

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
SUTYAJNIK

We Are Sutyajnik
2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. SUTYAJNIK – A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

What are we? SUTYAJNIK is a non-governmental human rights organization founded in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 1994. Sutyajnik is a human rights resource center that helps citizens and organizations realize rights guaranteed in the Russian Constitution and international treaties by litigating public interest cases, educating in human rights, and informing the public about the mechanisms for human rights protection. One of Sutyajnik's principal goals is to defend human rights by working to bring domestic legislation and practice into conformity with international and constitutional standards in the following areas:

- freedom of association;
- rights of minorities and discrimination;
- freedom from torture;
- freedoms from unlawful detention, arrest, and forced medical treatment;
- freedom of expression;
- freedom of religion;
- other rights and freedoms.

Who are we? SUTYAJNIK is a group of lawyers and senior law students dedicated to protecting the traditional areas of human rights. Sutyajnik was founded in 1994 by Sergei Beliaev, who remains its president.

SUTYAJNIK'S Supervisory Board:

- Tatyana Merzlyakova, Human Rights Ombudsman for Sverdlovsk oblast;
- Ludmila Alexeeva, Chair of the Moscow Helsinki Group;
- Demyan Bakhrakh, Professor of Law, pro-rector of the Ural Institute of Economy, Management and Law;
- Kathryn Hendley, Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School;
- William Anspach, partner in the union-side labor law firm Friedman & Wolf;
- Irene Stevenson, Field Representative, Solidarity Center / AFL-CIO in Central Asia.

What do we do? SUTYAJNIK carries out its mission by:

- Providing legal aid by telephone, at public walk-in centers, via the internet;
- Providing registration and other legal resource services to NGOs in the Urals region;
- Representing individuals and NGOs in judicial and administrative forums in both strategic public interest litigation and conventional cases;
- Conducting public issue campaigns and lobbying;
- Sponsoring legal seminars and conferences;
- Providing clinical legal education by supervising law students who consult and represent clients in strategic and conventional cases;
- Operating a news agency for human rights NGOs;
- Challenging legislative and administrative enactments in the Russian courts;
- Preparing and litigating cases in the European Court of Human Rights.

Who is supporting and has supported us in the past? The following organizations: American Center for International Labor Solidarity, USAID, National Endowment for Democracy, Eurasia Foundation, Know-How Foundation, Ford Foundation, the Institute of International Education, Open Society Institute-Moscow, Open Society Institute-Budapest, John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Civil Liberties Foundation, the Moscow Helsinki Group, the European Council, European Commission, etc.

II. FEEDBACK ON SUTYAJNIK

Media on Sutyajnik

Yekaterinburg's organization Sutyajnik finds legal problems where not just any lawyer might perceive them. And sometimes this organization secures verdicts that help thousands of citizens.

Kolesov Y. Worthless Judgment // Vremia novostei. 2005. 25 Jan. No. 10. www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/interview/2005/groshovuy_prigovor.htm

For more information about Sutyajnik in the media, visit www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/interview

Interns on Sutyajnik

Sutyajnik in the present day is one of the very best experts on the international protection of citizens' rights. It is immediately visible that this organization is a dynamic one, with precise goals and methods of practice, and with a young collective of lawyers. Its website is a remarkable informational resource. On the one hand, it serves as a documentation of Sutyajnik's human rights activity, and on the other, as a resource for general information on the protection of human rights.

Rzhanova O., graduate student at the Mordov State University, Saransk, Mordovia www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/actions/marthur04/stazhir/rzhan.htm

Governor on Sutyajnik

In 2005, the Governor of the Sverdlovsk oblast expressed gratitude to Sutyajnik for "significant public work, active participation in the development of volunteer movements in the Sverdlovsk oblast, concrete assistance to citizens who need social support, large contributions to the education of rising generations in the spirit of good and mercy, and the embodiment of civic activity and responsibility..."

For more information visit www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/10/rossel_pismo.htm

Ombudsman on Sutyajnik

One of the important objectives of teamwork in human rights and in the entire public sector, I think, is the training of public organizations representatives. With training and the improvement of professional qualifications in mind, Sutyajnik assisted in carrying out training seminars and conferences... This year saw several seminars featuring experts and representatives of the European Commission and of various civic organizations (MF "Dostoianie", NGO "Sutyajnik"). Many public activists improved their qualifications in these seminars.

2005 Annual Report on the Activity of Ombudsman in Sverdlovsk oblast
2006. 12 Jan.

Head of Sutyajnik on Sutyajnik

Our activity is not limited to mere household affairs. Rather, in any case we choose only public interest cases that can change societal

attitudes toward human rights. People should understand their rights, the obligations of authorities, and how legislation really affects various aspects of their lives.

And sometimes we manage to push legislators to make important decisions which they admit in official letters addressed to us.

We already have a certain authority; we have public recognition. Some people (usually state officials) dislike us, but most regard us with respect.

Interview with President of Sutyajnik S. I. Beliaev
We Are Accustomed to Being, Considered Sick //
Vremia Novostey. 2005. 25 Jan. No. 10.
www.vremya.ru/2005/10/13/116842.html

III. SUTYAJNIK'S PROJECTS

Litigating Cases in Russia's Supreme and Constitutional Courts, the European Court of Human Rights with the Support of Open Society Institute (Budapest)

Over the course of four years the NGO Sutyajnik has been strategically litigating cases in Russia's Supreme and Constitutional courts, the Charter court of the Sverdlovsk oblast, and the European Court of Human Rights.

In 2005 attorneys at the organization filed 11 complaints with the European Court of Human Rights regarding infringements of citizens' rights as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Eighty-four cases were litigated before the Constitutional and Supreme courts of the Russian Federation and the Charter Court of Sverdlovsk oblast. For more details on case litigation see the report's section "Representing the Interests of Citizens and Organizations in Courts".

Within the framework of this project, citizens enjoyed free consultations regarding the application to international human rights bodies; the judicial review of legislative acts on the local, regional, and federal levels that contradicted with the Russian Constitution and/or international treaties; and the judicial review of the state or municipal bodies' failure to act.

With the goal of disseminating information and valuable experiences, our organization published "Report on the Influence of Sutyajnik's Litigation Practice on Russian Legislation and Law Enforcement Practice". You can familiarize yourself with the report in the section of Sutyajnik's website entitled "Library".

This year also saw the publication of "Right to Life, Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: European Standards, Russian Legislation and Practice" and "Obligations of State Parties under the European Convention on Human Rights to Execute Judgments of the European Court". These are the fourth and fifth volumes of the series "International Protection of Human Rights". For more details visit Sutyajnik's library online.

Work on the project, particularly all documents regarding litigation, is regularly published on our website in the section "Court Cases". Reports on each new event and court hearing are posted on the "Sutyajnik-Press" section of our site. As a result of our accessibility, our activity is often covered by the mass media, with the organization's lawyers giving interviews on the radio, television, and in the printed press.

Project website: www.sutyajnik.ru/erm/osi

Correspondence School on Human Rights Complete with an Internet Conference Center Supported by the MacArthur Foundation (Chicago)

Over the course of four years, the organization has moderated a public Internet Conference Centre. In 2005 the centre produced over 20 events, from round tables to conferences to presentations to video lectures.

We have also created and successfully operated the Practical School on the Application of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, thanks to which a significant number of attorneys, lawyers, legal instructors and administrators, and human rights representatives have undergone part-time and correspondence training on the application of European Conventions. In addition, because of our internship program, lawyers have increased their expertise in the effective protection of public interests and have put their skills into practice. In 2005 our correspondence school carried out five training courses.

Because this project ensures that we remain technologically up-to-

date, our website continues to operate successfully at www.sutyajnik.ru. More detailed information about the site can be found in this report in the section "Sutyajnik's Website".

Representatives of NGOs from various regions regularly undergo monthly internships at our organization. After learning from our experience in the human rights sphere, interns leave with a higher quality level of human rights knowledge. In particular, A. N. Suslikov from the Saratov regional organization "Centre for the Protection of Consumer Rights" is currently working in Yekaterinburg with the framework of the initiative "Receive Your Own from the State", a project that offers free assistance to citizens in collecting money awarded to them in court.

Our training sessions have supported not only public organization networks but also individual citizens, who learn how to apply their strengths to solve concrete problems, plan strategically to find solutions, and use the techniques they have mastered to promote public interests. In 2005 two representatives of NGOs from Saratov and Saransk interned at Sutyajnik. On average, three student-lawyers studying in Yekaterinburg law schools work three-month internships at a time.

For more information please visit: www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/actions/marthur04

Practical School for Young Lawyers on the International Protection of Human Rights Supported by the European Commission

The NGO Sutyajnik serves as a resource and educational centre for young lawyers from human rights organizations in Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Perm, Tyumen, Novosibirsk, and the Khanty-Mansisk and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Areas.

With the support of international experts, Sutyajnik's attorneys run a number of training courses. These training courses, which consist of six three-day sessions, are devoted to the implementation of international legal norms (regarding the right to life, protection from torture and discrimination, and the right to a fair trial) at the national and international levels. Over the past year, we have conducted four sessions, which constitute all together 12 working days, for 30 young practicing lawyers from non-governmental and governmental organizations and law school instructors.

Participants use the knowledge and skills acquired in training in free consultations with citizens on applying to international courts. They also

translate the European Court's verdicts so as to make them more accessible though Sutyajnik's website. As a result of our work in training, two participants were chosen to take part in an educational trip to the Council of Europe in March 2006.

Thanks to the involvement of international experts, teachers of law schools, and non-commercial organizations in our project, we have issued the fourth volume of the series *International Protection of Human Rights*, "Right to Life, Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: European Standards, Russian Legislation and Practice". This publication includes a foreword by Paul Chikovym, legal director of the foundation "Public Verdict" and director of the Kazan Human Rights Centre, as well as several chapters by Kevin Boyle, a professor of international human rights law at the Centre of Human Rights at Essex University.

For more information visit www.euro.sutyajnik.ru/ru

Arbitrariness in Law Enforcement Bodies: Practice and Origins

The NGO "Sutyajnik" acts as a regional partner in the Moscow Helsinki Group's project Arbitrariness in Law Enforcement Bodies: Practice and Origins.

The organization's activity is dedicated to examining arbitrariness in law enforcement bodies, revealing basic shortcomings and infringements in the law enforcement system, drafting recommendations for government structures, and developing concrete strategies for NGOs to solve the problems recognized by the project.

In 2005, the organization conducted a survey of Sverdlovsk oblast citizens regarding their attitude toward officials of law enforcement bodies. The region's law enforcement officers were described by citizens as: "poor", "greedy", "unscrupulous" and "idlers". These characteristics can unfortunately be found in practice.

One example is the case of Smol'ianinova in connection with the death of her son in Serov police station due to torture by investigators. As a result of our project, a press conference was held before a court hearing on the case initiated by Smol'ianinova.

IV. SUTYAJNIK'S WEBSITE

First appearing in 2003, the site www.sutyajnik.ru continued to develop in 2005, modifying its interface to be more user-friendly and up-to-date. Several sections on the site have been integrated with a database that facilitates and automates the posting of the newest materials. In particular, the section "Court Cases" has undergone vast improvements, posting many legal documents on our cases. Also, there you will find examples of claims, complaints, inquiries, and other legal documents.

As it has in the past, our site makes it possible to learn about human rights news from the news agency Sutyajnik-Press, but now it is possible not only to read the news, but to hear broadcasts of the first human rights internet-radio station Sutyajnik.

News Agency Sutyajnik-Press www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/news.php
Internet-Radio Sutyajnik www.sutyajnik.ru/radio

The archive of video materials from round tables, conferences, and events hosted by our organization to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience has been updated.

www.sutyajnik.ru/video/archive

In Sutyajnik's online library you can become acquainted with legal publications, interviews of sutyajniks, human rights reports, and notes about sutyajniks' travel and study in the US, Cuba, Canada, England, France, Spain, Holland, Switzerland, Portugal, Egypt, and other countries.

www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library
www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/ljb.php

As in the past, in the section on consultations it is possible to receive free online legal counseling. This part of our website was renovated at the end of the year. Now on-duty lawyers can answer questions posed on the site without delay and, more importantly, immediately post these answers on the site.

www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/advices.php

The special section "Studying the European Convention", available at www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/echr/school, provides those who wish to apply to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Russian courts with (1) all national legislation on the

issue, (2) translated international documents, and many other features. For a more detailed description of this resource see the section "International Protection of Human Rights".

Sutyajnik also assisted other human rights organizations in mastering current technological developments. At the end of the year, a website for the Union of Human Rights Organizations in Sverdlovsk oblast (UHRsO) was created on our server: www.humanrightsural.ru. Sutyajnik's experts developed new software for the site and trained UHRsO employees to continue work on it.

www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/infotech.php

V. LEGAL COUNSELLING

Our staff attorneys provide citizens with free legal consultations at public drop-in centers in Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk oblast, as well as over the telephone and on-line (see. www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/advices.php).

The number of citizens coming to our organization with complaints about the mechanism of human rights protection under the Russian legal system remained roughly the same between 2004 and 2005. The number of questions on labor and housing law, as well as on the international protection of human rights, increased considerably.

An analysis of citizen's questions demonstrates that their awareness and understanding of the Russian legal system and European Court of Human Rights has increased.

In 2005 we gave 856 free consultations. Of these, 199 were conducted over the telephone, 249 were given in public receptions, and 408 were written or conducted over our website.

Topics covered in our consultations included the following:

1. Application to the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Committee on Human Rights – 40 %;
2. Civil procedure – 11 %;
3. Labor law – 16 %;
4. Civil law – 10 %;
5. Housing law – 8 %;
6. Tax law – 1 %;
7. Administrative law – 4 %;
8. Family law – 2 %;
9. Social security – 8 %.

VI. REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN COURTS

In 2005 Sutyajnik was involved in litigating over 120 cases. You can become acquainted with them in the new section of our site "Court Cases" (www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/cases.php), where daily legal work, including prepared documents and judicial decisions, are available.

Some example of successful cases:

Ponyatovsky v. Government. On 14 July 2005, the Russian Constitutional Court decided a landmark case on the right to a fair trial. The Federal Government Order of Execution of Judgments (with the peculiar number 666) was ruled unconstitutional. Essentially, the Court held that an important category of judgments against the Government shall be legally enforced. Prior to this decision, plaintiffs could win the judgment against the Government but had to follow a government order which obliged the applicants to rely on its good will in order for the judgment to be executed.

The Government's newspaper 'Russian Newspaper' called the Constitutional Court's judgment a 'truly revolutionary' decision on the right to a fair trial. This is true in many regards, particularly in that it is the first case against the Federal Government ever brought before the Constitutional Court by citizens (and not by state authorities or officials). In addition, this judgment is unique in that the Court applied four European Court of Human Rights judgments (in Article 6(1) and Article 1 of Protocol 1 to the Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms), which is rare in the legal practice of the Russian courts.

For more details on the case refer to www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/cases/p_v_gov

The Yekaterinburg City Administration Committee responsible for relationships with NGOs was held under court scrutiny for its refusal to hold a picket. The court ruled that the Committee's actions were illegal.

www.sutyajnik.ru/cgi-bin/news.php?id=314&year=2005&month=12

In July 2005 a Sverdlovsk oblast court awarded N. A. Smol'ianinova around 100,000 roubles, collected from the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, for the death of her son in the hands of officials of the Serov police station.

www.sutyajnik.ru/erm/proizvol/smolianinova/itogi.html

VII. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2005 Sutyajnik continued activity in international protection of human rights by implementing the following programs:

- consultation of citizens regarding how they can apply to international organizations;
- implementation of international human rights standards (most notably, the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its protocols) in national courts;
- the selection and preparation of applications to the European Court of Human Rights.

Around 40 percent of all concerns addressed to Sutyajnik pertained to the preparation of appeals to the European Court of Human Rights, most often regarding infringements on the right to a fair trial, property rights, or a personal security. The number of requests for assistance in international legal protection of rights has increased by 8 percent since 2004.

Sutyajnik's attorneys have also advised citizens on how to ensure the protection of their rights in national courts, grounding their advice in the conventional principles and norms of international human rights law.

Currently our organization is working on 24 cases brought before the European Court of Human Rights, 11 of which were directed to the Court in 2005.

These appeals concern the following topics:

- infringement of Article 2 of the European Convention – the right to life (1);
- infringement of Article 3 of the European Convention – the right not to be subjected to torture (2);
- infringement of Article 6 of the European Convention – the right to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law (9);
- infringement of Article 10 of the European Convention – the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (1);
- infringement of Article 11 of the European Convention – the right to freedom of association, assembly, meetings, and procession (1);
- infringement of Article 1 of Protocol 1 – the right to property (1).

In addition to these cases, in 2005 Sutyajnik continued to up-date resource created in 2004 for citizens and international human rights organizations. The section of our website entitled "Studying the European Convention" (www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/echr/school) provide those who wish to apply the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Russian courts with (1) all national legislation on the issue, (2) translated international documents, (3) translated European Court of Human Rights case-law (major cases), (4) translations of selected judgments against the Russian Federation, (5) judgments of Russian courts of different levels and jurisdictions that have invoked the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, (6) relevant books and law journal articles on the issue, and (7) online audio and video lectures.

VIII. SUTYAJNIKS TEACH

Over the course of the year, Sutyajnik representatives were invited by several organizations and educational institutions to serve as instructors in 9 seminars and workshops on the topic of human rights protection. In particular, a Sutyajnik representative instructed a summer school seminar for student lawyers called "Jury Trial: Practical Skills in Litigating Cases", taking place 18–31 May 2005 in Khabarovsk. Another summer school program, "Academy of Human Rights", addressed the topic of international human rights protection and took place 19–23 July 2005 in St. Petersburg.

One of Sutyajnik's projects, "Practical School of International Human Rights Protection for Young Lawyers" is devoted to a one-and-a-half-year training course for 30 practicing attorneys at NGOs, litigators, and representatives of municipal and state agencies. Attending 6 educational sessions, participants learn about applying international standards to the defense of human rights in Russia.

For more details about the project visit www.euro.sutyajnik.ru/ru

In addition, Sutyajnik established an educational program for 4th and 5th year students in the legal department of the University of the Humanities (Ekaterinburg), "Case-law of the European Court of Human Rights" (course written and conducted by Anna Demeneva).

In 2005 Sutyajnik conducted a series of individual and group training sessions for representatives of non-governmental organizations,

students, and researchers on the subjects of “Strategies of NGOs in the Protection of Public Interests”, “Litigating Cases before the European Court of Human Rights”. These training sessions were attended by the following participants:

- 3 employees of the organization “Rostov Centre for International Defense” (Rostov-on-Don): Stanislav Velikoredchanin, Oksana Sankova, Natalia Gerasiuta.
- Alexei Suslikov, chairman of the Saratov region social organization “Centre for the Protection of Consumers Rights”.
- Oksana Rzhanova, graduate student at the Mordov State University, instructor of the courses “Constitutional Law of the Russian Federation”, “European Protection of Human Rights”, and “Institutes of Direct Democracy in Russia and in Countries of the European Union” (Saratov).
- Dmitrii Makarov, attorney at the “Institute for Social Problems “One Europe”, participant in Youth Rights Protection movement (Orel).

More information on Sutyajnik’s training activities:
www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/actions/marthur04

IX. SUTYAJNIKS LEARN

In addition to planning and conducting their own activities, Sutyajnik attorneys raised their qualifications in educational and practical areas by participating in seminars and workshops run by partner organizations in the non-commercial sector. Such activities included the training session “International Labor Organization: Labor Rights Standards and the Mechanisms of Labor Rights Protection”, organized by the Centre of Trade-Union Training; summer schools on human rights in Tver and St. Petersburg; XXVI International Human Rights Training Program (Montreal, Canada); and regional courses on human rights in Sweden and Serbia.

Sutyajniks continue their research, successfully combining it with practical work. Anna Demeneva is working on her candidate dissertation on the legal consequences of decisions rendered by the European Court of Human Rights regarding the Russian Federation. Lyudmila Churkina is completing preparations for her candidate dissertation at the Ural State Academy of Law and is representing the case of

Sutyajnik v. Russia, and other cases. Anton Burkov received a master’s degree in international human rights law from Essex University in Great Britain, earning distinction in defending his dissertation on the influence of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on Russian law; the dissertation materials now serve as an online training resource entitled “Studying the European Convention” (www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/echr/school). In the meantime he is working on his doctoral dissertation in the law faculty at Cambridge University (Great Britain) on the application of European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Russian courts, and is simultaneously working on the cases *Mikhailova v. Russia* and *Russian Labor Party v. Russia*.

X. SUTYAJNIK’S LIBRARY

BOOKS AND COLLECTIONS PREPARED BY OUR ORGANIZATION

1. A. Burkov, *Legal Defence of Citizens’ Rights against Unconstitutional Laws*, Yekaterinburg, Ural University Press, 2005. – 180 p. (Judicial Practice and Human Rights series; Vol. 2). ISBN 5-7525-1452-5.

The new Russian Constitution of 1993 and subsequent legislation promulgated the right of citizens to challenge any unconstitutional law in courts. In his book on judicial review in Russia, Anton Burkov explores the history and recent developments of judicial review in the Russian legal system. The main conclusion: Russian judges create new ‘negative’ law when exercising the authority of judicial review. The book is based on the litigation activities of many Russian NGOs as well as the author’s own practice as a staff attorney with the Ural Centre for Constitutional and International Human Rights Protection of the NGO Sutyajnik. The book in full is available online and can be ordered for free at the NGO Sutyajnik’s web-site www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/sborniki/sud_zasch

2. A. Demeneva (Ed.) *The Right to Liberty and Security of the Person: European Standards and Russian Practice*, Yekaterinburg, Ural University Press, 2005. – 200 p. (International Human Rights Protection series; Vol. 3) ISBN 5-7525-1353-7.

The co-authors of this book are: Professor Jeremy McBride, Director of the Human Rights Law and Practice Programme at the Universi-

ty of Birmingham and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Centre for the Legal Protection for Human Rights INTERIGHTS, and two lawyers with the Ural Centre for Constitutional and International Human Rights Protection of the NGO Sutyajnik: Anna Demeneva, LL.M (who is also an editor of the book), and Anton Burkov, LL.M (Essex University).

This book contains the legal analysis of obligations of the High Contracting Parties under Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights and practice of the European Court of Human Rights on this issue. The Russian authors explore the Russian judicial practice and existing problems in the sphere of the right to liberty and security of the person. Part of the book is based on the practice of Sutyajnik in the European Court of Human Rights, namely, the case *Rakevich v. Russia* (see www.sutyajnik.ru/eng/news/2004/r_v_r.html). A special chapter, written by Anton Burkov, is devoted to the right of liberty and security of persons who are involuntary detained to the psychiatric hospitals. The book is in Russian. It is available online and can be ordered for free on Sutyajnik's website www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/sborniki/echr3

3. L. Churkina (ed.), *Right to Life, Prohibition of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: European Standards, Russian Legislation and Practice*, Yekaterinburg, Ural University Press, 2005. – 244 p. (International Protection of Human Rights series; Vol. 4). ISBN 5-7525-1361-8.

The co-authors of the book are: Kevin Boyle, Professor of Law and a member of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, staff attorneys of the Ural Centre for Constitutional and International Human Rights Protection of the NGO Sutyajnik and postgraduate students of the Ural State Law Academy: Anna Demeneva and Ludmila Churkina, and lecturer of the Tyumen State University, department of international law, Boris Labunetz. This book summarizes and reviews judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, helping readers to better understand European standards and to use them in domestic litigation as well as in arguing cases before the European Court of Human Rights. The authors analyze Russian legislation and practice as well as European standards, particularly the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights enshrined the right to life, prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The book is in

Russian. It is available online and can be ordered for free at the NGO Sutyajnik's web-site www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/sborniki/echr4

4. L. Churkina, Ed. (2005) *The Obligations of States Parties to the European Convention on Human Rights to Execute Judgments of the European Court*, Yekaterinburg, Ural University Press. – 134 p. (International Human Rights Protection series; Vol. 5). ISBN 5-7525-1499-1.

This book addresses the following issues: the obligatory character of the European Court's judgments for the member-states to the European Convention on Human Rights; the execution of the European Court's judgments; legal grounds for the obligatory character of the European Court's judgments; remedial actions taken by the governments in response to being held in violation of the Convention; model of the effective interaction between the Russian legislation and case-law of the European Court. The co-authors of the book are staff-attorneys of the Ural Centre for the Constitutional and International Human Rights Protection of NGO Sutyajnik Ludmila Churkina and Anna Demeneva. The book is in Russian. It is available online and can be ordered for free at the NGO Sutyajnik's web-site www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/sborniki/echr5

5. E. Bulakova, L. Churkina (2005), *Citizens' appeals to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation*, Yekaterinburg, Ural Centre for the Constitutional and International Protection of Human Rights of the NGO Sutyajnik.

www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/cases/n_acts/literature/kc

6. Report on Human Rights Violations in Sverdlovsk Oblast in 2004

7. L. Churkina, et al. (2005). *Report on the Influence of NGO Sutyajnik's Litigation Practice on Russian Legislative and Law Enforcement Practice*, Yekaterinburg, Ural University Press, 2005. – 42 p. ISBN 5-7525-1497-5.

Law Journal Articles

In 2005 more than 20 articles by Sutyajnik lawyers were published in nationally distributed legal and human rights periodicals on the following topics:

Russia and the European Court of Human Rights
Challenging Unlawful Legislation

Administrative Law
 Authorities and Human Rights Access to Court
 Judges and Law
 Protecting One's Own Rights

The articles can be accessed in the Sutyajnik's web-library at www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/articles

XI. INTERVIEWS IN THE MASS MEDIA

In 2004, Sutyajnik lawyers were interviewed in newspapers, on the radio (on "Echo of Moscow", "Liberty", and local radio stations), and on television (the Sverdlovsk State TV Company, All-Russian TV company, NTV, and regional TV companies).

The interviews can be accessed at www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/library/interview

XII. NEWS AGENCY SUTYAJNIK-PRESS

The news agency Sutyajnik-Press has greatly expanded its informational resources. In 2005 the first human rights internet-radio station Sutyajnik was created (www.sutyajnik.ru/radio). Our broadcasts can be heard anywhere on the globe. Anyone with access to the world-wide web can log on to our website and learn about human rights news.

Visitors to our studio have included lawyers, representatives of non-governmental organizations, government bodies and local government authorities, and ordinary citizens.

The pilot broadcast of Sutyajnik Internet-Radio was devoted to the International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners. Dissident Vladimir Shaklein and attorney at the Ural Center for International and Constitutional Protection of Human Rights Lyudmila Churkina participated in the broadcast.

The broadcast, which rallied for the cancellation of gubernatorial elections, elicited a widespread public response. Sergey Smerdov and attorney Roman Kachanov, his representative in the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation (where the petition on the unconstitutionality of the cancellation of gubernatorial elections had been sent) came forward in front of Sutyajnik Internet-Radio listeners to discuss the infringements of citizens' rights to free and fair elections.

With the goal of illuminating in the mass media the human rights

problems attorneys have been working on over the past year, the news agency Sutyajnik-Press held several successful press conferences in 2005. Here are some of them.

1. "Double Standards of the European Union or Investments in the Protection of Citizens' Rights", Yekaterinburg, 16 March 2005 www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/actions/eurcom/p-conf

2. "The Russian Constitutional Court and Responsibility of the State towards the Individual", Yekaterinburg, 8 April 2005 www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/actions/p_v_gov

3. "Debts before the Paris Club Will Be Paid Back after the National Ones", Yekaterinburg, 4 August 2005 www.sutyajnik.ru/rus/cases/p_v_gov/p_conf

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