

**TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead urging that the Russian government ensure that the investigation into the murder of Anna Politkovskaya is carried out in a manner that is transparent and free from bias.**

October 12, 2007

His Excellency Vladimir Putin  
President of the Russian Federation  
Office of the President  
4 Staraya Square, the Kremlin  
Moscow 103132  
Fax: +011 7 095 206 5173 / 206 6277 / 230 2408  
E-mail: president@gov.ru

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN, concerning the investigation into the murder of **Anna Politkovskaya**. This past week International PEN and writers' organizations worldwide have mourned the first anniversary of the death of Politkovskaya, a journalist for *Novaya Gazeta*, murdered outside her home in Moscow on 7 October 2006.

PEN Canada is pleased that an investigation is under way. But we note that there are concerns about the way the investigation is being carried out. Only a full, proper and fair trial will provide assurances that the Russian government is ready to address the impunity that the killers of the many other journalists who have died for their reporting apparently enjoy in Russia today.

We urge you to ensure that the investigation into the murder of Anna Politkovskaya is carried out in a manner that is transparent and free from bias, to ensure that true justice is found. Successful prosecution of those responsible for such deaths is the most effective means of demonstrating that such acts are not tolerated and that those who seek to silence their critics through assassination will not go unpunished.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

**Copies to:**

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Human Rights Ombudsmen  
The Russian Federation  
Tel/Fax +011 7 495 207 53 37

Ella Pamfilova  
Head, President's Council on Democracy and Human Rights  
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Embassy of the Russian Federation in Ottawa  
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Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations  
136 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10021  
Fax: +1 212 628 0252 or 517 7427

**Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:**

The Hon. Maxime Bernier  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
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