

**Mr. President, Senator Kerry,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW:**

***What has happened to
the dream of democracy
in Russia?***

and

***As President, what will
you do about it?***

As a nuclear power and a key contributor to world energy supplies, a stable and democratic Russia is vital to U.S. national interests.

President Bush and Senator Kerry will meet this week to debate issues of foreign policy. We urge them to explain how they will avert a return to authoritarianism in Russia, where:

- The free press is under siege. All broadcast television is under state control and print media is under constant threat.
- NGOs and human rights groups are threatened and accused of "foreign influence."
- The law is used arbitrarily to jail political opponents.
- Presidential and parliamentary elections do not meet international fairness standards.
- Governors will now be appointed, not elected, and the parliamentary electoral process will be amended to strengthen the president's power.

The United States can no longer afford to turn a blind eye while democracy in Russia vanishes.

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