

Write for Rights
Make a difference

3-17 December 2011

Justice for
Natalia Estemirova
Russian Federation



ACT NOW

Write to the President of the Russian Federation:

- Calling for an independent, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of Natalia Estemirova, including an investigation into the possible involvement of government officials or members of the security forces.
- Urging the authorities to take steps to protect the right to life and right to freedom of expression of civil society activists and to show respect for their lawful human rights work.

Send appeals to:

Dmitry Anatolievich Medvedev
President of the Russian Federation
ul. Ilyinka, 23
103132 Moscow
Russian Federation

Fax: +7 495 9102134

Send a message of solidarity:

Cards can be sent in solidarity to Memorial Human Rights Centre and to Natalia Estemirova's family c/o Memorial. Please do not send religious cards.

Memorial Human Rights Centre
103051 Malyi Karetnyi pereulok, 12
Moscow
Russian Federation

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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English

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

www.amnesty.org/individuals-at-risk

ACT NOW FOR Natalia Estemirova



Russian human rights activist Natalia Estemirova was abducted and killed by armed men on 15 July 2009 in Grozny, Chechnya. According to eyewitnesses, she was forced into a car outside her home and driven away. She was able to shout out that she was being abducted. Her body was found a few hours later in the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia. She had been shot at point-blank range.

A history teacher by training, Natalia Estemirova had worked since 2000 for the Memorial Human Rights Centre in the North Caucasus. She gathered eyewitness accounts of crimes against humanity committed in the second Chechen conflict, such as a mass killing in the village of Novye Aldy. Natalia Estemirova worked with journalist Anna Politkovskaya on many of her trips to the Chechen Republic and helped her to make contact with victims of human rights violations. Anna Politkovskaya was shot dead in the elevator of her apartment block in October 2006.

In an increasingly restrictive environment in Chechnya, where freedom of the media and the work of human rights organizations were under serious threat, Natalia Estemirova was one of a few people who dared to publish information about human rights violations in which government officials might have been involved. She told Amnesty International about threats by Chechen President

Ramzan Kadyrov against her, her daughter, and also against Anna Politkovskaya. Following one such threat in March 2008, she had to leave the country for several weeks.

In July 2009, Natalia Estemirova spoke to the media about the enforced disappearance of a young man from hospital, where he had been under police guard, as well as a separate case of alleged extrajudicial execution. She was reportedly told by the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Chechen Republic that her comments to the media had upset the authorities in Chechnya and that she had put herself at a risk by speaking out. Several days later she was killed.

In spite of several statements at a high level, including by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that this crime would be solved and the perpetrators brought to justice, there are still no reliable signs that those involved in the murder, including those who might have ordered it, will be brought to justice.

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