

BRITISH HUMAN-RIGHTS LAWYER DENIED ENTRY TO RUSSIA. Great Britain has asked Russia for an explanation as to why a British attorney seeking to observe the controversial trial of a journalist was denied entry to Russia, Reuters reported on 18 November. Bill Bowring was planning to travel to Nizhnii Novgorod to observe the trial of Stanislav Dmitrievskii, a newspaper editor who was arrested for printing an article by deceased Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov in which he called for talks to end the conflict in the breakaway region. Prosecutors opened a criminal case against Dmitrievskii for inciting "hatred or enmity on the basis of ethnicity or religion." Bowring, founder of the London-based European Human Rights Advocacy Center, was detained upon arrival at Moscow's main international airport, questioned for four hours, and ultimately refused entry despite having a valid visa. "We have concerns and we are quite surprised. We have taken up our concerns with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a high level," said Alan Holmes, a spokesman for the British Embassy.

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