

Appeal for Democratic and Human Rights in Russia

We, the undersigned, protest the recent attacks on civil liberties, trade union rights, and freedom of the press and assembly by the Yeltsin government in Russia.

Contrary to the impression given in the U.S. mass media, among those arrested during the October 4 crisis were many sincere democratic activists; several organizations and newspapers were arbitrarily banned by executive order. In Moscow, leaders of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, the new Party of Labor, and the Moscow City Council were rounded up and brutally beaten, among them Boris Kagarlitsky, whose books are well known in the West, Vladimir Kondratov, Alexander Segal, and Alexander Kalinin.

Thanks to an immediate flood of protests from U.S. and European friends, these nonviolent democratic activists were eventually released. As Boris Kagarlitsky said, as he entered his apartment, bruised and bloody, "International solidarity works."

The arrests and beatings occurred amidst the Yeltsin government's broad repression of dissent, including the dissolution of Parliament, suspension of the court that found the dissolution unconstitutional, dissolution of almost all dissenting local governments, and the expulsion of thousands of non-Muscovites from the city.

Every day brings new reports from Moscow of executive orders undermining the rights of independent and opposition newspapers and political parties. Trade unions are being prevented from participating in political life and electioneering, and witch-hunting is threatening the jobs of anti-Yeltsinites. We fear for the safety of our colleagues in the trade union movement and democratic activist organizations. It is for this reason that we feel the urgent need to give our international solidarity an organized form today.

We therefore call on you to add your name to our protest. Join with us and other trade unionists, academics, and human rights activists in supporting the U.S. Committee for Democratic and Human Rights in Russia based on the following simple principles:

- ☞ Human rights and freedom of press, assembly, and political organization for all in Russia.
- ☞ No repression of trade unionists and democratic activists.

U.S. Committee for Democratic and Human Rights in Russia

Endorsers (partial list; for full list, see *The Nation*, December 13, 1993)

(Organizational affiliation listed for identification purposes only.)

Sanford Abrams, Executive Director, Brecht Forum
Edwin Acosta, Jobs With Justice, Washington, D.C.
William Almy, SEIU Local 509, Boston
Lee Artz, Loyola University, Chicago
Barbara Barnes, Westchester Colleges Project on Racial Diversity
Tavis Barr, *Left Turn*
Claudette Begin, East Bay National Organization for Women
Irving Bein, National Committee for Independent Political Action
Elaine Bernard, Director, Harvard Trade Union Program
Ashaki Binta, Black Workers for Justice
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Elizabeth A. Bowman, Scholars for Democracy and Socialism
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Ron Daniels, Chairman, Campaign for a New Tomorrow
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Warren Davis, Vice-President, Local 2006, American Federation of Government Employees, Philadelphia
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Robert Irmingier, San Francisco Labor Council
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