

## **Risk mitigation and threat assessment: The ARK. Khodorkovsky and the Armenia & Turkey connection**

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According to sources and also known to me in view of my expertise from 1994 until now, it has been established and known for 25 years that political, economic and strategic interests are at stake in the casuistry. In the worst-case scenario, the integrity of the democratic legal order, the financial system and the political dependence that can result from economic dependence have already been gradually damaged and compromised.

**The Ark.** The support group for immigrants who left Russia as a result of the war against Ukraine. Funded by Western front man the former Russian money launderer and robber baron oligarch Michael Khodorkovsky. Well all is not what it seems. Altruism? Absolutely not. Destabilization of Armenia as an end goal at the behest of DC just to sideline Russia.

According to Khodorkovsky newsletter and press release: Since the beginning of the Putin's war, hundreds of thousands of Russians have left their country. Many just quit with no clear plan, savings or a job. Tens of thousands have fled to Istanbul, which became a haven for the current Russian exile. While most of Europe has closed its skies, Turkish Airlines continued to fly, enabling thousands to escape. Other tens of thousands more have gone to Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, countries, which are historically better known as sources of migration to Russia.

Some who have fled so far are journalists or activists who feared arrest under Russia's new law criminalising what the Kremlin calls "false information" about the war. Many others are artists who see no future for themselves in Russia. And there are also people working in IT and technology, law and many other industries who saw the prospect leading of normal life — let alone any possibility for moral acceptance of Kremlin's government — disappear completely.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky started, together with the members of the Anti-War Committee, funding a project called "Kovcheg" — "The Ark" — which is providing housing in Istanbul and Yerevan, free consultancy and is looking also for psychologists to offer emotional support.

The Ark is a support group for Russian refugees escaping from Russia because of their anti-war position, who condemn the military aggression against Ukraine and see no opportunity for themselves to live in Putin's Russia. It helps Russian citizens who left the country after Putin's aggression against Ukraine. Most of them are in serious trouble: bank cards are blocked, no savings, renting an apartment is nearly impossible because of the huge flow of people leaving Russia.

And where does The Ark help? Anastasia Burakova, who leads the project, clarifies: “We provide free accommodation in Yerevan and Istanbul as well as consultancy regarding documents and orientation services, but also free consultations in several other countries.”

She adds: “Beside free accommodation for the initial period we give advice on obtaining documents for residence, opening bank accounts, getting visas, we consult legal questions and, what is also very important, we meet and connect Russian refugees with others being in the same, challenging situation.”

Okay! Perfect PR again. Nice front and cover for dirty games within Armenia.

Playing off Russia in South Caucasus has been going on since the January 2023 retiring Pelosi made a flash visit to Armenia, to show her support. This is a question, which cannot be answered in the affirmative. Certainly not after her visit to Taiwan. Her visits have an underlying meaning, which is to promote the interests of Washington DC and not Armenia.

Ukraine had been an important link in the US' multi-year strategic objective, as after this the chain could be extended towards Georgia. Securing natural resources and a direct line in the Caucasus between Georgia and Azerbaijan and even further towards Turkmenistan and the Caspian Sea. Pan-Turkism also fits into this picture and therefore shows, that Armenia is a stand in the way of the Wolfowitz doctrine (since 1990) and the Neocon and Lib/Dem establishment in DC, who simply want to implement this doctrine. The colour revolutions in Ukraine and Georgia are the interpretation of this. Whether it is all a success is very much in doubt at the moment.

**Some additional information about good old friend of Putin. Well, not really.**

*It is interesting to see the reactions of the Russian oligarchs.*

Knowing, that after the fall of communism at the time of the Yeltsin period, these persons acquired almost all of Russia through Financial-Industrial Groups (FIG). And not always through legal means, but also through illegal means and brutal violence. The FIGs and oligarchs had no understanding of the international financial world and structures and were assisted by Western lawyers, accountants and other trust specialists. Most of these firms were based in the UK and the UK financial spiderweb of former colonies.

In fact, there was a sell-out of Russia's strategic industry (oil, gas, steel and banking system). This took place in the period from 1990-2005. Capital flight and tax avoidance and evasion, money laundering structures and annual funnelling of billions in Russian money.

When Yeltsin resigned and was given immunity from Putin, the latter began a renationalization of Russia's strategic industry, otherwise, there would be a huge risk that

Russia would be controlled by foreign shareholders and stakeholders. A valid argument from a Russian point of view.

The renationalization was accompanied by a gentleman's agreement between Putin and the oligarchs. This included the following: The oligarchs were NOT allowed to interfere in Russia's political affairs.

An example of an oligarch who broke this accord was Michael Khodorkovsky (FIG Menatep-Yukos Oil) and he disappeared to Siberia for years and the FIG was renationalized in the well-known Russian way.

Many other oligarchs adhered to the accord (Abramovich and Fridman being some well-known examples).

With some oligarchs feeling the financial pain of sanctions and other international measures, there is some commotion among them. Some of them respond publicly or withdraw their responses afterwards due to internal pressure.

But knowing that the oligarchs are also afraid of the reactions of Putin and the faithful. The consequences are not good for them. Putin does not listen to them, he has tolerated them for the last 20 years and or uses them as a domestic and foreign policy tool.

Putin only listens (especially now) to his small group within the FSB, SVR and the military. The oligarchs do not belong to this and they know it (see the cases of Khodorkovsky, Berezovsky, Litvinenko, Curtis, Samuelson are shining examples for them).

*According to source information:*

"The Khodorkovsky file was a set-up by the US and UK to eventually obtain the Yukos oil fields. Geopolitical games. Yeltsin and his oligarchs sold out Russia and Putin put a stop to it." ...

"Sanctions against Putin and Russia now and the staged Ukrainian story? Hypocrisy of the highest order." ...

"In 1988, CIA-front Riggs Bank bought a controlling interest in a little known company based in the Isle of Man called the Valmet Group. According to the 9/11 report, Riggs-Valmet "immediately began business contracts with Russian KGB operatives," and it was this relationship that led to the creation of Khodorkovsky's Bank Menatep. Both Riggs-Valmet and Menatep then became conduits for moving KGB money out of Russia. In 1994, Riggs reduced its stake in Valmet after Menatep purchased a 25% share in the company." ...

"So not only was Valmet allegedly used to stash Yukos assets, if you remember my last post, this means it was tied in with the Bank of New York money laundering scandal and the missing IMF funds." ...

"Khodorkovsky was once the richest man in Russia because of his companies, Bank Menatep and Yukos, which were both tied to the KGB, Valmet, the CIA-front company, Riggs Bank, the Bank of New York scandal, and the missing 7 billion USD IMF funds." ...

"Mentioned KGB operatives were during the Yeltsin era. Not Putin's. Also is known that former KGB employees worked for oligarchs after the fall of the USSR."

You can ask yourself the legal question if the 50 billion USD claim of the former Yukos shareholders are still valid after reading this article. Multiple verdicts are based on insufficient legal grounds because of the lack of all necessary financial information. According to source information all verdicts were based on incomplete grounds and should be dismissed. A proper look into the whole picture shed a no go for the former Yukos shareholders and their 50 billion USD claim towards the Russian state.

Perhaps a settlement between the US and Russia to close the file after the dust in the Ukraine is gone?

In 2013, by the way, Dutch PM Rutte and Foreign Affairs Minister Timmermans appeased Putin and oligarchs in the NL embassy in Kyiv. Advertising!

So the ARTEMIS 2001-2003 investigation was not a frivolous or bogus affair, but hard-nosed financial geopolitics that showed that Russia needed to be financially squeezed and robbed of its assets.

*Source confirmation of the parallel reason of the sell out of Russia with the support of money laundering and tax evasion schemes of an oligarch/robber-baron:*

"More than 17 years ago, on June 23, 2005, an annual meeting of shareholders of the oil company Yukos took place" ...

"Apart from that, in May 2005, the Meschansky District Court of Moscow passed a guilty sentence upon Mikhail Khodorkovsky for a series of economic crimes, including tax affairs. Nevertheless, the gathered in the meeting headed by the former main banker Viktor Geraschenko, radiated optimism. He didn't mention that the losses were the result of activities of Khodorkovsky if not direct accomplices of machinations"...

"Apart from that, the banker admitted that in 2003 Yukos had been preparing to sell at least 40% of its shares for more than 25 billions USD to one on the biggest US and UK oil companies" ...

"Negative ramifications of such selling had been obvious. The US/UK would have disposed of Russia's mineral resources through Khodorkovsky. For that Russia would have constantly pointed at its inferiority and would have constantly given instructions by the US/UK."

On May 20, 2022, the Russian Ministry of Justice included Khodorkovsky in the list of foreign agents.

Further according to sources Khodorkovsky has financed the US proposal to increase the military help to Ukraine up to 1 billion USD a year and the UK thesis about "Why Minsk-2 cannot solve the Ukraine crisis"

How? By breaching again the gentlemen's agreement between the oligarchs and Putin not to interfere with state interests.

It is known that he and his the foundation Future of Russia is one of the key sponsors of the analytical center The Atlantic Council, attached to NATO and the British center Chatham House.

Even the former US ambassador in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution expresses warm gratitude to Khodorkovsky's foundation.

The Atlantic Council confirms the fact of the financing by Future of Russia Foundation on the list of its benefactors. Chatham House confirms that Khodorkovsky's Future of Russia Foundation is its constant sponsor.

The yearly funding of both is between 100,000 and 150,000 GBP each.

Questions are raised. Which state pursues an active policy and interferes in the affairs of other states? Is it, really, only Russia, as the political analysts from The Atlantic Council and Chatham House assure, among others bought with the money of Khodorkovsky's foundation?

*According to source information:*

In 1998, Khodorkovsky had been released in the IMF case in which he was accused of helping to launder USD 10 billion through his own Menatep bank and the BoNY. He had very influential friends in the USA, it turned out. Look further in the Edmund Safra saga.

With his billions, in fact, stolen from the Russian people, he made some powerful friends. He set up a foundation on the model of the Open Society of American Soros, which he called the Open Russia Foundation. He invited two powerful men to the board of directors: Kissinger and Jacob Rothschild. He then forged links with some of the most powerful circles in DC, where he was appointed to the advisory board of the private equity firm Carlyle Group, where he attended board meetings with fellow advisers such as George H.W. Bush and James Baker III.

Khodorkovsky landed behind bars in Russia was the fact that he was also engaged in a US-backed coup to win the Russian presidency during the planned 2004 Russian Duma elections. He lost because the plot failed miserably and the rest is history. Obama and Hillary had their value judgements ready, of course.

At the time of his arrest, Khodorkovsky was negotiating through his Carlyle friend Bush, father of then-President George W. Bush, the sale of 40% of Yukos to either Rice's former company, Chevron or ExxonMobil, in a move that would have dealt a crippling blow to the only asset Russia had left to use in rebuilding Russia's devastated economy: oil and exports via state-owned pipelines to the West for USD. During the subsequent Russian state prosecution of Yukos, it came to light that Khodorkovsky had also secretly contracted with UK's Lord Rothschild not only to support Russian culture through Khodorkovsky's Open Russia Foundation but also to support the Russian economy. In the event of his possible arrest (Khodorkovsky apparently knew he was playing a risky game by trying to stage a coup against Putin), 40% of his Yukos shares would pass into Lord Rothschild's hands.

*Pecunia Universal Ltd? Yukos Finance BV? The Isle of Man and NL?*

A proper look into the whole picture shed a no go for the former Yukos shareholders and their 50 billion USD claim towards the Russian state.

So a final verdict based on all the facts in the case referred back by the Supreme Court to the Amsterdam Court of Appeal will make Justice prevail.

Khodorkovsky was once the richest man in Russia because of his companies, Bank Menatep and Yukos. We all know what happened to him.

An interesting diagram portrays the way in which the Menatep/Yukos oligarchs transferred their shares in a number of complicated stages ultimately hiding their ownership.

As previously reported, they were assisted by UK specialists such as Peter Michael Bond, Stephen Curtis, Christopher Samuelson and Valmet Trust. Many suspicious transactions went through the recently bankrupt Russian bank the Amsterdam Trade Bank in the Netherlands.

This concerns hundreds of millions of USD transactions, the majority of which ultimately ended up via Russia, Switzerland and the Netherlands with a shell company managed by the above-mentioned trust company on the Isle of Man with the exotic name Pecunia Universal Ltd. And this is just the money laundering scheme, a snapshot. But hard facts. This is purely meant for money laundering.

The former shareholders and oligarchs of Yukos Oil, namely: Hulley Enterprises Ltd (Cyprus), Yukos Finance Ltd (Isle of Man) and Veteran Petroleum Ltd (Cyprus), formerly GML (Gibraltar) have made since 2014 an absurd claim of more than USD 50 billion to the Russian Federation for the expropriation and bankruptcy of Yukos Oil.

See the comparison of Yukos Finance Ltd and Pecunia Universal Ltd (Isle of Man) and the same period, namely 1999/2000. A stock shell company and a money bag shell company.

And as you may know, the Dutch case has been referred back to the Amsterdam Court of Appeal after the Supreme Court overturned the two verdicts of the Hague Court of Appeal from 2018 and 2020 at the end of 2021. The reason was fraudulent information by the claimants from the start of all lawsuits. Also, the same sort of case is ongoing in de USA.

Going back to my previous statement, the links between Khodorkovsky, Kissinger and Rothshild are concerned. See the name change from the Open Russian Foundation to the Future of Russia Foundation and scroll down.

<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/04529663/officers>

Then you will encounter them yourself.