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**Killing of an independent journalist in Russia:
isn't it consonant with serial political killings in Kyrgyzstan?**

“Citizens Against Corruption” Human Rights Center, members of “Pluralism” international network, and members of “People Changing the World” solidarity network express their condolence to all workers of independent mass-media of Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and the world regarding the irreplaceable loss of a brilliant journalist of Russian Federation Anna Politkovskaya.

Some of us knew Anna in person, as a journalist sharing a principal position regarding the matters of reservation of independence by mass-media, and as an international human rights monitor that threw light upon the full scale of violations of human rights in Chechen Republic and other hot spots of Caucasus.

Finding Anna Politkovskaya’s killers and determining their real motives is supposed to become one of the main priorities of Russian government and state Duma’s activities, because this killing can be regarded as another act against freedom of speech and democracy in Russian Federation.

It the matter of fact that the President of Russian Federation V. Putin undermined his authority as a democratic ruler by ignoring severe violations of human rights committed by Russian forces in Chechnya, and by contributing to accumulation of conflict with Georgia. Besides in January 2006 he promoted legislative limitation of activity of civil and international organizations, particularly of those functioning in Chechen Republic, in secrecy from the representatives of civil society, plus V. Putin is maintaining cooperative relations with such world-known dictators as S. Niyazov and A. Lukashenko.

The authorities should always keep in mind that the very purpose of existence of any state is providing social safety to all its citizens and guaranteeing supremacy of law. The legal structures of a state are always supposed to provide effective investigation of circumstances of killings as well of any other forms of illegal interruption of the activities of independent mass-media and human rights activists, because in fact the independent mass-media and human rights organizations are the only force informing the citizens about the government violating the obligations it has to the citizens.

This way, the systematic persecution of journalists and human rights defenders, and impunity of structures responsible for that, plus the total inactivity of investigating bodies in searching the reasons and initiators of persecutions are basically just another step the Russian authorities took towards authoritarianism.

Such violations are just as peculiar to Kyrgyzstan – under Akayev’s regime as well as after the revolution of March 2005. These are the recent series of unsolved political killings, destruction of equipment of “Piramida” TV channel by unknown robbers, periodic beating of human rights activists and independent journalists, inactivity of Prosecutor General’s Office in investigation of such cases – these tendencies make the civil society of Kyrgyzstan alerted about the direction of further activity of current Kyrgyz authorities.

It’s obvious that most of strategies the Russian government implements are usually adopted by Kyrgyz government, today as well as that used to be during the Soviet times. The examples of this tendency are the Kyrgyz government’s initiative in changing the law “About non-commercial organizations”, promotion of the law controlling functioning of political opposition, their attempts of closing such international organizations as Freedom House functioning in Kyrgyz Republic, and proclamation of the official state’s politics in struggling against terrorism that seriously impacts lives of regular citizens.

The Human Rights Center calls upon the Russian government to find and make answerable those guilty of Anna Politkovskaya's death, and by any means guarantee the safety of activity of workers of independent mass-media and human rights activists.

It is just as important for Kyrgyz Republic. The Human Rights Center hopes that the international experts and human rights organizations will cooperate in holding an independent investigation of Polikovskaya's killing as well as of any other cases of violation of rights of independent journalists and human rights monitors in Russia as well as in Kyrgyz Republic.

Concerning any questions or comments contact "Citizens Against Corruption" Human Rights Center,

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