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**INVITATION**

The Hudson Institute and Transparency International Latvia (Sabiedrība par atklātību - Delna) are pleased to invite you to the seminar

**CORRUPTION AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY:**

**KLEPTOCRACY INITIATIVE**

on **Tuesday, August 2nd, at 10:30** in the EU House, 28 Aspazijas bulvaris, 1st floor, Riga

The Hudson Institute’s Kleptocracy Initiative program, based in Washington D.C., is a global policy initiative. Putin’s kleptocracy, which poses a real threat to the Baltic countries, makes them a frontline in this battle. Therefore, the main goal of the seminar is to draw attention to the problem, frame it in terms of national security and incite a robust public discourse on the issue.

During the two-hour seminar, **Peter Podkopaev**, a researcher of Russia and Eurasia with the Kleptocracy Initiative, will present on the Initiative, including its goals and achievements in the U.S. in addition to showcasing the program’s archive. The Kleptocracy Archive could be a useful tool for journalists within the Baltic States, as it contains many documents on Putin’s kleptocracy which were not publicly available up until the release of the archive earlier this year.

**Marius Laurinavičius**, a leading Lithuanian expert on Russia who currently works as a fellow for the Hudson Institute, will discuss why Baltic states should be considered as frontline states to Putin’s kleptocracy and why it is a matter of national security.

**Nikita Kulachenkov**, an investigator for the Anti-Corruption Foundation (also known as the Alexei Navalny foundation) will explain how Putin’s kleptocracy works both home and abroad.

**Aldis Austers,** a researcher from the Latvian Institute of International Affairswill focus on the situation in Latvia.

**Vytis Jurkonis**, the lecturer of IIRPS (Vilnius University) and project director of Freedom House office in Vilnius will talk about why transparency and prevention of corruption should be included into the components of national security.

The seminar will end with a Q&A session. The availability for press interviews will be before and after the event. The discussion will be held in English; please find the agenda attached. Please register online by 1st August 2016: <http://ej.uz/geuc>

Additional information on the Initiative is available at <http://kleptocracyinitiative.org>

Sincerely,

Charles Davidson,

Executive Director, The Kleptocracy Initiative, Hudson Institute

Publisher, The American Interest

Janis Volberts,

Director

Transparency International Latvia