

Human Rights in Russia and the Upcoming G8 Summit



Thursday, May 25, 2006

10:00-11:30 P.M.

Basement Level, Conference Room B, CSIS, 1800 K St. NW

Speakers: **Yuri Dzhibladze**, President of the Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights
 Tanya Lokshina, Chair of the Moscow-based think tank "Demos"

Moderator: Dr. Sarah E. Mendelson, CSIS

Please join CSIS and RFE/RL as we host two of Russia's most powerful voices on human rights. Yuri Dzhibladze, President of the Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights and Tanya Lokshina, Chair of the Moscow-based think tank "Demos" will reflect on the human rights situation in Russia in the lead up to the July 2006 G8 meeting in St. Petersburg. What would they like the G7 leaders to discuss with President Putin? What message would they like delivered? What meetings are they organizing in Russia in the lead up to the G8?

Mr. Dzhibladze and Ms. Lokshina are in the United States to participate in the annual Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum co-sponsored by The Carter Center and Human Rights First, where they will discuss human rights and democracy building with other leading human rights defenders and policy makers from around the world.

Yuri Dzhibladze is founder and President of the Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights, a Russian public policy and advocacy NGO. He is a specialist in human rights, international law and civil society and an active member of Russian and international NGO community. Currently a member of the Steering Committee of the World Movement for Democracy, NGO Process for the Community of Democracies, Citizens Against Terror, and several other international and national NGO networks, Mr. Dzhibladze has been active in social movements since the mid-1980s. In 1998 he founded and became president of the Center. The Center's work focuses on public policy research, legislative work, protection of NGOs from persecution, NGO legislation, application of international human rights instruments, combating racism and xenophobia, development of alternative civil service for conscientious objectors to the military draft, advocacy campaigns on human rights, etc. Mr. Dzhibladze is an author of

many articles in Russian and foreign publications and an editor of several books. He is a member of the Expert Council of the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Russian Federation.

Tanya Lokshina is Chair of the Moscow-based think tank "Demos" and Researcher with the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, and has been engaged professionally with the human rights crisis in the Chechen Republic since 2003. In 2003, she ran a special monitoring effort on the political situation in Chechnya that served as the basis for a book combining information about human rights violations and faulty election practices with a series of reader-friendly stories. The book *Chechnya 2003: Political Process through the Looking Glass* received acclaim in Russia and Europe. Since 2003, Ms. Lokshina has undertaken more than a dozen field missions, drafted several human rights reports, and published a series of articles on the human rights situation in and around Chechnya on the Russian political news online site Polit.Ru, as well as produced analytical materials on the Chechen crisis in Russian and Western magazines. Ms. Lokshina testifies frequently on Chechnya before the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the OSCE, and the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Please RSVP by noon on Wednesday, May 24, 2006.

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