

Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi Mar 14 * 25 tweets * P_Kallioniemi/status/1635619867704324096

In today's <u>#vatniksoup</u> I'm going to be talking about the most dangerous profession in Russia: journalism. Many investigative journalists have sacrificed their lives to shed light into corruption, kleptocracy and war crimes committed in both Soviet Union and in Russia.

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Journalists working in Russia and not toeing the Kremlin line live under constant threat of being attacked, stigmatized as "foreign agents", or even killed. Partly for this reason, as of 2022, Russia ranks 155 out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index.





As the Soviet Union and Russia were and can be dangerous places, many journalists have died as a result of their work, for example in crossfire incidents and purely criminal or domestic cases of manslaughter. But many of them have also been targeted by contract killings,...





...often orchestrated by Russia's vast intelligence and espionage network in collaboration with the organized crime syndicates. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has concluded that Russia was and is one of the deadliest countries in the world for journalists,



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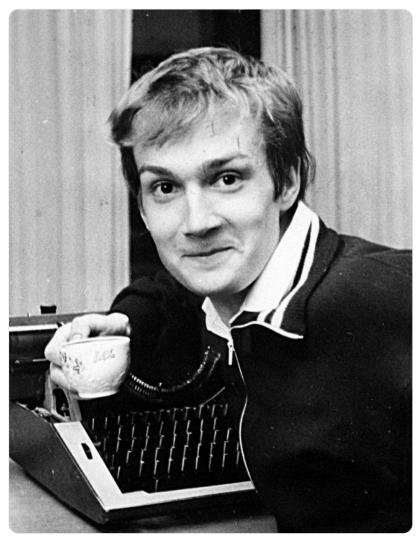
...and that their murders often remain unsolved. Between 1993 and 2009, a total of 365 journalists were killed: 165 of these cases were classified as murder and only 50 of these cases went to trial.

I'll talk briefly about some well-known journalists who have died and ...

President	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ρ	Р	Р	Ρ	Ρ	Р	Р	Р	P–M	м	
Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
Murder, crossfire, terrorist act	10	12	22	18	10	10	11	17	12	23	11	12	5	13	3	5	6	200
Murder only	3	8	16	12	10	10	8	15	11	20	11	10	4	13	3	5	6	165
Trials	-	-	-	1	1	4	4	3	1	3	3	6	2	7	5	4	2	50

...whose death was with certainty linked to their investigative work and journalism.

Dmitry Kholodov - Dmitry was a Russian journalist, working for the national newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets, investigating corruption in the Russian military during the 90s. He witnessed... 6/24



...and reported on the ethnic cleansing of Georgians in Abkhazia in 1993, after which he started reporting on the high-level corruption and misuse of funds in the military. He was due to speak in a Duma hearing about the issue, but before he could do that, he was...

...assassinated with a booby-trapped briefcase. Kholodov's murder was an indisputable killing of a journalist due to their investigative work. Six men with military background were brought to trial over the murder, but they were all eventually acquitted.





From left, Pavel Popovskikh, Alexander Kapuntsev, Konstantin Barkovsky, Alexander Soroka, Vladimir Morozov, and Konstantin Mirzayants stand trial for the murder of Dmitry Kholodov in Moscow on June 10, 2004.

Anatoly Levin-Utkin - Anatoly was a journalist and deputy editor of the newspaper Yuridichesky Peterburg Segodnya. He worked on open source research long before online databases and massive caches of public data. He was involved in an investigation on Vladimir Putin...

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...after Putin was pointed as the head of FSB. His paper released an article that suggested that Putin's appointment as FSB director violated the agency's internal staffing policy. RFE/RL has published this article in English on their website:



The Brutal Killing Of A Reporter Who Probed Putin's Past As Vladimir Putin's political star rose, journalist Anatoly Levin-Utkin was a key researcher behind one of the Russian media's first articles digging into the former KGB officer's past. Then he was b...

https://www.rferl.org/a/putin-journalist-killing/31910359.html



His assailants smashed his skull with a metal bar and stole his belongings. He was working on a third installment of the Putin series at the time. The doctors said that he was beat to death with "excessive brutality and cruelty". The killers were never found.





Seven journalists working for the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta (NG) have been brutally murdered, and Igor Domnikov was one of them. He was investigating business corruption, which resulted in his murder in 2000.





There's a theory that he was murdered by accident and the real target was another Novaya Gazeta journalist, Oleg Sultanov. In 2015, an ex-government official Sergey Dorovsky was accused of the murder, but statute of limitations for the crime had already run out.

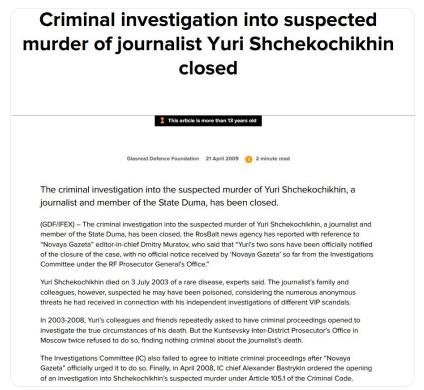
Yuri Shchekochikhin - Yuri was a veteran investigative journalist and Russian politician who also worked for NG. He was investigating both the alleged FSB bombings that started the Second Chechen War and the Three Whales Corruption Scandal which involved prominent,

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...high-ranking FSB officers in a money laundering scheme.He died of mysterious illness 2 days before he was supposed to travel to the US and discuss over his findings with the FBI.His symptoms fit a pattern of poisoning by radioactive material, and the case was never solved.15/24



Paul Klebnikov - Paul was an American journalist who at the time of his death was the chief editor of the Russian Forbes. He often reported on shady post-Soviet business deals and corruption and is known especially for attacking the first oligarch Boris Berezovsky.



In Jul, 2004, Klebnikov was chosen as the first editor of the Russian Forbes, and 4 months later he was shot dead from a slowly moving car in Moscow. One of the three men suspected of killing Klebnikov, Kazbek Dukuzov, was arrested in Kyiv in 2017.

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American journalist Paul Klebnikov's alleged killer arrested in Kyiv



Anna Politkovskaya - Politkovskaya's murder is probably the most famous of all these cases. In addition to being a journalist, she was also a human rights activist whose journalism focused heavily on the Second Chechen War. She was a columnist in NG until her death in...



...Oct, 2006. She was a stark critic of both Putin and the Kadyrovs. The powers that be tried to get rid of her on several occasions: In 2001 she was detained, interrogated, beaten and humiliated in Chechnya and was finally subjected to a mock execution and poisoning.

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LEADING RUSSIAN JOURNALIST IS DETAINED IN CHECHNYA BY THE FSB.

Publication: North Caucasus Weekly Volume: 2 Issue: 9

February 27, 2001 08:00 AM Age: 22 years

The Federal Security Service's (FSB) February 20 detention of an award-winning Russian journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, who had been covering the war in Chechnya for the pro-democracy weekly Novaya Gazeta, has generated a great deal of publicity in Russia. The background to her three-day detention was provided by Politkovskaya in an article appearing in the February 26 issue of Novaya Gazeta: "Collective complaints had arrived at the editorial board," she wrote, "from ninety families living in several villages of Vedeno District in Chechnya-Makhety, Tovzeni, Sel'mentauzen and Khatuni. The text was unprecedented: Several hundred persons were begging us to assist their immediate removal to anywhere in Russia beyond the borders of Chechnya."

The stated reasons for this appeal, Politkovskaya continued, were: "The constant hunger, the unbearable cold, the full disconnectedness from life, the absence of any doctors and no ties whatever with the outside world. And a special point: the harsh punitive raids being conducted on those population points by forces of the military quartered on the edge of the village of Khatuni."

In 2004 she was poisoned while flying to help resolve the 2004 Beslan school hostage crisis, and she required intensive medical treatment in Moscow to survive. On 7 Oct, 2006, she was murdered in an elevator - an assassination that attracted a lot of international media...

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Russia	• This article is more than 18 years old						
	Poisoned by Putin Anna Politkovskaya						
Thu 9 Sep 2004 07.47 BST	The horror of Beslan was made still worse by the intimidation of Russia's servile media						
	t is the morning of September 1. Reports from North Ossetia are hard to believe: a school in Beslan has been seized. Half an hour to pack my things as my mind works furiously on how to get to the Caucasus. And another thought: to look for the Chechen separatist leader, Aslan Maskhadov, let him come out of hiding, let him go to the hostage-takers, and then ask them to free the children.						
	Then followed a long evening at Vnukovo airport. Crowds of journalists were trying to get on a plane south, just as flights were being postponed. Obviously, there are some people who would like to delay our departure. I use my mobile and speak openly about the purpose of my flight: "Look for Maskhadov", "persuade Maskhadov".						
	We have long stopped talking over our phones openly, assuming they are tapped. But this is an emergency. Eventually a man introduces himself as an airport executive: "I'll put you on a flight to Rostov." In the minibus, the driver tells me that the Russian security services, the FSB, told him to put me on the Rostov flight. As I board, my eyes meet those of three passengers sitting in a group: malicious eyes, looking at an enemy. But I don't pay attention. This is the way most FSB people look at me.						
	The plane takes off. I ask for a tea. It is many hours by road from Rostov to Beslan and war has taught me that it's better not to eat. At 21:50 I drink it. At 22:00 I realise that I have to call the air stewardess as I am rapidly losing consciousness. My other memories are scrappy, the stewardess weeps and						

...attention. Finally, in 2014 five men were sentenced to prison for her murder - something that rarely happens when the Russian authorities are investigating a murder of a journalist - but it is still unclear who ordered or paid for her murder.

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• This article is more than **8 years old**

Anna Politkovskaya killers sentenced to life in prison

Chechens Rustam Makhmudov and Lom-Ali Gaitukayev jailed for 2006 murder of prominent liberal journalist



A woman places flowers before a portrait of Anna Politkovskaya in Moscow: her murder in October 2006 shocked the world. Photograph: Pavel Golovkin/AP

A Russian court has sentenced two men to life in prison for the murder of journalist <u>Anna Politkovskaya</u>, and handed lengthy prison terms to three others involved in the killing.

Rustam Makhmudov, a Chechen convicted of firing the fatal shots, and his uncle Lom-Ali Gaitukayev, found guilty of organising the hit, were jailed for life at Moscow city court.

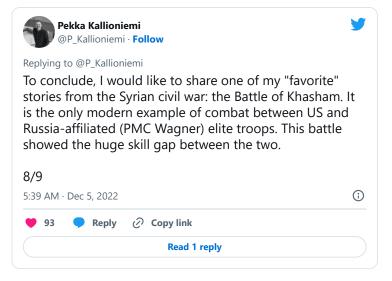
Makhmudov's two brothers, Dzhabrail and Ibragim, were sentenced to 14 and 12 years respectively in a penal colony, while former Moscow police

Maksim Borodin - Maksim was known for investigating prisons and corrupt officials in Russia and also for investigating political scandals involving oligarch Oleg Deripaska. During his final months he was investigating PMC Wagner's activities and their great defeat at the... 22/24





Battle of Khasham:



Borodin fell from a fifth-floor balcony, was placed in a coma, but died later from his injuries. The Investigative Committee of Russia ruled this death a suicide.



A few months after his death, three more journalists who were investigating PMC Wagner's activities were killed in Central African Republic.

These were just few examples of journalists who have been killed for their work, and if Putin stays in power, we'll see much more.

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The Central African Republic has suffered continued violence since a 2013 rebellion. The U.N. established a peacekeeping operation in the country in 2014. EPA/DANIEL DAL ZENNARO

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