



**DANIEL PEARL AWARD**

for courage and integrity  
in journalism

# Remembering Anna Politkovskaya

BY WENDY  
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**S** IAIN RUSSIAN investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya, whose bravery has inspired journalists around the world, is the sixth recipient of the Los Angeles Press Club's Daniel Pearl Award.

Receiving the posthumous award in her honor at the 49th Annual Southern California Journalism Awards is Sergei Sokolov, Deputy Editor of Novaya Gazeta, Politkovskaya's newspaper at the time of her death.

The Pearl Award is named after Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was murdered in 2002 by terrorists in Pakistan. Polit-

kovskaya was chosen in consultation with the Pearl family. Known to her friends as Anya, Politkovskaya wrote about human rights and political controversies with courageous impartiality, a trademark that won her the trust of Chechen rebels. The Moscow bi-weekly Novaya Gazeta published her reports on the complicated relationship between Russia and Chechnya—a conflict over religion, natural resources and more than a century of brutality against the Chechen people.

She was found shot to death in the elevator of her Moscow apartment building late last year. Six months after her death, in an April 2007 update of the story of her death first reported in October 2006, the international organization Reporters Without Borders has expressed frustration at a stall in the investigation. Reporters Without Borders said: "If the authorities fail to produce concrete and conclusive evidence, the creation of an international commission of enquiry or a Russian parliamentary commission of enquiry could prove necessary."

Politkovskaya was born in New York but educated in Russia. Because her parents were diplomats, she had access to books normally unavailable to Soviet students. She wrote for *Izvestiya* and then for an in-house publication of the state airline, Aeroflot. Because of this experience, she was able to travel and thereby develop a perspective on the vast nation that spanned eleven time zones.

Under *perestroika*, publishers such as Novaya Gazeta ("new newspaper") were able to openly publish stories explaining the conflicts that were taking place in the Russian population. Politkovskaya filed detailed reports of the rapes, kidnappings, torture and disappearances taking place under Russian President Putin, and the Chechen government installed in 1999.

She survived poisoning and imprisonment and the loss of her marriage, all related to her writing career. In 1999, the mother of two reported on a Russian rocket attack on a market



and maternity hospital in the Chechen capital of Grozny. She was arrested and held prisoner by the FSB, formerly the KGB, for three days in 2000 without food and water.

In 2004, on a flight from the United States to help mediate a hostage crisis in Beslan, she lost consciousness after drinking poison-laced tea. She once fled to Austria to avoid an assassination attempt.

Anna Politkovskaya was finally silenced at age 48 by two (some reports say four) bullets, one to

the head, in an elevator in her apartment building in Moscow. A neighbor found her body at five o'clock p.m., and Moscow police have opened an investigation. Investigators suspect that the killing will be linked to her work. She was about to file a story on torture in Chechnya—her computer was confiscated by police.

In Russia, journalism is a high-risk trade. The international Committee to Protect Journalists lists 29 journalists killed in Russia between 1995 and 2004.

"There are journalists who have this fate hanging over them. I always thought something would happen to Anya, first of all because of Chechnya," said Oleg Paniflov, director of the Moscow-based Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations in a Pravda report on Politkovskaya's death last year.

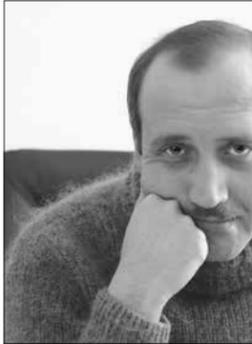
UCLA instructor Marina Goldovskaya concurs, "She was my student at Moscow University in the mid-1970s, and we stayed in touch. She was the brightest, smartest, most beautiful and charming woman," recalls the journalism instructor. "I warned her that what she was doing was dangerous. She told me 'I am a journalist. I have to do what I have to do.'" 🗣️



**Anna Politkovskaya was called Anya by her friends.**



**SERGEI SOKOLOV**



Sergei Sokolov is the deputy editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta, which means "New Newspaper" in Russian. The paper, which is highly critical of the Russian government, was set up by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1993 with money from the Nobel Prize he won in 1990.

Born August 26, 1967, Sokolov finished school in 1984 where he studied the Chinese language. He became a student of Russian Peoples

Friendship University the following year and graduated in 1992 with an international journalism degree. From 1983 worked for Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper as a journalist. Sokolov served as the correspondent of the youth affairs section of the paper from 1988 through 1993 where the main topics were psychology, education, teenagers' crimes, homeless children, children without families, and the effect of war on youth. In 1993, he was promoted to deputy editor of the section, then editor of the investigations section, and now deputy editor-in-chief.

Sokolov is the author of investigations about the activity of Russian oil companies, crime in business and politics, children's prostitution and numerous other controversial topics. These

investigations have taken him to many flash points including Chechnya, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

**MARINA GOLDOVSKAYA**

Marina Goldovskaya is one of Russia's best-known documentary filmmakers with a strong international following. She has made 35 films, many of which received top prizes (Prix Europa, Golden Gate Award, Golden Hugo, Joris Ivens Award, Silver Rembrandt, and many others) at various International Film Festivals. During her long career she has written, directed, produced and filmed documentaries for Russian, Austrian, French, German, and U.S. Television. In 2006 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award for the Art of Documenting History presented by the Russian Association of Non-Fiction Film and TV. For 25 years Marina has taught documentary film and cinematography at Moscow State University, where Anna Politkovskaya was one of her students. Presently she is running the Documentary program at the UCLA Film School. Her latest book "A Woman with a Movie Camera: My life as a Russian Filmmaker" was published in 2006 by Texas University Press.



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