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STATEMENT BY RUSSIAN UNION OF JOURNALISTS

Anna Politkovskaya has been killed. She made safely dozens of trips to the North Caucasus and here, at the entrance of her home, in the elevator, this happened: she was brutally murdered...

Being a woman of extraordinary courage and character, she was and remained, till the very end, as an example of a journalist who, under all circumstances, can (and MUST – as she demanded also from her colleagues) write at the dictation only of her conscience, not obeying to any circumstances. As her late colleague, Yuri Shekochikhin, she was “unscrupulous choosing her enemies”. The stronger, meanness and revengeful her enemies were – the implicitly and furiously she attacked them. She was never compromising in her fight for truth, and proved that truth to everyone who read and listened to her. She was hated for that, threatened for that and harassed for that. Once she was even poisoned in the direct sense of word.

She got a great many prestigious professional awards, national and international, including the highest award of Russian Union of Journalists: “Golden Pen of Russia” and “For courage and professionalism”. But let us say ourselves - that was only small part of the recognition she deserved.

She worked tremendously hard – only this year her “*Novaya Gazeta*” has published more than 100 of her materials. And today when we must find killers and those who ordered this killing, let’s remember ABOUT WHAT Anna Politkovskaya wrote: Nord-Ost, Beslan, kidnapping and tortures of people in Chechnya, violation of human rights, arbitrariness and crimes of authorities.

Let’s speak frankly – she could not be killed for anything else.

That’s why it is so important that the answer to the question WHO? – the society could receive and could make conclusions out of it.

The RUJ Secretariat