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OVERVIEW OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY VIOLATIONS AND ALLIED RIGHTS IN THE FRAMES OF THE NEW LAW ON ASSEMBLES IN RUSSIA (JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2012)

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Coordination problems

The first ban of the protest according to the new law// <http://article20.org/content/первый-запрет-акции-протеста-по-новому-закону> // 14 June 2012.

Oleg Kozlovsky wrote in his LiveJournal blog: «Here are the first results of the new law on rallies. Today I received the response to Seva Chernozubov, Nastya Rybachenko and my notification in the prefecture of the Central Administrative District of Moscow. As we expected, the stated rally is forbidden, because we were brought to administrative responsibility under the Articles 19.3 and 20.2 in the last year »

Ministry of Justice: Muslims praying in the streets breake the law on rallies// <http://article20.org/content/минюст-молящиеся-на-улицах-мусульмане-нарушают-закон-о-митингах> // 18 July 2012

Administration of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation for the Primorsky Krai issued a warning about the violation of the Law ““On Meetings, rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets” to the religious Kazyyatskomu Administration of Primorsky Krai Muslims. According to the report, the mass Muslims prayer and assembly in the street are the violations.

Zombies parade banned in Omsk // <http://article20.org/content/в-омске-запретили-парад-зомби> // 18 August 2012

The Administration of the Omsk Soviet District took away the previous authorization for the zombies parade. According to the organizers, The decision was made due to complaints from the local diocese of the ROC and the Muslim community. The dissatisfaction of the church officials was caused by “idea of Dead uprising“,and Muslims protested against the fact that the time of the parade coincided with the holiday of Eid al-Adha.

Yekaterinburg opposition leaders punished for the small number of the rally//
<http://article20.org/content/оппозиционеров-екатеринбурга-накажут-за-малочисленность-митинга> // 16 August 2012

In Yekaterinburg, the city administration will bring to administrative responsibility of organizers of the rally in defence of the accused in the case of disturbances on Mire square in Moscow. The reason for this was the lack participants number of a rally. According to the City Hall staff, a group of citizens, led by Stanislav Z harkov hold a rally last weekend. There came 15 people instead of two thousand. In this case, the authorities sent 150 police officers for the protection of the rally, set up metal detectors, and organized the duty ambulance crew.

Moscow court upholds 100-year ban on gay pride events //
<http://article20.org/content/мосгорсуд-подтвердил-запрет-проводить-в-москве-гей-парады-в-ближайшие-сто-лет> // 17 August 2012

“On 16 August, Thursday, The Moscow City Court has confirmed for the second time its ruling banning all LGBT pride events in the Russian capital for the next century – from March 2012 to May 2112” tells the organizer of the gay pride events.

Holding Public Events

Picket in front of the State Duma dispersed //
<http://article20.org/content/пикет-у-здания-госдумы-разогнан> // 5 June

Near the State Duma dozens of people who were protesting against the adoption of the amendments to the law "On meetings, rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets" were detained. According to the one participant, There were detained one and one-half times more people at the State Duma than reported in the Moscow police.

The first protests against the new law held in Voronezh // <http://article20.org/content/первые-протестные-акции-по-новому-закону-прошли-в-воронеже> //10 June 2012

On June 9 the first series of actions such as "joint mass presence" under the new rules: walking along the main avenue and the evening walk with the writer Zakhar Prilepin was held in Voronezh. The share wasn't approved unexpectedly for organizers. Marina Plieva, the Mayor Deputy, justified the refusal to agree by saying that there is "Platonov's Festival in the city".

Seven participants fighting pillows arrested in the Campus Martius in St. Petersburg // <http://article20.org/content/семерых-участников-боя-подушками-задержали-на-марсовом-поле> // 10 June 2012

Law enforcement officers arrested on Sunday in the Campus Martius in St. Petersburg, about 7 participants in a flash mob, whose members staged a pillow fight. The RIA Novosti recalling the representative of the regional GUMVD told about 10 arrested participants. According to the GUMVD, detainees were transported to the police, where they made up for the protocols on administrative violation for violating laws on holding public events (Article 20.2 of the Administrative Code) as they continued the battle on the lawn after the share was finished.

Five more people arrested for disorders on Bolotnaya square// <http://article20.org/content/за-беспорядки-на-болотной-задержаны-еще-пять-человек> // 11 June 2012

On Thursday, another five people were arrested over the criminal case in the disorders at the opposition rally on the Bolotnaya Square on May 6. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation provides the names of detainees. They are Rihard Sobolev, born in 1990, Vladimir Akimenkov, born in 1987, Oleg Arkhipenkov, born in 1985, Phedor Bachov, born in 1981 and Alexandr Kamensky, born in 1977.

Opposition march in St. Petersburg stopped for violation of rules// <http://article20.org/content/шествие-оппозиции-в-петербурге-остановили-за-нарушение-регламента> // 14 June 2012

The Opposition march in St. Petersburg was stopped. According to organizers, the termination of the march was demanded by the city authorities.

The reason for stopping the march was the violation of the regulations. The event was to be completed at 16.00 o'clock, but it lasted for 15 minutes more. In this regard, two organizers were arrested.

In front of the Tagansky court protesters in support of the members of the Pussy Riot band arrested// <http://article20.org/content/у-таганского-суда-задержаны-участники-акции-в-поддержку-pussy-riot> // 20 July 2012

At least five people were arrested at the rally in the support of the arrested participants of the punk band Pussy Riot, according to the Twitter radio "Liberty". The eyewitnesses say that they arrested the protesters with whistles.

All Gay Pride participants arrested in Petersburg // <http://article20.org/content/петербургский-гей-парад-задержали-в-полном-составе> // 7 July 2012

In St. Petersburg three members of uncoordinated gay parade arrested, reports "Interfax". According to the agency, there were not other participants in the action.

Initially, the Committee approved the gay parade, but a few days later it was taken away. The formal reason was the "inappropriateness of the application form and the event which LGBT activists planned to hold".

200 Dagestanis Block Railroad in Protest // <http://article20.org/content/в-дагестане-200-человек-перекрыли-железную-дорогу> // 8 August 2012

About 200 residents of the Kizilyurt district in Dagestan physically blocked railroad tracks, demanding the police find a missing person from the village of Komsomolskoe, Interfax reported, citing a local police source. They demand that local resident Adam Khayrullayev, who disappeared overnight Aug. 4, be found and released.

Activists who burned the portrait of Putin convicted of resisting police// <http://article20.org/content/сжегших-портрет-путина-активистов-осудили-за-сопротивление-полиции/> 6 August 2012

Opposition activist Alexei Nikitin and Gennady Stroganov were sentenced to 10 and 12 days of administrative arrest respectively for the burning of a portrait of Vladimir Putin during the "Strategy 31" rally on Triumph Square.

Supporters of the Pussy Riot band arrested near the Court// <http://article20.org/content/около-суда-задержали-сторонников-pussy-riot> // 17 August 2012

In front of the Khamovnichesky court some supporters of the Pussy Riot band were arrested, reports "Interfax". One of the activists was in Balaclava. The exact number of detainees is not specified.

Organizer of the banned Zombie Walk arrested in Omsk
<http://article20.org/content/в-омске-задержали-организатора-запрещенного-церковью-парада-зомби> // 20 August 2012

The police officers arrested Mikhail Yakovlev, the organizer of the banned Zombie Walk, on August 19 in the Russian city of Omsk, Russia's newsru.com reports. Yakovlev called the arrived to disperse, but young "zombie" did not listen. An unsanctioned flash mob gathered 300 Zombie enthusiasts in Omsk. The police asked the participants came to go home, warning that the event will be seen as the procession.

Police detained activists issued white balloons //
<http://article20.org/content/полиция-задержала-выпустивших-белые-шары-активистов> // 17 September 2012

The police detained several activists on Saturday night who issued white balloons from the trunk of their car near Kalanchevskaja street in Moscow. The police officers came to the car and arrested the organizers.

Protection of the right to freedom of assembly

The Human Rights Council did not approve the law on rallies //
<http://article20.org/content/совет-по-правам-человека-не-одобрил-закон-о-митингах> // 8 July 2012

The Presidential Human Rights Council finished the examination of the law that toughen rally rules and came to the conclusion that it contradicts the Russian Constitution. "The main flaw of the law is that it is essentially criminalizing the procedure involving the use of a basic constitutional right - the right to assemble peacefully"- says the expert report, which was published on Thursday night on the website of the Presidential Human Rights Council.

Rallies most Muscovites like // <http://article20.org/content/митинги-по-праву-большинству-москвичей> // 20 July 2012

After the amendments to the law on rallies were made, the "Levada Center" did a survey and found that the majority of Muscovites are dissatisfied with innovations in public meetings. 39% of the questioned said that is is "rather negative" and 28% "very negative", only 19% of the questioned supported the new law.

In Russia all meetings, except for weddings and funeral banned
<http://article20.org/content/у-нас-в-россии-вообще-запрещены-собрания-кроме-свадеб-и-похорон//> 23 August 2012

In Novohopersk, Voronezh region, first hearing was considered the case against ekoaktivists who shouted "shame" at the meeting with the Governor of the Voronezh. The first accused Vladimir Mastery was fined 10,000 rubles. He was charged , as well as three others, under the Article 20.2 of the Administrative Code, Part 5, which involves a fine of 10 to 20 thousand rubles, or community service.

The Magistrate of the Central District of Voronezh: "White Walk" not break the law // <http://article20.org/content/мировой-судья-центрального-района-воронежа-«белая-прогулка»-закона-не-нарушила> // 5 September 2012

On September 5 Magistrate court of the Central District of Voronezh stopped the administrative proceedings against Alexander Boldyrev, charged in the violation of the rally organization, walking with friends in the city center.

The magistrate found no violations in the editor actions//
<http://article20.org/content/мировой-судья-не-нашел-правонарушения-в-действиях-редактора-газеты> // 17 September 2012

On September 17 The Magistrate of the Court of the Voronezh Central District Voronezh stopped the administrative proceedings against Alexander Boldyrev, the Chief Editor of the newspaper "We are the citizens," who was accused of distributing their newspapers on public rally.