

# Artists Criticize Kremlin

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

Fourteen prominent public figures have denounced the "paralyzed presidency of Dmitry Medvedev" in an open letter published by Ekho Moskvu radio on Monday.

Signees, who include movie stars Lia Akhedzhakova and Oleg Basilashvili, directors Yury Norshtein and Eldar Ryazanov, economist Yevgeny Yasin and rights champion Sergei Kovalyov, have called the Kremlin to ensure that the upcoming State Duma elections in December are free and open to political opposition.

Medvedev will not comment on the letter, his spokeswoman told Itar-Tass.

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