

MEMORIAL Deutschland e.V.
Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte
Greifswalder Straße 4
10405 Berlin
Germany

Dear *Memorial* Germany,
Dear Mr von Radetzky,

Twenty years ago your organisation was founded to support *Memorial's* important work in Russia. Since then you have dedicated yourselves to informing the public about the tyranny and the victims of the Stalinist regime, constantly raising awareness for the current human rights situation in Russia and supporting human rights and social groups in Russia in practice. Your work has a direct effect on my country and helps in developing a much needed civil society. I would like to congratulate you on your 20th anniversary and your achievements as well as thank you for your long-standing commitment with regards to my own case.

Especially in these dire times your work is of utmost importance. Since your friends at *Memorial* in Russia were among the first to be attacked during the latest crackdown on NGOs, you are well aware of yet another attempt by the Putin regime to harass opposition voices. By their actions the Kremlin is depriving itself of support from civil society and worsening its relations with the active part of the population. Politically motivated pressure on public organisations is unacceptable. It prevents the flourishing of a civil society which is so essential for Russia's political, economic and also social modernisation.

In my thoughts I am with you and for your future endeavours I wish you the same strength and stamina which I receive through your continuous support. Being incarcerated for almost a decade and being separated from my family for most of that time, this means a lot to me and I am very grateful for it.

Yours sincerely,

Mikhail Borisovich Khodorkovsky
Inmate of prison colony FKU IK-7 in Segesha (Republic of Karelia)