

On September 18 the state prosecutors in Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev case announced they have finished submitting their written evidence to the court. The main result of this stage of the trial is that the court has not received any documental evidence that confirms the accusations. Moreover, the documents submitted to the court rebut all these accusations.

Due to the specifics of the economic crimes that our defendants are being accused of, the documental evidence have a priority significance. In similar cases the whole scope of crime, should it have been committed in reality, would have been clear after this stage of the trial. In our case after the state prosecutors had read what they call written evidence, everyone who was able to observe these reading for the last four and half month is now ultimately and unconditionally certain that our defendants are innocent. This is another confirmation of the artificial, political and corrupt nature of persecution against Milhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev's for the last six years.

During the time allegedly spent for investigation of the written evidence, the prosecutors read or retold a vast number of documents. As already mentioned, none of those documents indicated that the oil disappeared or that any of the alleged complainants lacked 350 million tons of oil, allegedly stolen by Khodorkovsky and Lebedev. In contrast, many of the documents directly support simple and obvious facts, that help to completely destroy these crazy allegations:

- All the oil produced was shipped to customers in accordance with the contracts and received by them; all movements of oil are fully documented;
- Not only the oil producers experienced no damage whatsoever having received payment that covered all their expenses related to oil production, but they also gained profits;
- No one has never reported any loss (let alone stealing) of oil indicated in the indictment in any part.

The guilt that was not proved equals to innocence.

Moreover, it proves that the allegations are fraud and lack any common sense. Everyone will be able to see this even more clearly, once the defence starts presenting its evidence in the court.

Reading of so called written evidence by the prosecutors clearly demonstrated the facts that defence was constantly pointing to during the whole duration of "Yukos case": massive number of contradictions, logical and legal clashes, forgery and other distortions in the documents, blatant violations of law in the process of their acquisition.

Being fully aware of this, but trying to fulfil the task of illegal reprisal of innocent victims, the prosecutors were not ashamed of manipulating and simply lying to the court.

Unfortunately, the court enables them to do this.

Another interim result of the trial is the massive violations of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev's fundamental rights, first of all - right for defence, right for freedom and [habeas corpus](#)

[provision](#). The most horrible (of course, after their illegal criminal prosecution) is the absolutely illegal practice of their unjustifiable incarceration. They have already been sentenced to freedom deprivation, and are now kept under arrest as accused (criminal defendants), which in essence means in prison, while they were not sentenced to the prison regime by any court. Such practice in this case has already been condemned by the European court of human rights.

Questioning of the prosecution witnesses will take place during the next stage of the court hearings. The defence is prepared for this and hopes that all these witnesses will really be called in the court and will in fact come to testify, instead of filing a sick leave, or going away on long business trips, to put it simply: go in hiding. In other words, we hope in the open trial we will be able to hear the sworn statements, and not the reading of extracts from their testimonies received in investigators' offices.