



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES EDITEURS  
INTERNATIONALE VERLEGER - UNION

INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION  
UNION INTERNACIONAL DE EDITORES

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**International Publishers condemn the killing of Anna Politkovskaya and urge the Russian authorities to lead a thorough investigation**

**Geneva, 10 October 2006**

The International Publishers Association vehemently condemns the killing in Moscow of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

Anna Politkovskaya, an opposition journalist working for *Novaya Gazeta* and a fierce critic of the war in Chechnya, was shot to death on Saturday, 7 October 2006 in Moscow. Her body was reportedly found in the elevator in the building where she lived."

IPA had only recently invited this courageous journalist and writer to address a session on Freedom of Expression and Democratisation at the Göteborg Book Fair on 22 September 2006. Other speakers included EU Enlargement Commissioner Rehn. Sadly, she had to cancel her trip to Göteborg at the last minute.

"The murder of Anna Politkovskaya is not only a tragedy and an attack on journalism, but also an attack on freedom of expression. The murderers want to send a powerful message of fear. It is important that all publishers, all media and all democratic forces stand together in defence of the basic principles of democracy and freedom" said Ana Maria Cabanellas, IPA President.

"The Russian authorities must lead a thorough investigation. We need to know who killed Anna Politkovskaya, and who ordered the attack." also declared IPA Freedom to Publish Committee Chair Bjørn Smith-Simonsen of Norway who added "Anna was rightly admired within Human rights and Freedom of Expression circles. She was an example. In partnership with our partner organisations, we will do our best to ensure that the condemnation of this atrocious act is also exemplary".

**More about IPA:**

IPA, established in Paris in 1896, represents the publishing industry worldwide through 78 national, regional and specialised publishers associations in 66 countries. IPA is an accredited Non-Governmental Organisation enjoying consultative status to the United Nations. IPA seeks to promote and defend the fundamental freedoms to publish, to read and to write, defending the rights of authors and publishers to create and distribute intellectual works in complete freedom.

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