

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 499

Condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation.

Whereas on July 9, 2004, American journalist Paul Klebnikov was murdered by gunmen as he exited the Moscow offices of Forbes Magazine;

Whereas twelve journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation since the Putin administration took office, and Mr. Klebnikov was the first and only United States citizen among these journalists;

Whereas the Department of State's 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices claims government pressure in Russia continues to weaken freedom of expression and

the independence and freedom of the media, particularly among the major national television networks and regional media outlets;

Whereas this repression of free speech in Russia has engendered the belief that journalists can be intimidated and killed with impunity;

Whereas the Government of Russia claims Mr. Klebnikov's murder was ordered by Khozh-Akhmed Nukhayev, a fugitive Chechen warlord; and

Whereas a group of United States investigative journalists who doubt the Russian Government's claim has launched its own inquiry into the death of Mr. Klebnikov: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the murder of American jour-
3 nalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow
4 and the murders of other members of the media in
5 the Russian Federation;

6 (2) urges the Government of Russia to continue
7 its inquiries into the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

8 (3) urges the Government of Russia to take ap-
9 propriate action to protect the independence and
10 freedom of the Russian media and all visiting mem-
11 bers of the media; and

12 (4) commends all journalists working and living
13 in Russia for their courageous dedication to trans-
14 parency and the truth.

