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President Jerzy Buzek calls on Russian authorities to investigate the murder of human rights activist Natalia Estemirova

The President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, made the following statement after the announcement of the tragic death of Natasha Estemirova:

"With great sadness I have learned of the tragic death of Natalia Estemirova, who was abducted earlier today in Grozny. On behalf of the European Parliament I would like to express our sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of the deceased. Natalia Estemirova was a human rights activist and a leading researcher with *Memorial* on Chechnya. In 2005 she was awarded the Robert Schuman Medal by the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

We in the European Parliament have appreciated her work in the fields of human rights, promoting democratic accountability and the implementation of the rule of law. We strongly call on the authorities of the Russian Federation to start a fully fledged inquiry into her death and do their utmost to bring those responsible for this tragic death to face justice.

The European Parliament is in the forefront of promoting democracy, implementation of the rule of law and defender of human rights. It is therefore our obligation to support and show our solidarity with all those who struggle everywhere in the world for the same values. As was the case with Natalia Estemirova".

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