

Dear All,

Well wishers of Chechnya the world over have been deeply shocked by the brutal killing of Natalya Estemirova. On Wednesday 16 July she was snatched in broad daylight from central Grozny and her body found a few hours later in neighbouring Ingushetia with two close range bullet wounds to her head.

Natalia was 50 years old, a widowed single mother of a young girl, and a fantastically courageous and principled woman. After the assassination of her close friend Anna Politkovskaya in 2006, she remained Chechnya's foremost defender of Human Rights. Working for Memorial from a small office in Grozny she tirelessly investigated and confronted the Russian authorities of their complicity in kidnappings, torture and extra-judicial killings.

That she herself should fall victim to such a death is a deep indictment of the climate of impunity that prevails in Chechnya today.

An Early Day Motion (EDM 1903) has been tabled in the House of Commons to condemn the Natalya's death and to call on the UK Government to raise her case with the Russian authorities as a matter of urgency:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=39125&SESSION=899>

Please support this motion by contacting your MP and asking them to sign the EDM.

A template letter may be downloaded:

[http://groups.google.com/group/savechechnya/web/EDM\\_MP\\_letter.doc](http://groups.google.com/group/savechechnya/web/EDM_MP_letter.doc)

You can find your local MP here:

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

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Save Chechnya Campaign