 three OBOP officers arrived to the bookstore and asked customers to leave, after which the search started. Officers conducting the search were mainly interested in newspapers and brochures published by the National Bolshevik Party. They were also interested in the accounting and financial reports as well as in the documents on the printed matter.

During examination of the documents, one of the officers conducting the search said that they were instructed to withdraw any documentation containing abbreviations “NBP”. At first the officers seemed to be lucky: they found the abbreviation they were looking for in one of the invoices on shipment of the book “Daniil Kharms NBP (which stood for New Library of the Poet)”. However, they decided to refrain from withdrawing this document.

We don't hold anything against the OBOP officers who conducted the search. The search was conducted in an appropriate manner.

No literature related to NBP has been found as a result of the search. No documentation related to shipments of the printed matter of that party has been found either.

The hard disks of all the computers at the "Falanster" Bookstore have been withdrawn.

At 15:00 "Falanster" resumed its operation. Despite certain difficulties which, hopefully, will be eliminated in the nearest future we are now functioning in the regular working conditions.

"Falanster" Bookstore has no intention to wrap up its activity unless there is an official ban to continue its operation".

*Source: PRIMA-News Information Agency [2008-05-06-Rus-21]*