

GARRY KASPAROV



Garry Kasparov was born on 13 April 1963 in Baku (now Azerbaijan) in a family of engineers. Russian chess grandmaster and former World Chess Champion, he is recently famous for his involvement in Russian politics.

Kasparov's political involvement started in the 1980s. He joined the Communist Party in 1984, and in 1987 was elected to the Central Committee of *Komsomol*. In 1990, however, he left the party, and in May of that year took part in the creation of the **Democratic Party** of Russia. In June 1993, Kasparov was involved in the creation of the "Choice of Russia" bloc of parties, and in 1996 he took part in the election campaign of Boris Yeltsin. In 2001 he voiced his support for the Russian television TV channel NTV.

In 1991 he received Keeper of the Flame award from the Center for Security Policy for anti-Communist resistance and the propagation of democracy.

After his retirement from chess in 2005, Kasparov turned to politics and created the **United Civil Front**, a social movement whose main goal is to "work to preserve electoral democracy in Russia." He has vowed to "restore democracy" to Russia by toppling the elected Russian president Vladimir Putin, of whom he is an outspoken critic.

Kasparov has joined **The Other Russia**, a coalition including Eduard Limonov's National Bolshevik Party and the hard-left Workers' Party of Viktor Anpilov, which opposes the elected government of Vladimir Putin. The group has been boycotted by Russia's democratic opposition parties, Yabloko and Union of Right Forces for containing nationalist, fascist and hard-left groups and organisations.

On April 10, 2005, Kasparov was in Moscow at a promotional event when he was struck over the head with a chessboard he had just signed. The assailant was reported to have said "I admired you as a chess player, but you gave that up for politics" immediately before the attack. Kasparov has been the subject of a number of other episodes since.

Kasparov helped organize the **Saint Petersburg Dissenters' March** on March 3, 2007 and The March of the Dissenters on March 24, 2007, both involving several

thousand people rallying against Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saint Petersburg Governor Valentina Matviyenko's policies. On April 14, he was briefly arrested by the Moscow police while heading for a demonstration. He was held for some 10 hours, and then fined 1000 rubles (~\$38) and released.

He was summoned by FSB (Federal Security Service) for questioning as a suspect in violations of Russian anti-extremism laws. This law was applied previously for conviction of Boris Stomakhin and closing of Russian-Chechen Friendship Society.

In April, 2007 it became known that Garry Kasparov is a board member of the **National Security Advisory Council of Center for Security Policy**, a "non-profit, non-partisan national security organization that specializes in identifying policies, actions, and resource needs that are vital to American security". Kasparov confirmed this and added that he was removed shortly after he was aware of it. He noted that he didn't know about the membership and suggested he was included in the board by an accident. However, Garry Kasparov received the 1991 Flame award from the Center for Security Policy. The Center for Security Policy nominates this award to recognize those "individuals who have enhanced American security".