

ANU CULTURES OF HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC LAW AND
CIVIL LIBERTIES AUSTRALIA PRESENT:



PUBLIC LECTURE

THE PROSECUTION OF MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY

Robert Amsterdam

Founding partner Amsterdam & Peroff, Toronto, Canada



Thursday 14 June 2007, 5.30–6.30pm

Law Theatre, ANU College of Law (Bldg 5)

Fellows Road, The Australian National University

This lecture is free and open to the public.

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THE LECTURE

Over the past four years, Robert Amsterdam has been defending political prisoner Mikhail Khodorkovsky—the former CEO of Russian oil giant Yukos. Mr Khodorkovsky was once Russia's richest man, and one of the country's highest-profile opponents of President Vladimir Putin.

In 2003, Mr Khodorkovsky was arrested along with his business associate, Platon Lebedov, on charges of fraud and theft of Russian state property. In 2005, Mr Khodorkovsky was sentenced to eight years in a Siberian prison, and has been repeatedly denied rights afforded to him as a prisoner under Russian and international law. These include obstruction of lawyers, cancellation of a family visit, degrading treatment and torture, and a series of unwarranted reprimands.

In February 2007, a new string of charges, for money laundering and embezzlement, was brought against Mr Khodorkovsky. The fresh case means that Mr Khodorkovsky will be unable to support democratic opposition parties in December's Duma elections, or in the 2008 'presidential coronation'.

In this lecture Robert Amsterdam will discuss the Khodorkovsky case, which he argues is not an isolated example of the dangerous economic, political and foreign policy developments now apparent in Russia; nor can it be regarded as a purely internal Russian matter.

THE LECTURER

Robert Amsterdam is the founding partner of the Toronto-based international law firm Amsterdam & Peroff, and a member of the Canadian and International Bar Associations. In his 25 years of practice, Robert has overseen numerous high profile cases including shareholder disputes, corporate restructuring, fraud and asset recovery, corporate and human rights advocacy, and complex commercial litigation. He is also a specialist advisor on political risk. Robert has worked in a variety of emerging markets, including Russia, Hungary, Nigeria, Venezuela and Guatemala, representing clients such as Price Waterhouse Coopers and the Four Seasons Hotel Group, among others. In 2003, he was retained by the former CEO of the Yukos Oil Company, Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

The views expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.

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