



HELSINKI COMMISSION BRIEFING

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Testimony :: Hon. Alcee L. Hastings

Co-Chairman - Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the US Helsinki Commission, I thank you for joining us this afternoon on a very important briefing. Today we look at what is now the second Yukos trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky. My hope is that by shedding light on this case, we will not only see the gross injustice committed against Khodorkovsky but also against the entire Russian judicial system and its people.

The trial against Khodorkovsky and Yukos began in 2003, as what many saw to be a politically motivated attack by the Kremlin. After almost a decade, the case against Khodorkovsky has evolved into a complete show trial, where the accusations against the defendant have become absurd. Though in 2003, many would have entertained the arguments of the prosecution, today we find ourselves unable to do so.

Despite recent rhetoric on human rights reform from Russian President, Dimitri Medvedev, very little has yet been accomplished. And so, it is with concern we look toward Russia's future; concern for a fair hearing for Khodorkovsky and concern for a society based on the rule of law. It is my belief that the case against Khodorkovsky is not only the trial of one man, but a trial of the integrity of Russia's courts and judges.

With that, let me welcome our esteemed guests Vadim Klyuvgant and Anton Drel. Vadim Klyuvgant has served as the lead trial lawyer on the defense team for Khodorkovsky. Before practicing law, he has served as a member of Russia's upper house of Parliament. Anton Drel has also served as Khodorkovsky's lawyer and is a graduate of Moscow State University Law Department. More information on our guests can be found in the biographies, which have been made available.