



Eminent Jurists Panel
International Commission of Jurists
33, rue des Bains, P.O. Box 91
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January 15, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a submission by Human Rights First for the consideration of the Eminent Jurists Panel during the course of its examination of the impact of Russian Federation's counterterrorism measures on human rights.

Human Rights First's mission -- to protect and promote human rights -- is rooted in the premise that the world's security and stability depend on respect for human dignity and the rule of law in every part of the world. Since our inception in 1978, we have worked both in the United States and abroad to support human rights activists who fight for basic freedoms and peaceful change at the local level; to protect refugees in flight from persecution and repression; to help build strong national and international systems of justice and accountability; and to make sure human rights laws and principles are respected and enforced.

In recent years, the focus of our Human Rights Defenders Program has been the impact of counterterrorism and the U.S.-led "war on terror" on the rights of peaceful advocates for human rights. The first in a series on this topic, the February 2005 Human Rights First report *The New Dissidents: Counterterrorism and Human Rights Defenders in Russia* assessed the Russian government's response to the threat of terrorism and its impact on freedom of expression, association, and assembly in Russia.

Here we present a brief, updated overview accompanied by our primary conclusions. Should the Panel require any additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

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