

## The Guardian: Tribute to Marie Colvin in a letter addressed to the late Anna Politkovskaya

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Here's a piece of writing - in the form of an open letter to the late Anna Politkovskaya - that deserves as wide a journalistic audience as possible.

It is written by Razan Zaitouneh, a Syrian human rights lawyer who won the Anna Politkovskaya Raw in War Award in 2011.

Addressed to Politkovskaya, who was murdered in Moscow in October 2006, it concerns the death of the Sunday Times correspondent, Marie Colvin, who was killed in Syria in February this year. She was the posthumous recipient of this year's raw in war award.

Dear Anna,

I feel the irony of fate. Firstly, because I am writing to you again, Anna Politkovskaya, following a year, which passed like a century while we still run between dream and death.

Secondly, because I have been commissioned to present the award in your name to another woman who left us while trying to convey the truth that cost her life. Marie Colvin, the courageous reporter, never feared searching for truth in the face of death.

Marie went to many countries wracked by wars and conflict to bear witness. She lost her eye while covering the civil war in Sri Lanka.

In Syria, Marie chose the capital of the revolution, Homs, to report, both in sound and through images, an aspect of the revolution that the regime turned into an all-out war against the Syrians. Marie was not wrong in her choice.

At that time, Homs was the whole event, the focus of most journalists, the symbol of the revolution, and the symbol of survival despite voracious death. Right up to the last, Marie Colvin was sending reports that show the ugly crimes committed against the city and its people. Within a few seconds, she became the headline and content of the news.

About 70 foreign reporters and local citizen journalists died during the months of the revolution. The regime's shells and tanks do not differentiate between one who holds the camera and the pen, the demonstrator who holds banners, or the child who holds his future in his small hands.

Read the full article at [The Guardian](#).