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I would like to submit complimentary testimony on human rights and rule of law in Russia in addition to my testimony I have already provided on the case of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev.

Two years and six months have passed since Anna Politkovskaya was murdered. Nevertheless, the investigation performed up to date has only resulted in a judgment whereby all the accused were acquitted.

As early as when filing their initial application with the Court, the applicants complained about a breach of the right to life guaranteed by Article 2 of the Convention, ineffectiveness of the investigation and total lack of any steps towards looking into the crime and identifying those responsible.

Moreover, every day that passes is carrying away the few remaining possibilities to detect this crime.

However, the investigating authorities have failed to take respective measures and thus have not complied with their obligations to identify those responsible for this crime that has left the whole world outraged.

Hence, there has been a breach of Article 2 of the Convention in so far as the State's positive obligations with respect to the right to life are concerned, for the applicants' rights still have received no protection, which is due to an ineffective investigation:

Those responsible have not been held criminally liable; NONE have been punished, and consequently, no redress has been afforded to the victims.

During the last few years, a number of individuals were assassinated because of their professional activity or the public stand they had taken.

None of the murders have been solved, similarly to that of Anna Politkovskaya.

Those assassinated included in particular journalists Dmitry Kholodov, Paul Khlebnikov and Yuri Shchekochikhin, as well as human rights activist Nikolai Girenko. None of those who contracted the murders of journalist Igor Domnikov or Statesperson and human rights activist Galina Starovoitova have yet been identified. After Anna Politkovskaya's murder, lawyer Stanislav Markelov and journalist Anastasia Baburova have been assassinated.

The very fact that the assassinations never get solved shows that the domestic authorities have actually appeared unaware of their positive obligations to protect the right to life. On the other hand, a failure to solve the assassinations gives a sense of impunity to the perpetrators, which in turn entails further crimes.