

Yukos Trial Nears New Phase

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The second Yukos trial will enter a new phase after Moscow's Khamovnichesky District Court on Wednesday wrapped up 19 months of hearings during which prosecutors and the defendants examined and discussed the investigation's materials.

Now both sides will present arguments at hearings starting Oct. 14, Itar-Tass reported.

Former Yukos co-owners Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev were convicted of fraud and tax evasion in 2005 but are on trial on similar charges. They call both cases politically motivated. ■

(MT)

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