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Joint Statement from the Participants of the Other Russia Conference

On July 11-12, the All-Russia Civil Congress has convened the Other Russia conference in Moscow. We are gathering because while bureaucratic Russia has monopolized the right to speak on behalf of our people there is another Russia, a Russia where millions of people are living under very different social and political conditions. These two Russias are different countries and we wish to make this situation clear. The Russian government is doing its utmost to prevent this forum from taking place and to discredit the ideas it represents. Those in the government fear the truth, fear us, and fear for their political future.

We are gathering together because we are united in our disagreement with the current political course of the Kremlin and united in our alarm for the present and future of our country. We are gathering together despite our disparate views on the past and future of Russia. We are gathering together although our visions differ on how our country can become free and prosperous. Despite our many differences we are united in the belief that the citizens of the Russian Federation can reach our goals only by following, preserving, and fighting for the democratic principle of organizing government and society, a firm foundation of human rights that is not dependent on national, religious, or social identity, respect for opposing views in keeping with the Russian Constitution, freedom of speech, a level political playing field, and justice in the distribution of public wealth produced by a free people.

We are fighting against the transformation of Russia into a country where the nomenclatura rule arbitrarily, where the institutions of democracy and civil society are steadily obliterated, where the electoral process is controlled by the executive office and thus made into a farce, where the government exhibits contempt for the interests of the majority of our people. We believe it is of vital importance to clean the country of pan-Russian bigotry and xenophobia, and of a culture of bureaucratic theft that is looting our national treasures.

We are gathering together to fight for the triumph of the rule of law in our country. We believe that these stated principles must unite people and society, not divide them. Our Constitution states: "The multinational people of the Russian Federation shall be the vehicle of sovereignty and the only source of power in the Russian Federation." By our statement and joint participation in the Other Russia conference we want to bring the power back to the people in the interest of all the citizens of Russia.

Lyudmila Alekseeva – Moscow Helsinki Group

Viktor Anpilov – Workers' Russia

Mikhail Delyagin – Institute for Globalization Issues

Yuri Dzhibladze - Center for Development of Democracy and Human Rights

Garry Kasparov – United Civil Front

Mikhail Kasyanov – People’s Democratic Union
Eduard Limonov – National Bolshevik Party
Yelena Lukyanova – Law Professor at Moscow State University
Vladimir Ryzhkov – Republican Party of Russia
Georgy Satarov – Information Science for Democracy (INDEM)