

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
SUTYAJNIK

Annual Report 2002

WE WILL BE SOON 10 YEARS OLD

YEKATERINBURG, 2003
Information agency SUTYAJNIK-PRESS

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1. ABOUT SUTYAJNIK

Press about Sutyajnik

Traditionally in Russia calling somebody «a barrator» (**Sutyajnik**) means indecent. According to Ozhegov Explanatory Dictionary, a barrator is «a person inclined to lawsuit». This word has a clearly expressed color of criticism. However, in fact, a barrator is a person which knows and uses actively the existing mechanisms of legal protection of his own or public interests. The so-called «barratry» (or, to be more neutral, the legal attendance) is the standard in the civilized democratic society.

Shame is to complain to one's heads, write letters which stream tears, ask to go into the situation, look into the eyes of a coldblooded official. However, one should not be ashamed of protecting his rights by knowing how to do that.

So, until this is not accepted in Russia by the multitude (and by press, advance-guard of the multitude) as a norm, speaking about the legal state in our country is like admiring soap bubbles.

So, long live barratry!

(Verkh-Neivinskaya Zhizn, № 4, February 1998)

The Ombudsman in Sverdlovsk Oblast About Sutyajnik:

The President of NGO Sutyajnik S. I. Belyaev has managed to construct a peculiar «Law protection incubator», which generates public interest law protection organizations and brings up their leaders. In fact, the activity of S. I. Belyaev may be called as a school for preparation of professional human right lawyers working, however, under, let's say, the field conditions.

Working in the structures of Sutyajnik, young lawyers are practicing in a realistic fight for human rights under our, Russian, conditions. Records include cases of abolishing some elements of law won in the Charter Court, well-prepared seminars and training courses. The most useful thing educated in Sutyajnik and its organizations is the relation to the authorities

as to equal partners, here people are taught not be drawn up as a string before authorities.

It is another case that not all people may like the selected forms of public actions carried out from time to time. However, human right lawyers are not blind, they are able to see intrigues carried on by the authorities and directed against them.

*The Ombudsman in Sverdlovsk Oblast about NGO Sutyajnik /
From the annual report on the Obmudsmans activity in 2002 in
Sverdlovsk Oblast T. G. Merzlyakova (Oblastnaya Gazeta,
5 March 2003, p. 16)*

Sutyajnik about Sutyajnik

Non-governmental organization Sutyajnik is a human rights law organization established on 29 August 1994 in Yekaterinburg. All aspects of the activity of the organization relate to publicly important legal problems and methods of their solutions. They are directed towards establishing the law practice which corresponds to the international standards of human right protection and aimed at establishing the legal state and civil society. Members of NGO Sutyajnik are mainly students of senior courses of law schools which work under leadership of experienced human rights lawyers. During their work in NGO Sutyajnik they were declared as winners of a contest which was arranged by charitable organization Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation.

Five employees of NGO Sutyajnik (Bourkov Anton, Goncharova Elena, Ermilova Natalia, Silivanov Alexei, Goncharova Irina) received individual grants for achievements and efficient work in the sphere of human rights activity. Anna Demeneva passed 3-month internship in international organization Interights (London, Great Britain), Anton Bourkov became the participant in a two-year PILI/COLPI Public Interest Law Fellowship Program, New-York, USA (The Public Interest Law Initiative in Transitional Societies, Columbia University School of Law), Liudmila Churkina became the participant of a clinical program of training in Budapest. In addition, in 2000, Anton Bourkov was declared as the winner of the first city competition «Profi-Yekaterinburg» in the nomination «jurisprudence» and in the same year, as the laureate of Femida (Themis)

award «for contribution in establishing the democratic society and developing institutions of the jural state».

Representation of interests of citizens in the courts is one of the most important directions in the activity of NGO Sutyajnik. The criterion of acceptance of cases by NGO Sutyajnik is their social importance. In other words, it goes about only those cases which may be useful for the unlimited circle of persons, which may protect the rights of not only a single man. This can be exemplified by the case of complaint of E. A. Arbuzova to the Constitutional Court of Russia concerning declaration p. 2 art. 226 of Administrative Code of RSFSR (CoAP) unconstitutional. On 16 February 1998, a judge of Leninsky district court, Nizhny Tagil, called the head of the Free trade union of MP «Medavtotrans» Arbuzova Elena Anatolievna to administrative account under art. 165-10 of CoAP of RSFSR for «wilful failure to fulfill prosecutor's orders which follow from his powers established by the law of Russia» by imposing a RR2, 000 fine. The judgment about the administrative punishment was made with an outrage against Arbuzova. According to p. 2 art. 266 of CoAP of RSFSR, the judgment was final, not subject to appeal. Considering provision of CoAP of RSFSR contradicting art. 19, 46 of Constitution of RF, Arbuzova made a complaint to the Constitutional Court of Russia concerning violation of civil rights and freedoms and requested to declare p. 2 art. 266 of CoAP unconstitutional. On 28 May 1999, the Constitutional Court of Russia ruled that p. 2 art. 266 of CoAP is unconstitutional and should be canceled whereas the judgment of 16. 02. 1999 on imposing on Arbuzova a RR2, 000 administrative fine revised in the order of the procedural analogy. Owing to decision of Constitutional Court, all Russian citizens got the right of reversal of judgement to bring to administrative account (the case was run by lawyer of NGO Sutyajnik Anton Bourkov).

Other priority direction of the activity of NGO Sutyajnik is providing free consultations on legal issues to citizens (as a rule, of poor, socially unprotected indigent people).

To disseminate information about the rights of citizens NGO Sutyajnik with the help of information agency Sutyajnik-Press carries out the active work with the mass media in the following directions: dissemination of information letters, arrangement of press-conferences, publication of consultations on legal issues.

One more project related to influence of the public on the law system is the annual competition «The most unpopular judge». Awarding a degree of «the most unpopular judges of the year» is one of traditions of «barrators» which received serious support of inhabitants of Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk Oblast which happened to experience unfairness of judges. The competition is based on the monitoring of the activity of courts of Yekaterinburg and Sverdlovsk Oblast, public poll which NGO Sutyajnik carries out in the course of a year.

Our competition is an attempt to demonstrate which mistakes may be avoided by taking into account the opinion of citizens at appointing judges. In order to provide the possibility for the population to express loudly we decided to assign annually the rating of «unpopularity».

2. PROJECTS

In 2002, NGO Sutyajnik implemented the following projects:

1) Olympiad The Expert of the European Convention on Human Rights and Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights with the support of the European Council (France, Strasbourg).

2) Christmas in Prison with the support of the Fund of Civil Freedoms. As part of this project, prisoners under age and those waiting for a court decision received gifts. The purpose of the project was to attract attention to conditions under which prisoners under age are kept in prisons.

3) The Internship of Lawyers in the European Court of Human Rights with the support of the Institute of international education and international program of internships (USA, Washington).

4) The Urals Resource Center of Constitutional and International Protection of Human Rights with the support of Open Society Institute (Hungary, Budapest). The project included two parts: 1 — a program of training of lawyers of non-profit organizations of the Urals region in constitutional and international mechanisms of human rights protection, the second part — work of lawyers of NGO Sutyajnik on providing legal assistance to citizens in exercising the right for protection of violated

rights and freedoms via the mechanisms of the Constitutional Court of Russia, Charter Court of Sverdlovsk Oblast, European Court of Human Rights and UN Committee of Human Rights.

5) Civil Control in Court over the Procedure of Bringing the National Law in Line with Constitutional and International Standards with the support of Open Society Institute Soros Foundation (Moscow). The purpose of the project is assistance to citizens in protection of their rights by appealing unlawful acts in courts.

6) Public Internet-Conference-Center with the support of McArthur Foundation. The purpose of the project is dissemination of legal knowledge and practice of right protecting activity.

7) Obligatory Participation in Hearing of a Case as Denial in Access to Justice with the support of Open Society Institute (Budapest). The goal of the project: overcoming procedural obstacles for the use by citizens of the efficient mechanism of protection of their rights with the help of collective complaints (class actions) in court.

3. CONSULTATIONS

There are currently two consultation offices operating in Yekaterinburg whereto citizens of Yekaterinburg and Oblast may address on different law issues (civil, family, criminal, housing, labor, constitutional, international, including application to the European Court of Human Rights, etc.). Consultations take place two times a week.

Citizens may also receive assistance in towns Polevskoi and Sysert (consultations take place one time a month). Lawyers provide round-the-clock consultations on the phone, prepare written consultations.

In a month, on the average 130 citizens receive the consultative aid. For 2002, citizens received 1, 552 free legal consultations, including 883 consultations by phone, 412 consultations in consultation offices of the organization with execution of procedural documents, 257 written consultations.

4. PUBLICATIONS

The book The European Court of Human Rights: Rules of Application and Procedure is published. Publishing this book is the result of work of NGO Sutyajnik and International center of legal human rights protection Interights (London, Great Britain).

It starts the series of publications International Human Rights Protection. The book is dealing with procedural issues, criteria of admissibility of applications, the order of proceedings in the court, issues of amicable settlement, fair compensation and control over execution of the Court decisions.

This edition was supported by the British government Know-How Foundation through Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

In 2002, the book was distributed among lawyers of non-profit organizations, mass media, teachers and students of law of higher educational institutions, representatives of charitable funds.

Prepared and distributed

Handbooks:

1. Collection of articles Practice of Application of the European Convention on Human Rights, edited by Bulakova E. Yu.
2. Collective Contracts and Agreements in Questions and Answers — lawyer Demeneva A. V.
3. Application of Federal law On Trade Unions, Their Rights and Guarantees of Activity in the Light of Labor Code of RF — lawyer Ermilova N. P.

Information leaflets:

1. What Commission of Labor Disputes is? — lawyer Smolinskaya K. V.
2. Self-Protection of Labor Rights — lawyer Smolinskaya K. V.
3. Information bulletin FAS: Facts, Analysis, Events (issued twice a month).

Publications of lawyers of the organization in the mass media

| Author | Name of article | Subject matter of article | Source of publication |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Guzeva E. | The Right to Judicial Protection and Are these Guarantees? | Articles deal with problem of appeal of article 226 of Civil Procedural Code of RSFSR to the Constitutional Court of Russia | Yuridicheskaya Gazeta, May 2002, Yuridichesky Vestnik, № 7, April 2002 |
| Smolinskaya K. | Living Premise is not Very Private Property? | The article deals with the right of owner of living premise for free disposal of his property. | Yuridichesky Mir, May 2002 |
| Guzeva E., Ermilova N. | Sutyajnik Believes Himself | The article deals with appeal of Resolution of Government of RF On approval of resolution on licensing activity on collection, processing and sale of scrap of nonferrous metals, also with problem of appeal of presidential decrees | Yuridichesky Vestnik, № 9, May 2002 |
| Ermilova N. | The Right to Judicial Protection: Is It the Next Declarative Norm of the Constitution? | The article on impossibility to appeal Decrees of President of Russia | Arbitrazhnyi i Grazhdansky Protssess, June 2002 |

| Author | Name of article | Subject matter of article | Source of publication |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Goncharova E., Guzeva E. | Fast and Fair Court | The article is about the first decision of the European Court of human rights Burdov v. RUSSIA and about its affect on Russian legislative and legal practice | Yuridichesky Vestnik, № 14, July 2002 |
| Demeneva A. | When are People against Russia? | The main rules of applying to the European Court of Human Rights and its powers | Nasha Gazeta, 26.07.2002 |
| Churkina L. | Grief from Brains, Second Diploma is not Crank | The article is about restriction of constitutional right to education by articles 173–176 of Labor Code of Russia | Yuridicheskaya Gazeta, № 34, August 2002, Yuridichesky Vestnik, September 2002 |
| Goncharova E. | Do You Want Help from Europe? | The article about most frequently occurred mistakes of citizens applying to the European Court of Human Rights | Newspaper Mayak, № 78, 28.08.2002 |
| Romanova E. | Security of Claim in Trap of the Civil Procedure Code | The article deals with problems of appeal of court decisions on security of claim | Domashni Advokat, № 15, 2002; Yuridichesky Mir, September 2002 |
| Mukhambetova S. | The Right to Quick Court — Myth or Reality? | The article deals with meeting by court system of RF of European standards of justice. | Yuridichesky Mir, September 2002 |

| Author | Name of article | Subject matter of article | Source of publication |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Smolinskaya K. | Where Here is «My» Judge? | The article deals with dislocation and specialization of judges of district courts. | Yuridichesky Vestnik, October 2002; Yuridichesky Mir, September 2002 |
| Smolinskaya K. | What are these Terms? | The article deals with nature of limitation on labor disputes. | Yuridicheskaya Gazeta, Yuridichesky Mir, September 2002 |
| Demeneva A. | Protection of Rights of Legal Person in the European Court of Human Rights | The article deals with peculiarities of complaints made by organizations to the European Court of human rights. | Business Advokat, September 2002; Yuridichesky Vestnik, October 2002; Yuridichesky Mir, December 2002 |
| Goncharova E. | Juggle and no Cheat? | The article deals with meeting by Russia its international legal obligations. | Business Advokat, September 2002; Yuridicheskaya Gazeta, October 2002 |
| Demeneva A. | Psychiatrists are not Evil-doers | The article deals with protection of rights of persons staying at psychiatric institutions. | Yuridichesky Vestnik, September 2002 |
| Bourkov A. | Applying Act to Act | The article deals with problem of execution of court decisions on invalidity of legal acts. | Business Advokat № 22, November 2002 |

| Author | Name of article | Subject matter of article | Source of publication |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| Bourkov A. | Letters to Native Land. Letter 1. Cultural Shock | The article deals with study of lawyer of NGO Sutyajnik in the Columbia University School of law (USA, New-York). | Newspaper of UrGyUA Yurist, December 2002 |
| Bourkov A. | Execution of Legal Acts on Acknowledgement of Legal Acts Illegal | The article deals with problem of execution of court decisions which acknowledge illegal elements of Law and acts in the whole invalid. | Law Jomal Grazhdanin i Pravo, № 11/12, 2002; Law Jomal Arbitrazhnyi i grazhdansky protsess, № 11, 2002 |
| Muromskaya I. | Criminal Procedure Code Is it a Step towards Meeting European Standards? | The article deals with new order of submitting and considering applications on supervision objection and its meeting the standard of efficient measures of legal protection in meaning of articles of the European Convention on human rights. | Yuridichesky Vestnik, December 2002 |
| Romanova E. | Not Everything is that Good | The article deals with negative moments of the Labor Code of Russia | Law Jomal Zhurnal Rossiiskogo Prava, № 2, 2002 |
| Demeneva A. | Legal Aid to Patients in Theory and in Practice | On exercising rights by persons suffered from mental disorder. | Law Jomal Pravoazashchitnik, № 4, 2002 |

5. REPRESENTATION OF INTERESTS OF CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN COURTS

Lawyers of the organization participate as representatives of citizens and organizations in courts of Sverdlovsk Oblast (cities Yekaterinburg, Nizhny Tagil, Polevskoi, Berezovsky, Krasnoturinsk and others), Tiumen, Cheliabinsk Oblasts, in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, in arbitration courts of the Urals Federal District of all levels, Charter Court of Sverdlovsk Oblast. The number of court hearings per month — 45-55, per year — about 600.

Interests in the court are represented on the following cases:

- appeal against unlawful acts and actions (failure to act) of state and municipal authorities which violate rights and freedoms of citizens;
- cases on protection of housing rights, human honor and dignity, consumer rights, pension rights, damage caused by unlawful actions (failure to act) of medical personnel, etc.;
- cases on reinstating, recovery of mistakenly calculated and paid wages, removal of disciplinary punishment, granting additional vacations, denial of signing a collective agreement, fixing percentage of loss of working ability, acknowledgement job descriptions invalid and not allowed to apply, denial of submitting information on social and labor issues, improper certification of working places, etc.
- representation of interests of persons suffered from abuse of power by representatives of law-enforcement organs.

As a result of the project «Civil control of the court over bringing national law in line with constitutional and international standards» more than 30 acts were appealed in the Constitutional Court of Russia, Supreme Court of Russia, Charter Court of Sverdlovsk Oblast. 11 complaints of citizens were prepared to the Constitutional Court of Russia concerning declaration of a number of federal laws unconstitutional. In particular, complaints were concerned provisions of Civil Procedure Code of RSFSR, Labor Code of Russia.

Acknowledged as not complied with the Russian legislation were the following legal acts:

- 1) on 25 January 2002, the Charter Court of Sverdlovsk Oblast

acknowledged that item 4.6 of provision On the order of organization and carrying out meetings, street marches, demonstrations and picketing in Yekaterinburg does not meet the Charter of Sverdlovsk Oblast;

2) on April 2002, the Charter Court acknowledged items 2 and 3 of article 16 of the Charter of Ykaterinburg city as not meeting the Charter of Sverdlovsk Oblast;

3) on 24 April 2002, the Constitutional Court of Russia passed decision № 114-O, on complaint of Vakhonin A. I. and Smerdov S. D. concerning violation of their constitutional rights by part 3 of article 220. 2 of Criminal Procedure Code RSFSR;

4) on 20 August 2002, the Sverdlovsk oblast court declared item 5 of article 39 of the Law of Sverdlovsk Oblast On local self-government in Sverdlovsk Oblast which grants a head of a municipality the right to block acts approved by a representative body as not meeting the federal law;

5) on 3 October 2002, the Resolution of mayor of Yekaterinburg dated 23 January 2002 On increase in public transport fare was declared invalid;

6) on 17 October 2002, the Supreme Court of Russia acknowledged paragraph 282 of tariff guideline № 5 of the Ministry of Railroad Transportation which prohibited the return of an unused ticket for suburban trains as not complying with the relevant federal law.

6. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

11 complaints of Russian citizens were sent to the European Court of Human Rights. Due to duration of a procedure of complaint consideration, as of today, one of the sent complaints has been acknowledged admissible, whereas consideration of admissibility of remaining complaints is pending. Major part of applications of Russian citizens to the European Court of Human Rights concerns violation of the following human rights by the Russian state. Article 6 of the European Convention guaranteed the right to a fair trial. Article 11 guaranteed the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. Article 8 — the

right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence. And article 2 in the part of non-conducting efficient investigation of the fact of a death of a person by the law-enforcement bodies.

About 23% consultations to citizens represented consultations concerning the application process to the European Court of Human Rights and to the UN Committee on Human Rights.

On 5 March 2002, on one of the organization proceedings, the European Court of Human Rights decided on admissibility of a complaint made by a citizen of Yekaterinburg concerning violation of article 5 of the Convention which guarantees the right to liberty and security of a person in the course of involuntary placement in the psychiatric hospital. The decision on admissibility of the complaint of Rakevich as of March 05, 2002 see on the site of the European Court of human rights <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/hudoc>. The translation of the decision into Russian see on the Urals right protection site <http://www.humanrights.by.ru/urcentre/rakev.shtm> (the applicant is represented before the Court by Anna Demeneva).

7. ARRANGEMENTS

Seminars (trainings)

Conducted during the year were 6 two-, three- and five day trainings for representatives of NGOs on issues of international mechanisms of the human right protection (appeal to the European Court of Human Rights, UN Committee on Human Rights) as part of projects Overcoming Corruption in Judicial System by Ensuring Transparency of Justice and Urals Resource Center of Constitutional and International Protection of Human Rights.

In 2002, NGO Sutyajnik arranged and conducted 19 seminars for active trade unionists on issues of the labor right. The total duration of these seminars was 188 training hours, 340 people were trained on the following topics:

| Topic of seminar | Total number of training hours | Number of trained persons |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <p>The material responsibility of parties of labor agreement. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place twice: once according to the program designed for 14 training hours, once according to the program designed for 2 training hours</i></p> | 16 | 37 |
| <p>The novels of the Labor Code of Russia. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place 5 times: four times according to the program designed for 14 training hours, once according to the program designed for 2 training hours</i></p> | 58 | 115 |
| <p>Working time, rest time. Peculiarities of regulation of work of single categories of workers. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place 2 times: four times according to the program designed for 14 training hours, once according to the program designed for 2 training hours</i></p> | 16 | 37 |
| <p>The motivation of trade union membership. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place 3 times: two times according to the program designed for 14 training hours, once according to the program designed for 20 training hours</i></p> | 48 | 55 |
| <p>The labor protection: problems and possibilities of trade union organization <i>In 2002, the seminar took place once</i></p> | 14 | 20 |

| Topic of seminar | Total number of training hours | Number of trained persons |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Participation of a trade union in civil proceedings. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place once.</i> | 14 | 18 |
| Novels in legal regulation of work of commission for labor disputes. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place 2 times: once according to the program designed for 14 training hours, once according to the program designed for 2 training hours.</i> | 16 | 38 |
| Novels on legal regulation of issues of labor payment. <i>The seminar took place once.</i> | 2 | 14 |
| Self-protection of labor rights of employees. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place once.</i> | 2 | 11 |
| Out-of-court methods of labor rights protection. <i>In 2002, the seminar took place once.</i> | 2 | 12 |
| Total: 19 seminars | 188 | 340 |

Conferences

On 24 December 2002, NGO Sutyajnik, in cooperation with public foundation Pravoborets with the support of Open Society Institute (Budapest) and Open Society Institute Soros Foundation (Moscow) carried out the scientific conference Judicial Protection of Human Rights in its Most Efficient Forms. Participants of the conference included

representatives of state authorities, the Ombudsman in Sverdlovsk Oblast, representatives of the law science in the Urals region and activists of NGOs. During the conferences, problem points of law were revealed. These points will be executed in the form of a collection of theses.

Monitoring

1. Monitoring of observance of the right to fair trial as part of the project Overcoming of Corruption in Judicial System by Ensuring Transparency of Justice;

2. Monitoring of detention centers in Sverdlovsk Oblast as part of the Moscow Helsinki Group (MHG) project Network of Right Protection Monitoring;

3. Monitoring of violation of human rights in Sverdlovsk Oblast.

Other arrangements/events

On 11–30 September 2002, in the Library of the Major of Yekaterinburg and on 4–30 October 2002, in the Palace of Culture of Metallurgists (Serov, Sverdlovsk Oblast) **an exhibition** of amateur photos of the participant of rescue work at Ground Zero, lawyer of NGO Sutyajnik Anton Bourkov, devoted to 11 September 2001 World Trade Center tragedy in New York, took place under the title Down Broadway or the Tragedy through the Eyes of a Russian Volunteer.

On 27 September 2002, the final tour of **the Olympiad** The Expert of the European Convention on Human Rights and the Judgments of the European Court took place in the Charter Court of Sverdlovsk Oblast.

In February–March 2002, with the support of the Civil Freedoms Foundation, the action **Christmas in Prison** took place. As the result, about 1, 200 teenagers kept in prisons received individual gifts.

On 9 April 2002, a picket took place devoted to hearing by the Qualification Board of the Judges an issue on pre-scheduled termination of powers of the judge of the federal court of Kirovsky district of Yekaterinburg Bogdanchikova S. V. The picket was part of the project Overcoming of Corruption in Judicial System by Ensuring Transparency of Justice in cooperation with public foundation Pravoborets.

Every year, on 28 April, the organization conducts **The Day in Memory of those Injured and Died at Work**. This action is devoted to problems of increased traumatism at enterprises and responsibility of employers and state for ensuring the work safety.

8. PARTICIPATION IN ARRANGEMENTS OF OTHER NGOs, FUNDS, STATE BODIES

- Participation of lawyer of organization Anton Bourkov in PILI/COLPI Public Interest Law Fellowship Program at Columbia University School of Law (New York, USA 2001–2002).

- Annual meeting of PILI/COLPI Public Interest Law Fellowship Program fellows, Lake Balaton, Hungary, 7–9 July 2002 (PILI/COLPI Human Rights and Public Interest Law Fellows Retreat). Participation of Anton Bourkov with a report on issues of compulsory participation of co-plaintiffs in the hearing as an obstacle to access to justice.

- A one-week business trip to Washington of the official representative of NGO Sutyajnik in New York Anton Bourkov (5–12 May 2002). Meetings were carried out on issues of cooperation and coordination of joint activities with the National Democratic Institute, American Center for International Labor Solidarity, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), National Endowment for Democracy and American Bar Association.

- Participation of lawyers of the organization Elena Guzeva, Ekaterina Romanova, Ksenia Smolinskaya, Natalia Ermilova in a program of studying international mechanisms of human rights protection arranged by Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Medzeszin, Poland, April 2002).

- Participation of lawyers of the organization Elena Bulakova and Anna Demeneva in the program Support of Development of Human Rights in Russia arranged by the Academy of international education of USA. (Chicago, USA, May 2002).

- Participation of lawyers of the organization Natalia Ermilova and Anna Demeneva in sessions of the round table Protection of Human Rights in the European Court of Human Rights Protection arranged by the Center of international protection (Moscow, September-December 2002).
- Participation of the lawyer of the organization Natalia Ermilova in the seminar of Nizhny Novgorod society of human rights (Nizhny Novgorod, November 2002).
- Participation of the lawyer of the organization Liudmila Churkina in training for representatives of non-state organizations and civil servants for work with the youth (Budapest, Hungary, September 2002).
- Participation of the lawyer of the organization Liudmila Churkina in the program of Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights The Advanced Course of Human Rights (Warsaw, Poland).
- Participation of lawyers of the organization in the conference Who Are the Judges? arranged by the Inter-regional center of human rights (November 2002).

9. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

From the interview with the President of NGO Sutyajnik Sergei Beliaev to Region-Inform information agency on 26 November 2002.

Sutyajnik is the oldest public right protection organization in the Urals. It is already 8 years old. The president of Sutyajnik Sergei Beliaev tells Region-Inform about the results of work, about protection of interests of a «little» man and about the counter-action to the power administrative machine of the large city.

— **Sergei Ivanovich, how did your organization change for the period of its existence and what does it represent nowadays?**

— We are preparing to celebrate a decade of our existence. For this time, many hundreds of lawyers passed through Sutyajnik, young men

and girls with active living position. Some of them are now working in spheres of the economy, business, policy, public prosecutions department. All of them use experience gained during 1–2 years of work in Sutyajnik. At present, about twenty young lawyers are working in the organization, part of them is still studying, part of them is defending theses and some people with law degree are working here full-time. There are people which work in the organization already several years.

— Does Sutyajnik coordinate its work with similar right protection organizations from other Russian regions or other countries?

— Certainly. Many projects under our implementation are joint programs. Specialists which work abroad carry out training and seminars here, share experience. Our employees receive training abroad. For example, we cooperate with Interights (London), Central European University (Budapest), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. As far as Russia is concerned, we are known in all corners of the country since Sutyajnik is one of the most popular organizations. Our people took part in various arrangements from Vladivostok to St.-Petersburg.

— Approximately how many people received assistance from your organization? How many cases did you win for years of your existence?

— We provided assistance to thousands of citizens which addressed us for aid. Since 1994, we have provided more than 8 thousand consultations to citizens and non-profit organizations, won more than 700 proceedings to protect public interests. We initiated abolishing by law more than 80 unlawful decrees of bodies of local self-government and state power. In general, I believe, we did well.

Our plans include to celebrate, as deserved, our ten-year anniversary, continue the active law protection activity, including with the use of international mechanisms of protection which requires our presence in the international scene.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
SUTYAJNIK

Annual Report 2002
WE WILL BE SOON 10 YEARS OLD

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