

Hope Despite Klebnikov's Tragic Murder
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Three years ago on July 9, Paul Klebnikov was murdered on a Moscow street, near the offices of Forbes Russia, where he was the founding editor. He loved Russia and was confident that a better day was finally dawning for a long-suffering country. Three years later, his killers remain at large. Paul's death devastated our family, and we are profoundly disappointed at the failure of the Russian criminal justice system to bring Paul's assailants -- and those who ordered his murder -- to justice.

We appreciate and respect the Prosecutor General's Office for its efforts to bring Paul's killers to trial, and its unflinching response to right the wrong that occurred in the Moscow city courts.

We know that many Russians are deeply troubled by Paul's murder. They are dismayed by the death of the many other journalists who have been killed or injured while performing their professional duty to inform the public. They wonder why their assailants have gone unpunished.

We note that President Vladimir Putin and the government have repeatedly expressed concern over the outcome of the investigation and trial of the accused. We appreciate this support and ask them to be committed to a successful resolution of this case. We again urge the government officially to invite concerned governments, such as the United States, to assist in the investigation of this crime. Crime, these days, knows no borders.

Even in tragedy, hope can arise. We are encouraged by positive developments resulting from the miscarriage of justice in Paul's case. In the spirit of U.S.-Russian cooperation, the Prosecutor General's Office, the U.S. State Department and U.S. Justice Department initiated a pilot program to train Russian prosecutors in the United States. This program is designed to promote dialogue between Russian prosecutors and their U.S. counterparts about best practices in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

We are also profoundly moved by the determination of concerned Russian citizens to reform the jury trial system. Ordinary Russians who have served on jury trials are now advocating for the adoption of a code of juror's rights. It is the determination, action and, of course, the consent of the governed -- the ordinary citizens -- that forms the backbone of society and of strong government.

It is our hope that all these efforts will have a positive and permanent influence on the Russian criminal justice system and that this will be the last sad anniversary that Paul's case remains unresolved.

We hope to witness the day when the expectations of Paul and other brave journalists who have lost their lives in Russia -- and the values for which they publicly and bravely stood up for -- become the norm for future generations of dedicated journalists.

--This appeared as a comment in *Vedomosti*, and in the *Moscow Times*.