

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

Your Excellency

I am writing you on behalf of Natalia Estemirova that was killed, after being abducted by armed men in July 2009, in Grozny, Chechnya. Miss Estemirova worked for the Memorial Human Rights Centre in the North Caucasus, gathering eyewitness accounts of crimes against humanity committed in the second Chechen conflict.

To the date, there are no reliable signs that those involved in the murder will be brought to justice.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to Your Excellency 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.

I also call on your Excellency to urge 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.

Yours Sincerely,