

# INFORMATION AGENCY “FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

*All-Russia Public Movement “For Human Rights”*

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## CHRONICLES OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION IN PRESENT DAY RUSSIA

*News, statements, appeals, analysis, commentaries*

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“A very serious group created”

Open letters from Mikhail Trepashkin:

- 1) To Mr Alexander Litvinenko
- 2) They're strangulating us like puppies!
- 3) The silence of the human rights advocates

### 1) To Mr Alexander Valterovich Litvinenko

Dear Alexander,

I'm sorry to hear that you have been poisoned but I think that failure to act in the face of specific evidence of attempts on your life is partially to blame for this. In particular, as far back as August 2002, I reported about a meeting I had near the Kitay-gorod metro station with former officer of the URPO [Department of Countermeasures Against and Prevention of the Activities of Organized Criminal Formations] FSB RF Mr V.V. Shebalin (at his request). At that meeting, he declared that he was once again working for the USB [Department of Internal Security] FSB RF (USB officer D.A. Paramonov took him on communication through Mr Vitvinov) and that “a very serious group” had been created that would “f\*ck everybody connected with Berezovsky and Litvinenko”. He told me that if I stepped aside from the house bombing case and started cooperating with the group, I would be “left in peace”. At the same time, he asked me to give him information about your father and another relative (I don't remember whom exactly), both living in Biryulyovo. I answered him then that I absolutely can't stomach dirty violence, and especially murders. I clearly understood that it had been decided to gradually bump off your kin, masking the evidence of murder. If they are alive, it is because I immediately brought the fact of his criminal proposal to public notice. Recall that I told you about this as well, but a reaction did not follow. But you should have demanded an investigation.

During the course of that meeting, I told V.V. Shebalin: “Forget about A.V. Litvinenko! He's in London. And enough with these dirty affairs to settle personal accounts. There are affairs more important for the FSB RF – a field commander of Salman Raduyev's who goes by the alias of Abdul and was earlier detained by me has appeared in Moscow. He is a specialist in terrorist operations. N.P. Patrushev ordered his release in December 1995. Then he tore off to Turkey, but promised to gather forces and return, having shot down me, Gagayev, and Shevchenko. And now here he is in Moscow; Alexander Yevstigneyev saw him. In addition to this, I know from

clients (Trepashkin's law clients. – Ed.) that many armed Chechens have appeared since May of 2002 in the Western and South-Western districts (of Moscow – Ed.), and that they're audaciously meeting together, fearlessly showing up at these gatherings with weapons. Something's afoot, and immediate work needs to be done in this direction, not settling accounts with Litvinenko!" I then gave Shebalin (for the FSB RF) information from 1995-1996 with "Abdul's" old places of residence and his contacts.

But they did not react at the FSB RF. The events at the House of Culture on Dubrovka ("Nord-Ost") exploded, leading to 130 deaths of hostages. The episode of the meeting with Shebalin and the warnings about a terrorist act being organized has been imputed to me as the divulging of a state secret, disclosing information about the plans of the FSB RF!

As I understood, questions of the pursuit of B.A. Berezovsky and A.V. Litvinenko, as well as of their supporters in Russia, were put by the authorities in a more important place than the prevention of terrorist acts in Moscow. Or maybe "Nord-Ost" is also a part of the plans of the FSB RF?

And then deputy procurator-general of the RF Kolesnikov raised the dusty old events having to do with contracts for "Zhigulis", in order to get Berezovsky. They arbitrarily locked me up in jail and are holding me in isolation behind barbed wire going on four years already. And calmly (in the calm atmosphere of the "people-loving" Russian "rule-of-law" state, as it is presented in the international arena), according to a separate plan, they decided to get to you, Alexander Valterovich!

If you continue to do nothing more than spew out slogans, instead of describing concrete proof, and keep silent with respect to the facts set forth, then they will destroy you! By the way, I'm concerned that some kind of information blockade has been organized with respect to my case as well. I write a lot of concrete things, but nothing gets placed, not only in the central mass media, but even on my sites. Although in March of this year, in response to my appeal, B.A. Berezovsky promised to help with coverage of my case in the mass media. However, quite to the contrary, I was isolated even by defenders and human rights advocates!

I do not object to the publication of this letter in the mass media.

With respect and empathy

**M.I. Trepashkin**

20 November 2006

P.S. Since my letters often don't reach their intended addressee, please confirm receipt of this letter, if only with a single sentence.

## **2). They're strangulating us like puppies!**

In 1998, there was a big article in one of the central newspapers entitled "They Will Strangulate Us Like Puppies". In it, officer of the URPO FSB RF lieutenant-colonel A.V. Litvinenko expressed his prognosis after the famous press conference by officers of the named administration that took place on 17 November 1998 at "Interfax", at which he, together with work colleagues colonel V.V. Shebalin (the man in the mask), major A.V. Pon'kin, senior lieutenant Konstantin Latyshonok and German Shcheglov told about how the leadership of the FSB RF had instructed them to abduct and murder people. In particular, they told about three instances of crimes that had been arranged on the orders of former FSB RF director N.D. Kovalev (currently a deputy to the State Duma of Russia), generals Khokhol'kov, Makarychev and others:

- 1) the murder of CIS executive secretary B.A. Berezovsky;
- 2) the abduction of businessman U. Djabrailov for the purposes of obtaining a ransom;
- 3) the physical elimination of me (at that time I was head of the investigative branch of the UFSNP RF for Moscow Oblast).

I will note that in addition to the 5 (five) URPO FSB RF officers, more than 7 additional persons confirmed the fact that an act of violence was being organized with respect to me, including FSB RF officers lieutenant-colonels Gusak, Skryabin, Yermolov, Kruglov, and others.

Because prior to this I had been summoned to the Main Military Procuracy, where they had familiarized me with a series of documents on attempts on my life that were being arranged, including with statements by many FSB RF officers addressed to the head of the Administration of the President of Russia, I agreed to participate on 17 November 1998 in the famous press conference as an intended victim of a murder attempt. Unfortunately, in the mass media I was grouped together with the FSB RF officers who had been contracted to physically eliminate Berezovsky. This was untrue, and caused confusion in the publications, as well as negative consequences in my subsequent fate.

Litvinenko was asked then: what can you expect for yourself after such high-profile revelations? He replied: if there isn't good support, then the criminal murderer-generals will fire us, and then will strangulate us like puppies!

The solidarity of the generals and big money did their deed. In addition, V.V. Putin and N.P. Patrushev (who had arrived at different times in the FSB RF from the GPU of the Administration of the President of the RF) suddenly burst into power, and it was necessary to reinforce the authority of state security. The revelations impeded this. Who is going to let someone saw through the legs of their trampoline? And they started to strangulate everyone involved with the 17 November 1998 press conference like puppies, to get rid of them like so much unneeded waste.

A.V. Litvinenko spent time in the "Lefortovo" SIZO and in Butyrki, went through many charges, and, as a result, 3 years 6 months of deprivation of liberty, suspended, for questionable acts and flight to London. And now he's been killed!

All of the "revelators" without exception were fired from the FSB RF.

A.I. Gusak was convicted, and also given a suspended sentence (they scraped together what they could under orders).

Field work on the victims as well continued. Berezovsky was forced to emigrate. Trofimov (former FSB general – Ed.) was murdered in Moscow (he sent Litvinenko in 1994 to investigate the first attempt on Berezovsky's life, as the result of which they became friends). I was locked up, and for a fourth year already I'm being held in places of deprivation of liberty under a special regime of isolation on a fabricated charge!

The only one who lucked out is the spineless coward V.V. Shebalin. Knowing that there's a series of serious crimes behind his shoulders (unlike the other participants in the press conference), and having understood that Berezovsky is not going to help him become a general (which he very much counted on when he became one of the leaders of the group of "revelators"), Shebalin threw himself at the feet of the sleazy FSB RF officers and offered to function as an agent provocateur for the USB FSB RF and a false witness against Litvinenko and his circle. They took the bastard! He saved his hide. And even got into the group developing schemes to destroy both Litvinenko himself and his supporters.

**M.I. Trepashkin**

24.11.2006

The officially voiced hypothesis about A.V. Litvinenko having been murdered because he "often appeared in the company of Chechen separatist emissary Akhmed Zakayev" looks funny. The fact is that Litvinenko and Zakayev had lodgings in close proximity to one another in England. They were neighbours! And as Russian-speaking refugees, they associated with one another. When taking some kind of interview or asking for a comment on some kind of event, representatives of the mass media, as a rule, invited both "political refugees". And so they would show up together. These are logical and fully explainable circumstances. But to stress

this, as though they were accomplices, isn't exactly right. If we follow such a hypothesis, then Zakayev himself should have been the first to be poisoned. Or am I wrong?

**M.I. Trepashkin**

24.11.2006

3) “ But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied; they also that render evil for good are mine adversaries; because I follow the thing that good is” (Psalm of David, 37).

I greatly regret that the human rights advocates did not give due attention to what A.V. Litvinenko was talking about way back in April 1998, when he, being an officer of the URPO FSB RF and clearly risking his job, together with his colleagues A.I. Gusak and A.V. Pon'kin, gave a revealing interview to ORT television channel journalist Sergey Leonidovich Dorenko about crimes by the leaders of the FSB RF, including about murders committed by the hands of both FSB RF officers and their agents.

Nor was there a proper response when participants in the notorious press conference at “Interfax” on 17 November 1998, at which officers of that same URPO FSB RF A.V. Litvinenko, V.V. Shebalin, K. Latyshonok, G. Shcheglov, and A.V. Pon'kin told about contract murders and abductions of people committed upon the orders of the leadership of the FSB RF – N.D. Kovalev, Ye.G. Khokhol'kov, generals Makarychev, Ovchinnikov and others – were subjected to unprecedented pursuit. Didn't believe that such a thing can be? It all was limited to general phrases in the mass media from both sides. Nobody stopped to analyze the concrete proof. The participants in the press conference had it, and the criminal-authorities' side didn't. And everybody, like zombies, toed the line proposed by the authorities: it's not worth it to make a noise around the revelations. And that's exactly what the authorities needed.

Then – as a consequence of impunity – there followed the blowing up of the houses in September 1999, “Nord-Ost” and a series of other bloody crimes, where the guilt of the special services was obvious. Somehow everybody believed the fairy tales about the solving of these crimes!

Maybe the death of A.V. Litvinenko, who fell as a victim of vengeance with impunity, will finally force those who are engaged in protecting human rights to pay attention to the specifics of what is going on? After all, the specifics will show the falseness of the authorities!

There is extreme vexation on my soul in connection with the death of A.V. Litvinenko. Yes, vexation! The same kind of vexation as after the murder of A.S. Politkovskaya. I've had empathy for them for nearly 10 years. And now – vexation because the wimpy and unorganized human rights movement of Russia is incapable of effectively preventing neither political murders nor the protection of persons being pursued by the authorities for political motives (apparently this ought to read “preventing pursuit for political motives” – Ed.), nor other crimes by high state officials against people. Weakness because of disunity, some kind of dissensions, often fear – these are but a few of the reasons for the passivity of the human rights advocates.

Together with A.V. Litvinenko, I was a participant in the press conference of 17 November 1998. I was already no longer an officer of the organs of state security, I was unfamiliar until October 1998 with the officers of the URPO FSB RF who appeared at the press conference. I was invited as a victim of a murder being arranged by FSB RF officers because earlier I had brought attention to crimes being committed by FSB RF officers with the knowledge of management. For this they fired me from the FSB RF and organized attempts on my life many a time, including with the forces of the URPO FSB RF.

The murderers succeeded in dousing the wave of scandal without hindrance! The human rights advocates, even though they had some doubts, kept silent! And then the victims started falling! Among others, the revelators are dying, and those who were the targets of the criminal endeavours (the authorities continued to murder and pursue them).

For 11 years I'm warring almost by myself with criminals from among the high-level officials in the special services against people, residents of Moscow and Russia as a whole, against children. In October 2003, the plan of the FSB RF which Gusak, Litvinenko, and Pon'kin told ORT about way back in April 1998 was carried out calmly, cold-bloodedly, and with impunity – a pistol and cartridges were slipped into my belongings, so as to lock me up and shut me up. They held me in a cell with chemicals – insecticide powder, persuaded (apparently, this ought to be read as “threatened” – Ed.) to stab me with a sharpened screwdriver, and placed me in conditions constantly inducing allergy. And everybody's waiting to see how long I can hold out. The hangmen are waiting, and, what's vexing, so are the human rights advocates. For their reaction to clearly evident lawlessness is very weak. In the main, individual people are protesting. There are no appeals to the structures of the Council of Europe and the UN against the criminal lawlessness. I'm in the following position:

“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet” (Psalm 21).

And I ask of help, but ever it comes not.

I am being held in a SIZO, IVS, and zone for a fourth year already, not having committed anything unlawful against people. All of my charges (apparently, this ought to be read as “charges against me” – Ed.) are concocted! And this can be seen even with the eye of a non-lawyer. But for a fourth year I can not tell people what I'm sitting behind barbed wire for, i.e. what the hangmen have concocted for me! Even defenders and human rights advocates are keeping me in some kind of informational blockade, very advantageous for the authorities, so as to pour dirt on me and pressure me in the zone. If it weren't for the silence, and it were publicised through the central mass media what specific acts the criminals from authority have locked me up behind bars for, then the criminal case would have been reviewed a long time ago.

Litvinenko, I – we're not the last in the chain of those being pursued. You remain silent? Tomorrow any one of you may find yourself in this chain. Think about it. And, perhaps, Litvinenko's death will force you to believe in the reality of what he spoke about! Believe and begin to take more decisive action.

I had warned A.V. Litvinenko about the creation way back in 2002 of a group for his destruction.

Even earlier, I described a concrete situation about the use in the FSB RF of special poisons for the physical destruction of people. Already in 1994, certain of the officers of the VKR were sneaking these poisons out from development sites and were attempting to sell them to businessmen they knew for the elimination of competitors. On this they got burned, running up against the agents of the FSK RF. These poisons do not leave traces in the organism. Most often, autopsy results list cardiac failure as the cause of death of those poisoned. The poison is usually applied by aerosol or with a brush to the steering wheel and door handles of an automobile, in a place where an air conditioner is working, on telephone receivers, and so forth. In the instance described by me, there were 10 kinds of poisons of various effect (through the respiratory passages, through the skin of the hands, through the conjunctiva of the eyes, and so forth). Traces of such poisons are present in the case of the murder of Kivelidi, Shchekochikhin, and others. It can not be ruled out that such poisons have been used for the murder of A.V. Litvinenko.

Be silent. And you'll be next.

**M.I. Trepashkin**  
23 November 2006

**I ask you to help me to defend breached rights of my unlawfully arrested and detained brother**

To Mr L.A. Ponomarev,  
the Executive Director,  
OOD For Human Rights

From Inga Ivanovna Parastaeva  
residing at:  
Moscow, ul. Molodtsova, 27, bldg 2, apt 159  
phone: 8-926 469-64-78; 656-19-23

I ask you to help me to defend breached rights of my unlawfully arrested and detained brother, RF citizen Alan Ivanovich Parastaev, who lives in the City of Tskhinval, the Republic of South Ossetia.

In 1992-92, A.I. Parastaev was the Chairman of the Supreme Court of South Ossetia; in 1994-97 and 2001, he was the Minister for Internal Affairs of South Ossetia; in 1998, he became the Minister of Justice and in 2002 – the Chairman of the Supreme Court of South Ossetia.

In 2001, Mr Parastaev stood as a candidate for President of South Ossetia and competed with the today's Head of the Republic Mr E.D. Kokoita.

That is why I think that persecution of my brother is politically motivated.

On 11 November 2006, A.I. Parastaev was in his country house in village Khvtse. According to his neighbors, in early morning people wearing masks leaped over the fence and entered the house. They dragged him out to the street, beating, put into a car and took away. They also searched the house turning it upside down and took his Niva car and the house keys. As it was found later, these were officers of the South Occetian secret service.

The same evening, a news programme showed him giving evidence that Georgian secret service had allegedly offered him to find a killer to murder President E.D. Kokoev.

I watched the programme and of course I was shocked. I know my brother, so all this looked strange to me, his eyes, and his general look was somewhat unnatural.

Unfortunately, I had to go to the hospital for a surgery. From the hospital, I every day telephoned to Tskhinval, but neither his wife, nor our relatives knew anything about him. Nobody gave them any information.

Only several days later he was moved to the MVD prison of the City of Tskhinval. He was placed into a solitary confinement, and nobody has been allowed to visit him. He suffers from arterial hypertension, so he had been under constant supervision of a cardiologist up to his arrest.

I telephoned the hospital, asked, begged the doctors so that some of them visit him. There were attempts to get a permission [to visit him], but all of them failed.

The prison chief said that there was a strict order “from the above” “not to allow any visits”. It was not until 23 November 2006 that the cardiologist managed to visit him (I don't know how). I telephoned her to ask about his health. She was unable to hold back her tears describing the appalling picture to me: Alan was all beaten up, his bruises just started fading away; she didn't like his abdomen – there might be an internal bleeding; his leg was all swollen, and she suspected a fracture. When she asked him about what he had said on TV, he was puzzled and several times asked her whether she was joking: he remembered nothing and felt as if he was asleep. The doctor says that she insists that he be allowed to undergo an ultrasound and radiological examinations, but with no success.

The doctor asked me not to mention her name: she is worried about her children (“Inga, you can't imagine what it is like here, I'll simply be burnt.”).

Since 11 November 2006, A.I. Parastaev has not been eating anything because he can't; he has only been drinking water and taking the medications sent to him by the doctor.

At the moment, he is charged with three offences:

1. Attempt against the President of South Ossetia
2. "High treason"
3. Possession of weapon

I tried to reach his defence lawyer by phone. She refused even to talk to me and said that her phone was tapped and she was unable to do anything anyway although "there is nothing in the case".

I beg you to help him.

Every second counts: he can be killed in the prison.

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**In the Organisation on Security  
and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

### **On kidnapping and torture of an RF citizen in South Ossetia**

The All-Russia Public Movement For Human Rights received a letter from Inga Ivanovna Parastaeva, an RF citizen residing in Moscow, asking to provide urgent help to her unlawfully detained brother, RF citizen Alan Ivanovich Parastaev; the South Ossetian secret service fabricated charges of grave crimes against him. In particular, he is charged with an attempt to organize murder of the President of South Ossetia E.D. Kokoev (Kokoita).

It has come to light that Alan Ivanovich Parastaev is subjected to sophisticated torture. He is deprived of medical aid; his life is under real threat.

Very recently, South Ossetia held a referendum on independence, and today it is headed by RF citizen E.D. Kokoev, who allowed arbitrary treatment of another RF citizen, Alan Ivanovich Parastaev, by his subordinate special service.

It should be noted that this incident occurred on 11 November, *i.e.* literally one day before the voting commenced, and was boisterously and widely covered by all the South Ossetian mass media and key RF ones.

The events in South Ossetia relating to the relationship between the RF citizens became paradoxical – on the territory where Russian army is deployed, a Russian citizen is harassed by another Russian citizen, and this harassment is documented on the basis of the RF Criminal Code.

We believe that the arbitrary treatment of RF citizen Alan Ivanovich Parastaev and his detention and torture are unlawful and in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights and other international treaties signed by the Russian Federation.

Regardless the attitude towards the status of South Ossetia, it is unacceptable to torture a Russian citizen. Apparently, the arbitrary treatment of the RF citizen must be stopped.

**I ask you to take urgent steps to stop the arbitrary and unlawful treatment of RF citizen Alan Ivanovich Parastaev by the South Ossetian authorities. His life is in real danger.**

Annex: Letter from I.I. Parastaeva

Executive director

L.A. Ponomarev