

## RAW in WAR Anna Politkovskaya Award 2009

RAW in WAR (Reach All Women in WAR) with the Guardian newspaper as a Media Partner and with the support of Kings Place, present the Anna Politkovskaya Award 2009

For more information and booking click [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE: The funds from the ticket sales will help RAW in WAR cover the costs of the venue and the event.

The RAW in WAR Anna Politkovskaya Award celebrates women human rights defenders from conflict zones in the world who, like Anna, stand up for the victims, often at great personal risk. On the 7th of October 2006, Russian investigative journalist, who exposed the truth about the war in Chechnya, Anna Politkovskaya, was killed in Moscow. On the eve of 7 October, to mark the anniversary of her murder and to honour Anna and other women like her in the world, RAW in WAR presents the annual Anna Politkovskaya Award.

Anna lived a life of courage and truth-telling in the face of grave danger, just like her friend and the first recipient of the Anna Politkovskaya Award, Natalia Estemirova, who was murdered on 15 July 2009.

This year on 6 October 2009 the third Anna Politkovskaya Award will be presented by Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Mairead Maguire to a courageous human rights defender from Iran.

The evening will be hosted by prominent UK journalist, Jon Snow (Channel 4). Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Mairead Maguire will present the award to the brave human rights defender from Iran. We will be remembering Anna and Natalia and their work in pursuit of the truth with Lord Frank Judd, Elena Kudimova (Anna's sister), Eva Hoffman, Gillian Slovo, Lord Nicolas Rea, Mariana Katzarova, (founder of RAW in WAR), and many others who knew Anna and Natalia. The audience will join with the acclaimed musicians Sussan Deyhim, Cellorhythmics and others in remembering Anna and Natalia, two special and brave women, and in honouring the work of the new award winner.

The annual award ceremony is a powerful and special event at which artists, musicians, human rights supporters, journalists, friends and colleagues come together to remember Anna on the anniversary of her murder. The award is presented to a woman human rights defender from a conflict zone in the world who, like Anna, seeks justice and gives voice to the victims, often at great personal risk.

See Channel 4 coverage of Malalai Joya from Afghanistan, the 2008 award winner.

This year previously unseen footage of Anna and Natalia will be screened, in addition to unseen footage about the work of this year's award winner. A special reading from Anna and Natalia's writing will be performed by members of the Committee of Supporters for the Anna Politkovskaya Award which includes prominent writers, journalists and actors.

[Read about the Committee.](#)

Following the murder of Natalia Estemirova on 15 July 2009, more than 100 prominent members of the Committee of Supporters for the Award, friends and colleagues of Natalia, joined RAW in WAR in calling for justice for Natalia.

Read the Letter to the Editor of the Guardian - "We Want Justice for Natasha".

RAW in WAR (Reach all Women in WAR) [www.rawinwar.org](http://www.rawinwar.org) is an international human rights NGO, which aims to support women human rights defenders working in countries in war and conflict, and to help end abuse and persecution against them, as well as to strengthen their work in areas of conflict, or "forgotten conflict", where there is limited or no support from the major humanitarian agencies and organizations.

On the 7th of October 2006, the Russian investigative journalist, Anna Politkovskaya, was murdered in Moscow. Three years on, those responsible for her death have not been brought to justice.

Read about Anna here.

Human rights activist and journalist, Natalia Estemirova, the first recipient of the Anna Politkovskaya Award in 2007, was abducted from the street in front of her home in Chechnya by armed men on 15th of July 2009. Later that day her body was found on the side of a road.

Read about Natalia here or watch Channel 4 News' report on Natalia's death.

Watch Natalia's acceptance speech when receiving the first Anna Politkovskaya Award in 2007.

In 2008, on the eve of the anniversary of Anna's murder, Natalia Estemirova had presented the second Anna Politkovskaya award to the courageous young parliamentarian from Afghanistan, Malalai Joya, with the words: "Malalai, be brave."

Watch the 2008 Award presentation.

#### Committee of Supporters for the Anna Politkovskaya Award

A group of more than 100 influential cultural, media and political leaders from around the world joined the Committee of Supporters for the RAW in WAR Anna Politkovskaya Award. Among them are: President Vaclav Havel, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Andre Glucksmann, the 6 women Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Elena Bonner, Terry Waite, Vladimir Bukovsky, Tom Stoppard, Sergey Kovalyov, Lyudmila Alekseeva, Sister Helen Prejean, Lord Frank Judd, Elizabeth Rehn, Baroness Helena Kennedy, Baroness Shirley Williams, Lord Anthony Giddens, Mariane Pearl, Vanessa Redgrave, Gloria Steinem, Ariel Dorfman, Susan Sarandon, Monica Ali, Azar Nafisi, Oleg Panfilov, Adam Michnik, Marek Edelman, Natasa Kandic, Asma Jahangir, Hina Jilani, Naomi Klein, Alexei Simonov, Eve Ensler, Anne Nivat and many others.

For the complete list of supporters click here.

Sussan Deyhim is an acclaimed composer, vocalist and performance artist, born in Tehran, who has been at the forefront of experimental music internationally for over two decades. Deyhim's music combines extended vocal techniques, digital processing, and the ancient mysticism of Middle Eastern music to create a deeply moving fusion of East and West. Sussan participated in the soundtrack of *The Kite Runner*. Listen to Sussan here.

Cellorhythmics was formed by James Hesford and Alfia Nakipbekova in the early 1990s. Their vision for the cello as a jazz/ non-classical/improvising medium is fully explored in this context. Alfia was born in Central Kazakhstan and studied at the Moscow Conservatoire with Mstislav Rostropovich. She was awarded the "Special Prize for Outstanding Mastery of the Cello" at the Casals Competition in Budapest and soon after moved to London where she received a series of master classes from Jaqueline du Pré. James is an award winning composer active in film, TV, theatre and writing for his two critically acclaimed ensembles Cellorhythmics and WCM Orchestra.

Listen to Cellorhythmics [here](#).

Book [now](#).