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**Chronicles of Persecutions (reported from Samara)**

The application for the holding of the “Dissidents March” in Samara was submitted on May 3. The authorities reacted immediately. On the same day, about twenty police officers came to the press conference held by the organizing committee of the March. They copied data from the passports of all those present, including the journalists. The officers probably intended to verify the names of the participants to the event with those included in the lists of disloyal persons.

On the 4th of May, at the railway station, the officers from the Directorate for Combating Organized Crime [hereinafter – UBOP] detained Dmitry Treshchanin. He was first delivered to the military registration and enlistment office and then to the oblast clinical hospital. The medical examining board found him fit for the military service. On the 21st of May, Dmitry came up to the recruit reception center; otherwise, he would have a criminal case initiated against him. That day was his little daughter’s third birthday. Reportedly, the draft board had been instructed to pay special attention to Treshchanin.

Since that day the potential participants of the protest movements became a focus of close attention of the police. With every passing day, the repressive machine of the state was picking up its steam.

On the 7th of May, the organizers of the “Dissidents March” received a response to the notification having been submitted to the city administration regarding their intention to hold the “Dissidents March”. In their response, the representatives of the administration provided their comments on the route that the organizers had chosen for the March and, namely, the blocking of one of the cross-town roads during the peak-hours. Taking into account the comments of the administration of the city of Samara and recognizing its wish objective, the organizers decided to change the route of the March, so that the March would start from the Sports Palace in Mologvardeyskaya Street and go as far as the square named after Kuybyshev.

The beginning of the March was fixed for 17:30. This information was specified in the letter that had been submitted to the Administration of the city of Samara. The organizers of the March submitted an application to the Head of the Main Department of Internal Affairs [hereinafter – GUV] of the city of Samara with a request to ensure legal order

and safety of the participants during the given action. For this purpose, the organizers requested that a special person be appointed by the GUVd who would be responsible for the safety of the participants during the March. They also asked that this responsible person from the GUVd of the city of Samara hold a meeting with the head of the security group responsible for the safety of the action before the mass action was held so that to ensure more effective law enforcement and safety of the participants during the action.

On May 8, the UBOP officers of the city of Tolyatti practically abducted Ilya Guryev. In the morning, they came to his work place – the Local History Museum, where he is working as a junior research assistant. People in plain clothes got him in their car and drove away in an unknown direction. As it turned out later, those were the officers of the UBOP and the representatives of the Main Department of the Federal Service for the Execution of Punishments [hereinafter- GUFsIN]. It so happened that in the same evening Ilya had to come up for trial on the tenth of May to have his measure of punishment changed. We would remind you that Guryev is one of the participants of the peace action having been held in the office of the RF President's Administration in 2004. He had been put on 3.5-year probation for this action. Like thirty eight other participants of the "seizure" of the President's Administration office he had spent one year in prison. On the 10th of May, the court passed a decision on returning him to prison again, where Ilya will spend another half a year in the nearest future. The formal reason for this decision was the fact that Guryev had failed to show up at the GUFsIN for the inspector to register him. He says that he had been following all the instructions of the law.

On the 10th of May, at the 10 o'clock session of the court, the decision was passed that the measure of punishment for Guryev should be changed. The prosecution based its charges against him on the fact that he had not shown up for the registration with the police inspector at the fixed time. Therefore, the court changed the measure of punishment from the conditional sentence to the real one – half a year of imprisonment. The Tolyatti deputy V. Grinblad who had been rendering all kinds of assistance to Ilya Guryev mentioned that at this kind of court sessions judges usually decide in favor of the convicted persons. He also noted that the judge was obviously under pressure.

Activists in Tolyatti are constantly invited for "discussions" to the local UBOP office, where the officers intimidate them and threaten with criminal prosecution.

Since May 9 until today, the organizer of the "Dissidents March" Anastasia Kurt-Adzhiyeva is under outdoor surveillance. Employees of different services repeatedly tried to get into her apartment.

In Samara, at two o'clock in the morning of May 9, during the sticking of leaflets with the materials related to the "Dissidents March", the police patrol service officers detained the citizen of the Republic of Belarus Igor Shchuka and the resident of the city of Orenburg Evgenia Kosourova. They were delivered to the Zheleznodorozhny district police station. The police confiscated all the readership circulation. Up till now, we can not find out where they are kept. For what it's worth, Igor Shchuka and Evgenia Kosourova are in one of the lock-up wards in Samara. According to the available information, they will have to

stay in detention for not less than thirty days. Police refuses to provide any official comments in this respect. May we remind you that they had been detained as far back as the 8th of May in the Zheleznodorozhny district of Samara for the sticking of leaflets with the information on the “Dissidents March”.

On the 9th of May, Roman Mishurov was detained for the distribution of leaflets with information on the “Dissidents March” at the Slavy Square. He had all the propaganda material confiscated. The next day, the court found him guilty of the violation of the rules of mass actions organization. The inflicted penalty was 1000 of rubles. Allegedly, he had had no right to be engaged in propaganda, until the mayor’s office issued a permission hold the March.

On the 9th of May, the UBOP officers detained, right in the street, another activist from the “Other Russia” – Mikhail Gangan. He was also one of the participants of the action held in the office of the RF President's Administration. The next day, the court actually fixed a curfew for him. Now, Mikhail Gangan is obliged to stay at home from 10 one o'clock in the evening until 6 o'clock in the morning.

Roman Mishurov, one of organizers of the “Dissidents March”, was detained in the centre of the city at about 10 o'clock in the morning of the 10th of May. He had been distributing leaflets that the police confiscated from him (400 pieces). The statement of detention was drawn up under article 20.2 of the Code of Administrative Violations, although article 10 of the Federal Law “On Meetings, Demonstrations and Processions” says that after submission of the notification, the organizers and other persons can hold their campaigns including the use of leaflets. Roman Mishurov was delivered to the Leninsky district police station, where he had to talk to the UBOP officers, officers from the criminal investigation department and other people whom he could not even identify. His cell phone was ringing repeatedly while he was at the district police station, but he was disallowed to respond – every time they wrested the telephone from his hands. In about two hours, he was released. They gave him summons for the 10th of May to the Leninsky District Magistrate Court. On the 11th of May, at about 11 a.m., the court session took place and, notwithstanding all the arguments provided by the defense, the court adjudged him to the punishment in the form of a fine. The court decision provided no motivation of his guilt whatsoever. The decision will be appealed.

On the 10th of May, the organizer of the “Dissidents March” in Samara Anastasia Kurt-Adzhiyeva and Lyudmila Kuzmina (the Association of “GOLOS” appeared on the radio channel of “Echo of Moscow”. After the radio program, they had some problems. As soon as Anastasia came back home, she found out that under her windows there were not less than ten police officers having arranged there a kind of police post. Since yesterday, she has been constantly accompanied by two cars with tinted glasses.

On the 10th of May, the camera crew from the Ren-TV channel and the journalist from the “Kommersant” newspaper Pavel Sedakov were detained in Samara. After the interview with Mikhail Gangan, the UBOP officers invited the journalists to drive with them to the police station to have their identities established. Two and a half hours later,

they were released.

In the evening of the 10th of May, the officers from the UBOP and the “K” department combating crimes in the high-tech sphere came unexpectedly to search the office of the Association of “Golos”. The pretext for the search was the use of unlicensed software – three system blocks were seized. The same pretext was used on the 11th of May, when they came to the editorial office of the newspaper “Novaya Gazeta v Samare” . Here, they also seized all the computers. The police officers did not produce any official papers

On the 11th of May, the UBOP officer came to the apartments of Dmitry Doroshenko, Ilya Shunin and Yelena Kuznetsova. Despite of the fact that these young people are no longer actively involved in the protest movement for quite some time, this cup did not pass from them.

For what it is worth, all the printing houses in the city were subjected to searches. The polices searched for the materials, directly or indirectly related to the “Dissidents March” in Samara. Under the threat of having their printing business closed down, the heads of printing houses are disallowed to print any oppositional materials without their being checked by the Federal Security Service.

The Association for Protection of Voters’ Rights “GOLOS” has to leave the office it occupies within 48 hours. The city administration has unilaterally annulled the lease agreement.

All the organizers of the March are kept under outdoor surveillance.

In the evening of the 13th of May, in the Promyshlenny district of Samara, police officers detained two activists from the oppositional movement of the “Other Russia” – Anton Starodymov and Gleb Kochetov. The young men were delivered to the local police station, ostensibly, to have their identities established. Several dozens of leaflets with the materials on the “Dissidents March” were confiscated.

Two activists of the Avant-Guarde of Red Youth - Andrey Kopeykin and Alexey Minayev were detained several hours earlier in the Samara district of PPSniki. They were also confiscated all the propaganda materials and are presently at large.

All the printing houses of the city were subjected to searches. When searching, the security services officers checked even garbage bins looking for propaganda materials regarding the “Dissidents March”.

When holding the search in the Samara editorial office of the newspaper “Novaya Gazeta v Samare” and the news agency of “Regnum” on the 11th of May, the officers of the Main Department of Internal Affairs seized computers. The explanation provided was the same – search for the “unlicensed software”.

Kirill Ulchuk and Lyudmila Kharlamova were detained yesterday in the Kirovsky district of Samara for the sticking of leaflets; they will remain in the district police station until Monday. On the 14th of May, they will be put on trial. They are accused under the same article – 20.2 <Violation of the Order of Holding of Mass Actions>. In protest Kirill Ulchuk opened his veins.

In the mean time, the fate of two other oppositionists remains unknown. For what it is worth, Igor Shchuka and Evgenia Kosourova are kept in one of the lock-up wards in Samara. According to the available information, they will have to remain in detention for not less than thirty days. The police refused to provide any official comments in this respect. May we remind you that the young people were detained as far back as the 8th of May in the Zheleznodorozhny district of Samara for sticking leaflets with the information regarding the “Dissidents March”.

The member of the organizing committee of the “Dissidents March” Anastasia Kurt-Adzhieva, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper “Novaya Gazeta v Samare” Sergey Kurt-Adzhiev and the national bolshevist Yury Chervinchuk were released by the police without any charges.

The newspaper “Kommersant” wrote on the 14th of May that the activists from the “Other Russia”, national bolsheviks Anastasia Kurt-Adzhieva and Yury Chervinchuk detained on the 13th of May, were released without any charges. According to Anastasia’s father, editor of the newspaper “Novaya Gazeta v Samara”, Sergey Kurt-Adzhiev, the young people were released upon the personal request of the mayor of Samara Victor Tarkhov.

On the 13th of May, the activists from the “Other Russia” were stopped by the regional UBOP officers and invited into their car to drive them to the police station. Kurt-Adzhiev noted that the police officers explained their actions by some operational information insisting that in their bag the young people had a grenade. After the young people refused to get into the police car and to allow the police officers to examine their personal effects, the officers invited a support team from the Samara district police station. As a result, the activists, as well as the editor-in-chief of the newspaper “Novaya Gazeta v Samare” himself, who arrived to help his daughter were detained and delivered to the police station. According to Sergey Kurt-Adzhiev, the police officers were acting rather roughly.

At the same time Kurt-Adzhiev paid attention to the fact that the detention took place after the local authorities had authorized the holding of the “Dissidents March” in Samara on the 18th of May. “I was promised that after the issuance of the permission nothing bad would happen to my daughter or the other organizers of the March, but the police forces launched their reprisals,” noted Sergey Kurt-Adzhiev.

Four young persons who were sticking the propaganda leaflets calling upon the people to join the march were detained in the afternoon of May 12. One of them, the citizen of Belarus, was sent away to pay a fine as long as he had no registration. The others were

detained in the police station until the morning of May 13.

The detained persons are accused of “disobedience offered to the police”.

One of the organizers of the “Dissidents March” Mikhail Merkushev detained on the 11th of May was repeatedly detained on May 12, ostensibly, “in order to establish his identity”. Several hours later, he was released.

Another two activists from the Avant-Garde of Red Youth – Andrey Kopeykin and Alexey Minayev were detained several hours earlier in the Samara district of PPSniki. They were also confiscated all the propaganda materials. At present, the young men are at large.