

RELEASE IN PART
B5

From: Slaughter, Anne-Marie <SlaughterA@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 5:58 PM
To: H
Cc: Ross, Alec J; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: I think you will like this

B5

Here's why we are doing the right thing w/ 21st c statecraft -- from our ambassador in Moscow [redacted] It's long, but worth reading. Our frame is that the world is deeply interconnected, but part of what we then need to do as diplomats is help others make the connections they need to make to advance their (and our) agenda. AM

"Over the last few weeks, there have been some fascinating examples of Russian grass roots activists using new connection technologies to make an impact. These have not only been bread and butter issues, but hard-hitting anti-corruption and political actions.

VOTING FRAUD

Today, Russian liberal internet media is awash with stories of voting fraud and electoral manipulation taking place in the local election campaigns slated for March 14 (early voting started). The liberal Yabloko posted a video on the internet of united Russia activists in Tula buying early votes. Kommersant Tula correspondent reported a united Russia activist coming to his door offering 300 rubles for his vote. Video posted around web now, including on grani.ru

ROCK CONCERT IMPASSIONED PLEA

On March 7, Yuriy Schevchuk, lead singer for Russian group DDT delivered a powerful anti-regime speech to a crowd of 15000 in Moscow's Olympic stadium. It was filmed and posted on Youtube and elsewhere, becoming viral (over 175,000 viewings and 500 comments posted as of yesterday). Below is quote:

"The system that has been built in our country is brutal, cruel, and inhumane. People are suffering, not only in prisons and camps, but in orphanages and hospitals as well. So many bastards are feeding themselves on power. With epaulettes on their shoulders and with flashing lights in their heads, they are robbing us, running us over on the road, and shooting us in stores. And nobody is being held accountable."

Link below:

<http://grani-tv.ru/entries/1042/>

PUTIN MUST GO

Two days ago, opposition posted online petition on ej.ru and other sites with another impassioned plea that "Putin Must Go". Despite the predictable DDoS attack on the site, it's still up and has collected over 2500 signatures. Link below:

<http://www.ej.ru/?a=note&id=9935>

BLOGGERS-RAPPER TEAM UP AGAINST POLICE-BIG OIL

On Feb 25, the car of Lukoil VP drove into the wrong lane in Moscow to avoid a traffic jam, running head on into a small car and killing a prominent Moscow gynecologist and her daughter. Police, likely having been paid off, determined the Lukoil driver was not at fault. Bloggers were outraged, found 4 witnesses willing to testify, and a Moscow rapper created a music video of the incident that went viral, criticizing authorities. Medvedev was forced to order the Minister of interior to personally oversee the investigation."