



ЦЕНТР оперативного реагирования по защите правозащитников

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Brief on the case

Threats to HRD Alexei Kozlov

Description of the case:

On January 2, 2013 Alexey Kozlov, human rights and environmental activist from Voronezh, has received another phone call with threats. Earlier, December 5, 2012 he has been called on his cell phone and received threats that were addressed to him and his child. The anonymous person knew the brand and the licence plate number of his car, and said that he will flood it with mercury. After the call on December 5, Alexey Kozlov appealed to the police, but to this moment has not received any information about his case. An attempt to find out the owner of the cell phone number gave no results, as the number is not in the databases of the mobile operator, which gives grounds to suspect connection with special services.

On January 2nd the call was from the same number. The same person told him that he shouldn't take the situation so carelessly and that the threats are real enough. He suggested meeting in a café in one of the most criminal districts of Voronezh to inform Alexey about the reasons for threats and prove that the threats were real.

About the HRD

Alexey Kozlov is the head of ECOSOCIS foundation, one of the organizations, participating in the Human Rights House-Voronezh, an active participant of anti-nickel protests in Voronezh region, one of the leaders of campaign for freedom of assembly in the region and also an active participant and organizers of public events "For fair elections".

His wife, Olga Gnezdilova is also a human rights defender and active bar attorney, working with a number of well-known human rights organizations (Interregional Human Rights Group - Voronezh/Black Soil Region; Moscow Helsinki group, Foundation "Public Verdict", Association "Agora") and representing clients in several torture case against the police. One of them has been given priority by the European Court of Human Rights and involves acting chief officers of the criminal investigation police. Olga also provides legal assistance to activists in Voronezh, that face pressure.

Other circumstances

On Dec.19, Human Rights House-Voronezh, where among others there are offices of ECOSOCIS and lawyer's cabinet of Olga Gnezdilova, was searched (see. (<http://hrdom.hrworld.ru/news/12/2012/v-voronezhe-proshli-obyski-u-pravozashchitnikov-i>)).

As the Investigative Committee later reported, the search took place within the criminal investigation into the case of alleged "preparation for mass riots", in which Sergey Udaltsov, Leonid Razzvozhaev and other opposition leaders are suspected and which are considered by the majority of human rights defenders as fabricated. Investigation of this case goes with numerous procedural violations, including kidnappings and torture. Voronezh activists, that have the status of "witnesses" in that case and whose homes have also been searched, are represented by Olga Gnezdilova.

Additional information: <http://goo.gl/eJL5G>