



U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

Press Statement

Sean McCormack, Spokesman

Washington, DC

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Russia: Anniversary of Klebnikov Murder

July 9 marks the third anniversary of the murder of American citizen Paul Klebnikov, who was the editor of *Forbes Russia* magazine. The U.S. Government recognizes the attention the Russian Government at the highest levels has devoted to this case and encourages it to rededicate itself to making resolution of this case a law enforcement priority. We reiterate our readiness to provide assistance to Russian authorities in bringing the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice. The intimidation and murder of journalists is an affront to free and independent media and all who respect democratic values, and must not be tolerated. We urge Russia to take steps that protect all journalists, enable them to operate inside Russia without fear for their lives, and guarantee freedom of expression.

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