

Editor's Introduction to the Summer 2003 Issue

As this issue of *Demokratizatsiya* goes to press, Colonel Yuri Budanov, accused of kidnapping and murdering a Chechen woman, Kheda Kungava, in March 2000 in a fit of rage, was sentenced to ten years in a maximum security prison. Budanov, the first and most senior Russian officer to go on trial for human rights abuses was found guilty of these charges by a military court in southern Russia. This is one example of the ways in which new criminal procedures adopted one year ago are beginning to be applied to crimes, such as abuses of human rights, that would not have been pursued in the past. It is the gradual progress made in the arena of legal reform that is the focus of this issue of *Demokratizatsiya*.

Analyses of civil and criminal legal reforms in Russia by several leading Western and Eurasian scholars will cover federal and local jurisdictions. Two views of the difficulties in implementing Putin's federal reforms are presented by Robert Sharlet and Gordon Hahn. Kathryn Hendley examines commercial disputes in *arbitrazh* courts, Peter Solomon Jr. analyzes the establishment of justice of the peace courts, and Victor Filippov describes the key features of the new criminal procedure code of the Russian Federation. Olga Pyshchulina critiques the application of the Ukrainian anti-trafficking law to criminal cases in Ukraine since the law's adoption in 1998. In addition, Alexander Sokolowski describes former President Yeltsin's failed policymaking and Olena Yatsunka compares three election campaigns in the Nikolayev city council in Ukraine. Numerous book reviews are featured in this issue as is a review essay on organized crime literature by Johanna Granville.

Last but not least, the executive editors of *Demokratizatsiya* would like to thank Joyce Horn—editor extraordinaire—for working so hard over the past ten years on our journal. In particular, her sharp wit and spunk will be missed. Thank you, Joyce! We dedicate this issue of “Dem” to you!

SALLY W. STOECKER
Issue Editor