

RESPONSE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION GENERAL PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE TO THE QUESTIONARY ON SUBJECT: "ROLE OF PROSECUTION
AUTHORITIES BEYOND THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDING"

1. Do prosecution authorities of your country have powers beyond the criminal proceeding?

Yes, they have and quite extensive.

Pursuant to the Article 71 of the Russian Federation Constitution, issues of the procuracy supervision are exclusively in charge of the Russian Federation, and not its subjects¹.

Organization and order of the Russian Federation prosecutor's office, and powers of prosecutors are determined by the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federal Law of 1992 On The Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office (hereinafter - the Law) and other federal laws, as well as corresponding international contracts of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office is a unified federal centralized system of authorities and institutions, and acts on the basis of subordination of inferior prosecutors to superior ones and the General Prosecutor of the Russian Federation.

One should bear in mind that in the criminal-legal sphere a prosecutor does not merely realize maintenance of the official prosecution in the court. In accordance with powers established by the Russian Federation legislation, prosecution authorities perform the following function in this sphere too:

1) investigation of criminal cases on crimes referred by the criminal procedure legislation of the Russian Federation to the competence of the prosecution authorities² (for the purpose of improvement of the preliminary investigation of such crimes, an Investigative Committee at the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office was established in June 2007);

2) criminalistic provision of investigation of criminal cases mentioned in p. 1;

3) supervision over investigation, performance of inquiry and criminal investigation in all law-enforcement authorities of the Russian Federation;

4) coordination of activity of all law-enforcement authorities on crime control;

5) supervision over the legality of execution of criminal sanctions;

6) participation in the international cooperation, more specifically, on questions:

- extradition of persons for performance of criminal prosecution or execution of a sentence;

- rendering of legal assistance on criminal cases;

- transfer of court proceeding on criminal cases;

- transfer of persons for compulsory medical treatment, who committed socially dangerous acts and in relation to whom there is a court judgment on applying of compulsory medical measures to them (based on the Convention On

Transfer of Persons Suffering from Mental Diseases in order to Carry On Compulsory Treatment of 1997 concluded within the Commonwealth of Independent States).

2. a) If yes, what is the competence (in relation, for example, to the administration, civil, and arbitration right and/or functioning courts)?

In accordance with the Law for the purpose of provision of the supremacy of the law, the unity and strengthening of legality, protection of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, as well as interests of the society and the state protected by the law, the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office realizes supervision:

1 The Russian Federation consists of ~85 subjects.

2 More specifically, investigation of criminal cases on homicide, rape, kidnapping, terrorism, corruption-related crimes fall within competence of investigators of the prosecutor's office.

- over execution of laws by the executive federal agencies, representative (legislative) and executive bodies of the Russian Federation subjects, local government authorities, military commands, regulatory bodies, their officials, administrating agencies and heads of commercial and non-commercial organizations, as well as over the conformance to laws of legal acts issued by them;

- over observance of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen by executive federal agencies, representative (legislative) and executive bodies of the Russian Federation subjects, local government authorities, military commands, regulatory bodies, their officials, as well as administrating agencies and heads of commercial and non-commercial organizations;

- over observance of laws by agencies performing criminal investigation, inquiry and preliminary investigation;

- over observance of laws by officers of justice;

- over observance of laws by administrations of authorities and institutions executing the penalty and applying compulsory measures prescribed by the court, by administrations of confinement facilities and detention places.

In accordance with the procedural legislation of the Russian Federation, prosecutors participate in proceedings in a case by trial courts of general jurisdiction and arbitration courts³, appeal against decisions, sentences, judgments of courts contradicting the law.

Thus, the supervisory activity of the Russian prosecutor's office is performed practically in all spheres of the Russian legislation.

Besides, the Russian Federation Prosecutors' Office participates in the lawmaking activity. In accordance with the article 9 of the Law, during performance of his powers, at establishment of the necessity of improvement of current regulatory legal acts, the prosecutor has the right to bring forward suggestions before legislative authorities and bodies that possess the right of the legislative initiative of the corresponding and inferior levels of suggestions about changes, about addition, cancellation or adoption of laws and other regulatory legal acts. Drafts of federal laws concerning the sphere of competence of prosecution

authorities are subject to agreement with the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office.

In accordance with articles 8, 9, 35 of the Federal Law of 1995 On International Contracts of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, within the framework of its competence, can submit for consideration of the Russian Federation President and the Russian Federation Government recommendations on detention, discontinuance or suspension of the validity of international contracts of the Russian Federation.

b) Please, explain the substantiation of their existence.

The prosecutor's office established by Peter I in 1722, was meant to "serve as a "sovereign's eye" in observance of laws and instructions of the central power, exposure of embezzlement of public funds and bribing, permissiveness of magnates and bureaucratic noblemen, protecting the country safety".

Almost three centuries already the Russian prosecutor's office, having experienced the change of different political regimes, serves as a stronghold of the legality and law order of the multinational and multiconfessional Russian society.

Presently, the Russian Federation prosecutor's office, besides functions of criminal prosecution, performs a large volume of other work useful for the society, contributing to solution of tasks of securing the legality, protection of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, performance of advanced alterations in the economy and the social sphere.

3 In the Russian Federation the justice in the sphere of entrepreneurial and other economical activity is performed by arbitration courts (which are state, not intermediate), and other issues of the civil court proceeding are solved by the courts of general jurisdiction.

Historically, in many cases people and organizations search for protection of their infringed rights in prosecution authorities, and not in courts of the Russian Federation.

c) Please, explain the role of a prosecutor in performance of these powers: he advises (explains the legislation in force), supervises the observance of laws or takes decisions.

To perform his functions, a prosecutor is lodged with the following powers in accordance with the art. 22 of the Law:

- to enter without hindrance the territory and premises of federal ministries, state committees, services and other federal authorities of state power, representative (legislative) executive bodies of state power of the Russian Federation subjects, local government authorities, military commands, as well as regulatory and administrating bodies; to have access to documents and materials of the mentioned authorities, to check their observance of laws in connection with the information about facts of violation of the law received by the prosecution authorities;

- to demand from heads and other officials the provision of necessary documents, materials, statistical and other information; assignment of specialists for ascertainment of emerged questions; carrying out of inspections upon materials

and appeals received by the prosecution authorities, inspections of organizations' activity;

- to call officials and citizens for provision of explanations with regard to violation of laws. The prosecutor has the right:

- for the purpose of prevention of violations of law, in the presence of information, to forward the warning in written form to officials about inadmissibility of violation of the law (article 25.1 of the Law);

- to bring forward protests against legal acts contradicting the law to the authority or an official, who issued this act, or to the superior body or a superior official, or to appeal to the court in the order stipulated by the procedural legislation (art. 23 of the Law, art. 251 of the Code of civil procedure of the Russian Federation - hereinafter the CCP RF);

- to bring forward proposals on removal of violation of the law to the authority or an official that have powers to remove them (art. 24 of the Law);

- to initiate proceedings on administrative delinquency (articles 22, 25 of the Law, art. 28.4 of the Code of Administrative Violations of the Russian Federation - hereinafter CAV RF);

- to bring forward protests against judgments, decisions, which have not come into legal force, following the results of consideration of appeals, protests (articles 30.10, 30.11 of CAV RF);

- based on the article 35 of the Law and in accordance with the article 45 of CCP RF to appeal to the court with the application or to join the case at any stage of the proceeding if it is required by the protection of rights of citizens and interests of the society or the state protected by the law.

The prosecutor participates: 1) in civil cases:

a) in interests of citizens and any number of unspecified persons on actions:

- on violation of labour law;
- on violation of housing law;
- in protection of minors;
- on compensation of harm caused to the life or health;
- on violation of pension or other social rights;
- on violation of voting rights;
- on violation of consumer rights;

b) in the interests of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and municipal formations on actions:

- on compensation of harm caused to state off-budget funds, as well as violation of the land, tax, and customs laws;

c) on holding of legal acts invalid);

2) in arbitration cases:

a) on actions on holding of transactions invalid:

- on privatization; on disposal of state, municipal property;
- on securities;
- on nature management;

b) on applications subsequent from administrative and other public legal relations:

- on impugment of regulatory or non-regulatory legal acts;
- on holding decisions and actions (failure to act) of state and other authorities, officials illegal;
- on bringing administrative actions of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs.

The order of participation of a prosecutor in the civil and arbitration proceeding is regulated by art. 45 of CCP RF and art. 52 of the Arbitration Procedure Code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter-the APC RF).

Thus, in accordance with the art.45 of CCP Russian Federation, the prosecutor has the right to appeal to court with the affirmative defense of the rights, freedoms, and legal interests of citizens, any number of unspecified persons or interests of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and municipal formations. Moreover, it is established that the application in interests of a physical body can be filed in case if a citizen for health reasons, age, disability and other reasonable excuses can not appeal to the court himself.

It should be noted that in accordance with the Russian legislation on taxes-and-duties the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office does not incur obligations on payment of a state duty and court costs and, thus, powers of the prosecutor's office are often used by disadvantaged population too, often preferring to appeal with applications on violation of their rights not to the court, but to the prosecutor's office, thus they are not involved in expenses connected with judicial proceedings of actions and, as a rule, they are considered in shorter terms.

d) If prosecutors have the powers to make decision, can these decisions be appealed by the pleading party? What are judicial remedies?

The national legislation does not make any exceptions in terms of possibility of appealing by citizens or legal bodies of decisions of the prosecution authorities alongside with the appeal of decisions of other state authorities. Actions (failure to act) of any officials, including prosecutors, persons can be appealed in the court according to the article 11 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter - CC RF) and the Russian Federation Law of 1993 On Appealing in the Court of Actions and Judgments Violating Rights and Freedoms of Citizens".

3. Please, give examples (statistics, if available) of the effective application of these powers and the volume that they occupy in the work of the prosecution authorities in general.

In 2006 prosecutors revealed almost 3 mln. 171 thous. violations of the law, 297550 protests were brought forward, 410310 proposals are brought forward, 138957 persons received warnings, on judgment of a prosecutor 216613 persons were punished administratively, almost 319 thous. criminal cases were initiated, over 813 thous. actions were forwarded to courts.

More specifically, with the help of a prosecutor 24,4 thous. civil cases on reinstatement of employment of citizens have been legally approved.

Prosecutors took part in consideration of almost 606 thous. civil cases.

Over 827 thous. actions on protection of rights, freedoms and legal interests of citizens, any number of unspecified persons or interests of the Russian Federation, municipal formations were brought by prosecutors to trial courts of

general jurisdiction. Out of 658429 considered actions, 93% of them were approved by the court.

Besides, in 2006 prosecutors appealed to the court with almost 7 thous. appeal proposals; out of 6384 proposals considered by the court, 3446 of them were approved (54%). In the exercise of supervisory powers prosecutors brought 1029 proposals, 875 of which were considered and 462 (53%) were approved.

In 2006 prosecutors forwarded to the arbitration courts of the Russian Federation over 16800 actions, 8701 of which (55%) were approved.

Statistical information for the 1st half-year of 2007 show the increasing of the number of appeals to the prosecution authorities by citizens and legal entities on violation of their rights, which testifies the increasing role and significance of remedial functions of the prosecutor's office.

Thus, in the 1st half-year of 2007 2058506 law violations were revealed, 201284 protests were brought forward, 254903 proposals were brought forward, 96292 persons received warnings, upon judgment of the prosecutor 135401 persons were punished administratively, over 146 thous. criminal cases, almost 519 thous. actions were forwarded to courts.

Prosecutors took part in consideration of almost 300 thous. civil cases.

526,8 thous. actions on protection of rights, freedoms and legal interests of citizens, any number of unspecified persons or interests of the Russian Federation, municipal formations were brought by prosecutors to trial courts of general jurisdictions. Out of over 379 thous. considered actions, 313594 (82,7%) of them were approved by the court.

Besides, in the 1st half-year of 2007 prosecutors appealed to the court with almost 2150 appeal proposals; out of which 1197 are already considered by the court, and 671 of them are approved. In the exercise of supervisory powers prosecutors brought 511 proposals, 362 of which were considered and 205 were approved.

In the 1st half-year of 2007 prosecutors forwarded to the arbitration courts of the Russian Federation over 11098 actions, and 5303 of which are already approved.

The confidence growth of the population to the prosecution authorities is condition not merely by large potential of means of the prosecution influence, but also by short, in comparison to the court defense, terms of consideration of appeals, missing of material costs (expenses) for citizens, necessary for restoration of their infringed rights⁴. All this positively distinguishes the prosecutor's office in the system of other state authorities provided with a remedial function, including courts, makes it more attractive for appeals of citizens and organizations.

4. Does your country envisage any reform of the mentioned functions of a prosecutor?

Presently, the active work is carried out on preparation of amendments to the Federal Law On the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office. However, at this stage it is prematurely to judge about the range of the supposed changes in the status and powers of the prosecution authorities.

5. Do prosecution authorities have a separate internal organization that functions beyond the criminal proceeding?

In accordance with the art. 11 of the Law, the system of the prosecutor's office includes the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, prosecutor's offices of the Russian Federation subjects, equated with them military and other specialized (environmental, transport) prosecutor's offices, as well as prosecutor's offices of cities and districts. All of them act within the competence established by the Law.

In the mentioned prosecutor's offices special subdivisions (administrations and departments) are established, which deal with separate functions, which are not related to the criminal-legal sphere.

For example, the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office includes the following subdivisions;

- Chief administration on supervision over execution of the federal legislation (including over observance of human rights);
- Chief administration on supervision over investigation;
- Chief military prosecutor's office (it is formed exercising its rights as a structural subdivision and is headed by the deputy of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office - the General Military Prosecutor);
- Chief administration of the international-legal cooperation;
- Administration on supervision over observance of legislation on resistance against corruption;
- Administration on provision of participation of prosecutors in the civil and arbitration proceeding;
- Administration on supervision over execution of laws on the federal security, international relations and resistance against extremism.

6. What powers prosecution authorities have, acting beyond the criminal justice?

In accordance with art. 45 of CCP RF a prosecutor has the right to appeal to the court with the application defending rights, freedoms and legal interests of citizens, any number of unspecified persons or interests of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and municipal formations. Moreover, it is established that the application in interests of a physical body can be filed in case if a citizen for health reasons, age, disability and other reasonable excuses can not appeal to the court himself.

A prosecutor has the right to join the process and draw conclusions on cases about impugment of regulatory legal acts (art. 252 of CCP RF), on protection of voting rights and the right to participation in a referendum of citizens of the Russian Federation (art. 260 of CCP RF), on adoption and cancellation of adoption (articles 125, 140 of the Family Code of the Russian Federation, art. 273 of CCP RF), on holding a citizen missing or on declaration a citizen the deceased (art. 278 of CCP RF), on limitation of ability of a citizen, on holding a citizen incapable, on limitation or on deprivation of a minor in the age from fourteen to eighteen years the right to dispose his/her incomes on his/her own (art. 284 of CCP RF), on declaration of a minor completely capable (art. 288 of CCP RF), on compulsory

hospitalization of a citizen to a mental hospital or on prolongation of the compulsory hospitalization of a citizen suffering the mental disease (art. 304 of CCP RF), on termination of parental rights (articles 70, 72, 73 of the Family Code of the Russian Federation), on compulsory checkup and treatment (on hospitalization) of tuberculosis diseased (art. 10 of the Federal Law of 18.06.2001 No.77-FZ On Prevention of Distribution of Tuberculosis in the Russian Federation).

In accordance with art. 52 of APC RF a prosecutor has the right to appeal to an arbitration court with the application on impugment of regulatory legal acts, non-regulatory legal acts of

4 In accordance with the Russian Federation legislation on taxes-and-duties, prosecution authorities are exempted from the payment of the state tax and court costs at performance of their functions.

public authorities of the Russian Federation, public authorities of the Russian Federation subjects, local government authorities, concerning the rights and legal interests of organizations and citizens in the sphere of entrepreneurial and other economic activity, as well as on holding transactions invalid, which were made by the mentioned bodies, if their statutory capital has a share of the Russian Federation, of the Russian Federation subjects or municipal formations.

a) Are they lodged with special powers or do they have the same powers as other parties of the legal proceeding?

A prosecutor, who filed a statement of action, enjoys all procedural rights and bears all procedural obligations of a plaintiff, for the exception of a right to conclusion of an agreement of lawsuit and obligation on payment of the state duty and court costs (in accordance with the Russian Federation legislation on taxes-and-duties). In case if a prosecutor refuses the application filed in defense of legal interests of other persons, the consideration of the case on merits is continued, if this person or his legal representative does not declare about renunciation of the action.

A prosecutor, who appealed to the arbitration court, enjoys procedural rights and bears procedural obligations of a plaintiff. The paragraph 2 of the article 52 of ACP of RF stipulates the right of a prosecutor to join the case under consideration of the arbitration court at any stage of the arbitration process with procedural rights and obligations of a person participating in the case, for the purpose of securing of the legality. Moreover, by virtue of regulations of p.2 art. 198 of APC of RF a prosecutor can appeal to the arbitration court with the application on holding non-regulatory legal acts invalid, as well as illegal judgments and actions (failure to act) of state authorities, local regulation administrations, other authorities, officials, if he supposes that the disputed non-regulatory legal act, a judgment and action (failure to act) do not correspond to the law or any other regulatory legal act, and infringe rights and legal interests of citizens, organizations, other persons in the sphere of entrepreneurial and other economical activity, charge them with any obligations, create other obstacles to perform entrepreneurial and other economical activity.

In accordance with the art. 292 of APC Russian Federation, court acts of arbitration courts that came into legal force, can be revised in the exercise of supervisory powers on cases, mentioned in art. 52 of APC RF5, on filing by a prosecutor.

b) Are there certain rules during performance of such powers? What underlies these rules (a law, a tradition or a practice)?

Organization and the order of activity of the Russian Federation prosecutor's office and powers of prosecutors are determined by the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federal Law On the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office and other federal laws, as well as corresponding international contracts of the Russian Federation.

The order of participation of a prosecutor in the civil and the arbitration proceeding is regulated by the art. 45 of the Code of civil procedure of the Russian Federation and the art. 52 of the Russian Federation Arbitration Procedure Code.

Besides, to solve tasks before the prosecution authorities, the management of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office, within their competence, issues administrative regulatory orders, regulating issues of organization and activity of the prosecutor's office in general and according to branches of supervision.

Administrative regulatory orders that concern rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, besides acts containing state or any other secret protected by law, are subject to publication.

↳ See the last paragraph of the response to the 6th question

Besides, the practice is summarized annually and information on condition of the legality and law order in the state is analyzed, the estimation of the effectiveness of the prosecutor's supervision is carried out, the forecast of main trends in the condition of legality, dynamics and structure of criminality is made. Based on these data, summary of the practice, methodical recommendation, etc. are prepared and forwarded to structural subdivisions.

c) Do they have other rights and obligations?

During performance of supervision over observance of laws, a prosecutor, on foundations established by the law, initiates the proceeding on the administrative law violation, demands calling to account of persons, who violated the law, to other responsibility established by the law, including criminal law, and warns against inadmissibility of law violation.

In case of establishing a fact of law violation by executive federal authorities, representative (legislative) and executive bodies of the Russian Federation subjects, local government authorities, military commands, regulatory bodies, their officials, administrating agencies and heads of commercial and non-commercial organizations:

- by his judgment discharges persons, who were illegally imposed to administrative detention on the basis of decisions of non-judicial authorities;
- appeals against legal acts that contradict the law, appeals to the court or the arbitration court with the demand to hold such acts invalid;
- brings forward proposals on removal of law violations.

During performance of his functions on supervision of observance of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen by executive federal authorities, representative (legislative) and executive bodies of the Russian Federation subjects, local government authorities, military commands, regulatory bodies, their officials, administrating agencies and heads of commercial and non-commercial organizations, a prosecutor:

- studies and checks applications, statements and other messages on violation of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen;
- explains to aggrieved the procedure of protection of their rights and freedoms;
- takes measures on prevention and suppression of violations of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, on bringing to responsibility of persons, who violated the law and compensation of the damage.

In presence of foundations to assume that the violation of rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen has the character of a crime, a prosecutor takes measures in order persons, who committed the crime, would be exposed to criminal prosecution pursuant to the law.

In cases, when the violation of the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen has a character of administrative law violation, a prosecutor initiates a proceeding of administrative law violation or immediately transfers the message about the violation and inspection materials to the authority or an official that are authorized to consider cases on administrative violations.

In case of violation of the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, protected in the order of a civil court proceeding, when an aggrieved for health reasons, age or other reasons can not personally assert his rights and freedoms in the court or the arbitration court, or when rights and freedoms of a considerable number of citizens are violated either by virtue of other circumstances the violation acquired a special public significance, a prosecutor initiates and supports in the court of general jurisdiction or the arbitration court the action in the interest of the aggrieved.

7. Concerning the role of the prosecution authorities beyond the sphere of criminal court proceeding:

a) Has the European Court of Human Rights delivered judgments on this question with regards to your country? If yes, please specify the number of applications and dates of such judgments.

According to our information, such judgments were not delivered by the European Court of Human Rights.

b) Is there in your country a constitutional or another court that exercises the power by means of the constitutional court proceeding? If yes, please specify its main trends of activity.

The Russian Federation Constitutional Court works in the Russian Federation In accordance with p.3, art. 128 of the Russian Federation Constitution, powers, the order of establishment and activity of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court are established by the federal constitutional court.

In accordance with the art. 3 of the Federal Constitutional Law of 1994 On the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, the Constitutional Court, for the purpose of protection of foundations of the constitutional system, fundamental rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, provision of superiority and direct action of the Russian Federation Constitution in the whole territory of the Russian Federation:

1) adjudicates cases on conformance to the Russian Federation Constitution of:

a) federal laws, regulatory acts of the Russian Federation President, the Federation Council, the State Duma, the Russian Federation Government;

b) constitutions of republics, statutes, as well as laws and other regulatory acts of the Russian Federation subjects, published on issues, related to the competence of public authorities of the Russian Federation and the joint competence of public authorities of the Russian Federation and public authorities of the Russian Federation subjects;

c) contracts between public authorities of the Russian Federation and public authorities of the Russian Federation subjects, contracts between public authorities of the Russian Federation subjects;

d) international contracts of the Russian Federation that have not come to effect;

2) litigates controversies about the competence:

a) between the federal agencies of government bodies;

b) between public authorities of the Russian Federation and public authorities of the Russian Federation subjects;

c) between superior public authorities of the Russian Federation subjects;

3) on applications for violation of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens and on inquiries of courts checks the constitutionality of the law applied or subject to application in a certain case;

4) interprets the Russian Federation Constitution;

5) counsels on observance of the established order of charging the Russian Federation President in treason against the state or commitment of another grave crime;

6) advances the legislative initiative on issues of its competence.

In accordance with p.6, art. 35 of the Law, the Russian Federation General Prosecutor has the right to appeal to the Russian Federation Constitutional Court on the question of violation of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens by the law applied or subject to application in a certain case.

Moreover, in the absolute majority of the Russian Federation subjects, there are established constitutional (statutory) courts, which perform supervision of conformance of the legislation of these subjects with their constitutions (statutes).

8. Among powers of the prosecution authorities, acting beyond the criminal court proceeding, what, to your opinion, are the most important for strengthening of superiority of the law and protection of human rights?

It is not possible to highlight the most important line of activity of the Russian Federation prosecution authorities beyond the criminal-legal sphere,

because the prosecutor's office - is a multifunctional supervision authority over observance of the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation, having a certain set of powers for realization of its remedial function and being one of the main (alongside with courts) guaranties of observance of rights and legal interests of citizens.

The General Prosecutor's Office
The Russian Federation, November, 2007.