PRESS RELEASE - 2010 Anna Politkovskaya Award

DR. HALIMA BASHIR

IS THE WINNER OF THE 2010 RAW in WAR ANNA POLITKOVSKAYA AWARD

Wednesday 7 October

for women human rights defenders from war and conflict

Last night, Wednesday 6th October, on the eve of the anniversary of the murder of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, Dr. Halima Bashir from Darfur (Sudan) was awarded the 2010 RAW in WAR (Reach All Women in War) Anna Politkovskaya Award, for her courage in speaking out against the rape and torture of women and girls as young as eight by the government-backed Janjaweed Militia. Halima was then herself abducted by Sudanese soldiers, held hostage and gang-raped for three days, to punish her for speaking out.

The award ceremony held at the Frontline Club in London and hosted by Jon Snow (Channel 4 News) celebrated the courage of Dr. Halima Bashir and remembered Anna Politkovskaya, as well as the first recipient of the award, Natalia Estemirova - two very special women who lost their lives for telling the truth about the war in Chechnya. Speeches, readings and music were performed by supporters and special guests, including last year's winner Leila Alikaramifrom the One Million Signatures Campaign for Equality in Iran, who presented the award this year, Lord Frank Judd of Portsea, Dr. Mukesh Kapila, Mende Nazer, Eva Hoffman, Gillian Slovo and Anna Politkovskaya's sister, Elena Kudimova, actresses Lashana Lynch and Sarah Niles, Cellorythmics, among others.

Today, 7th October, on the anniversary of Anna Politkovskaya's murder, a group of more than 100 influential cultural and political leaders who joined the Committee of Supporters for the award has called again on the Russian Government to

bring to justice, in full conformity with international standards, both those who killed Anna Politkovskaya and Natalia Estemirova. Among them are the Nobel Women's Initiative, Mairead Maguire (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Betty Williams (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Jody Williams (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Shirin Ebadi (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Rigoberta MenchÃº Tum (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate), Elena Bonner, Terry Waite, Vladimir Bukovsky, Sergey Kovalyov, Lyudmila Alekseeva, Lord Frank Judd, Lord Nicolas Rea, Lord Anthony Giddens, Elizabeth Rehn, Sister Helen Prejean, Jane Birkin, Oleg Panfilov, Baroness Helena Kennedy, Baroness Shirley Williams, Baroness Molly Meacher, Gloria Steinem, Ariel Dorfman, Susan Sarandon, Monica Ali, Azar Nafisi, Yakin Erturk, Asma Jahangir, Naomi Klein, Michael Cunningham, Eve Ensler, Noam Chomsky, Gillian Slovo, Eva Hoffman, Anne Nivat, Alexei Simonov, Peter Gabriel, Elena Kudimova and many others.

For the full list of members of the Committee of Supporters, please see here.Â