

**Canadian Journalists for Free Expression
E-Bulletin Vol. April/May 2008**

**Put this date in your calendar: Evening of Thursday, June 12
CJFE Annual General Meeting
at Massey College, 4 Devonshire Place**

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HONOURING ALAN JOHNSTON

Free to Express Himself: An Evening with Alan Johnston



Celebrate World Press Freedom Day with a riveting discussion between BBC Journalist Alan Johnston and Anna Maria Tremonti, host of CBC's The Current.



On March 12, 2007, BBC Reporter Alan Johnston was kidnapped by a group of Palestinian militants while on assignment in Gaza. His plight was monitored around the world and there were rallies urging his release in major cities, including Toronto. During his 114 days of captivity, rallies were held around the world, including in Toronto.

Canadian Journalists For Free Expression (CJFE) joins with the Canadian Media Guild and the International Development Research Centre to present "Free to Express Himself" honouring Alan Johnston. This is his only public appearance in Canada. Alan will also take questions from the audience.

Event Date/Time: 7:00 p.m. Cash Bar Reception: 6:00p.m.
Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Event Venue: The Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Broadcast Centre, 250 Front Street W., Toronto

Tickets: \$20 individual tickets, \$15 for students

For tickets, go to: <http://glenn Gould Studio.cbc.ca/concerts/listing.shtml> or phone: GGS Box-Office (416) 205-5555

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www.cjfe.org

www.cmg.ca

www.idrc.ca

LETTER TO ANNA

CJFE will co-present with the Hot Docs Film Festival: "Letter to Anna - The Story of Journalist Politkovskaya's Death", running from April 17 to April 27, 2008. We are very excited to present "Letter to Anna". Below is the synopsis:



Anna Politkovskaya was living dangerously close to the edge. An uncompromising Russian journalist, she was an openly fierce critic of Vladimir Putin's regime. Her dedication to the oppressed took her into the heart of the Chechen War. Her unwavering fight for justice fuelled her scathing exposés of a corrupt government. She pleaded for the world's attention and someone was listening. On October 7, 2006, Anna Politkovskaya was shot to death in the stairwell of her apartment building.

The film presents an insightful investigation not only of a scandalous crime, but of how far political figures may go in order to sustain their own power. Even more vividly, however, Letter to Anna celebrates the life of an extraordinary woman and mother, a fearless defender of the people, "the conscience of Russia."

Ticket info:

Daytime screenings (before 6 pm) - \$10

Evening screenings (between 6 pm-11 pm) - \$12

and Late Night Screenings (after 11PM) - \$5

Order advance tickets and pass sales at the DOCUMENTARY Box Office

(87 Avenue Road, 2 Blocks North of Bloor, upper level of Hazelton Lanes),

online at www.hotdocs.ca, or by phone at 416-637-5150.

On the day of the screening, all daytime screenings are FREE for students and seniors with valid ID, courtesy of the Toronto Star.

Visit www.hotdocs.ca for further information and detailed film descriptions

CJFE CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS

CJFE is seeking nominations for the 2007 CJFE International Press Freedom Awards and the Tara Singh Hayer Memorial Award. Both awards recognise journalists who work tirelessly, often risking their lives so that the news media remain free.

The International Press Freedom Awards honour two journalists or media outlets from anywhere in the world who have overcome enormous odds to report the news and who demonstrate a commitment to human rights by reporting without bias or discrimination. Last year, CJFE honoured women journalists from Afghanistan and Iraq.

CJFE also awards the Tara Singh Hayer Memorial Award to recognise a Canadian journalist who has highlighted or faced media repression in Canada or elsewhere, from censorship to physical reprisals, and to promote the principle of a free press. The award is named after Canadian journalist and editor of the Vancouver-based Indo-Canadian Times Tara Singh Hayer, who was assassinated in November 1998. In 2007, the award was given posthumously to Somali/Canadian journalist Ali Iman Sharmarke.

The award and cash prize of CDN\$3,000 will be presented to the winners at a ceremony in Toronto, Canada in October 2008.

The deadline for nominations is 30 April 2008.

For more details, email Julie Payne at: jpayne@cjfe.org or visit:

<http://cjfe.org/releases/2008/18032008award.html>

CJFE CALLS DECISION IN SOURCE PROTECTION CASE AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD

On March 17, 2008, CJFE welcomed the positive decision in Ken Peters' appeal case and called it an important step forward for the ability of journalists to protect sources to whom they have promised confidentiality.



Hamilton Spectator journalist Ken Peters was appealing a contempt citation on December 1, 2004, when he refused to reveal his source. Peters was also ordered to pay costs of \$31,600 as a sanction for the contempt. The appeal was heard on January 22, 2008, by Justices Robert J. Sharpe, Eleanore A. Cronk and Eileen E. Gillese of the Court of Appeal for Ontario in Toronto.

In allowing Peters' appeal, the Court of Appeal recognized in clear terms the value of confidential sources to effective reporting in the public interest. The unanimous judgment also emphasizes the need to follow procedures that are fair to the journalist and to seek solutions that respect the rights and interests of all concerned.

“Achieving this has been a hard-fought battle,” said lawyer and CJFE Board member John Norris, who represented CJFE as an intervenor in the case. “This judgment will save journalists the tremendous effort and expense of having to prove the importance of confidentiality all over again each time the issue comes up.”

The conflict arose from a story that Peters worked on almost a decade ago. In 1995, Peters received documents about problems at a Hamilton nursing home. Allegations made against the nursing home subsequently prompted its operators to file a lawsuit against the City of Hamilton and Halton Region.

“We are heartened by this decision, which recognizes that protection of a journalist’s ability to maintain the confidentiality of sources is an important tool in the gathering of news,” said journalist Paul Knox, speaking for CJFE. “Weaken that protection and you cast a chill on journalists and investigative journalism.” Writing for all three Judges, Justice Sharpe also emphasized the law’s recognition of this role when he dismissed the Attorney General’s request that this case be decided without reference to Charter rights.

CJFE is encouraged that this latest case supports legal trends which appear to protect and promote the special role of the news media in a free society as guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. CJFE has a history of work on cases pertaining to media law and freedom of expression. We hope that the resolution of this case will give renewed protection to journalists in their work.

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Ever since May 3 was dedicated as World Press Freedom Day by UNESCO in 1993, organizations worldwide have held events around this date to honour media workers who have sacrificed life and liberty to bring their stories to the public.

This year, CJFE nominated Toronto Star reporter Bill Schiller for a Canadian World Press Freedom Award for his excellent investigative work in bringing difficult and controversial stories into the public sphere. As well, the nomination is a statement of support for the role of media in producing public policy journalism and prioritizing freer and more open discussions in the media about powerful individuals. Bill Schiller’s investigative work resulted in a defamation suit against the Toronto Star with the single largest punitive damages ever awarded in a libel case in Canada. The Toronto Star’s appeal was heard on March 31, 2008. The judges’ decision in that case has not yet been released.

World Press Freedom Day - 10th Annual Awards Luncheon - Friday May 2, 2008,
12:00p.m. Ottawa



Last year 102 journalists and media workers were killed just for doing their jobs. There were several thousand attacks against free expression - around the world, and in Canada. Join us to discuss the challenges to free speech and to celebrate the champions of the past year.

Featured Speaker:

Patrick Brown, CBC/SRC Asia correspondent on "China's great Firewall around the Media"

Guest Speaker: The winner of the Canadian World Press Freedom Award (TBD)

Exhibition: The winning and runner-up cartoons of the international political cartoon competition on the theme "Re-writing History"

Moderator: Don Newman, Senior Parliamentary Editor, CBC News

Lunch Panorama Room, National Arts Centre

Time: 12 noon to 2 pm

Cost: \$40

Space is limited. Call 613-237-3575

Download registration form at <http://www.ccwpf-cclpm.ca/>

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS: BARBARA FALK

Dr. Barbara Falk joined the Board of Directors of CJFE in 2005. Her perspective and sense of commitment have helped her deal with issues of social and political justice in the fight for freedom of expression at this organization. Dr. Falk is a respected and recognized academic researcher/writer and lecturer.

As part of her hard work as a board member, Dr. Falk was a member of the fundraising committee, and is Chair of CJFE's Personnel Committee. She believes it is an area which the organization will need to work on in the future in order to ensure strong growth ahead. There is no question that CJFE benefits from the mix of private and public sector experience that Board members such as Dr. Falk offer the organization.

Before returning to academic life, Dr. Falk worked for ten years in a number of responsible positions in women's issues, human resources, and labour relations, in both the public and private sectors. She was Director, Compensation and Labour Relations Policy for the Government of Ontario and Director of Human Resources at Sony Music Canada.

She has taught at York University and the University of Victoria, and as a professor of Politics at Humber College she designed a new political science elective curriculum between 2000 and 2003. She has worked for several years part time as a Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Toronto and is a Fellow and a member of the graduate teaching faculty of the Centre for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the Munk Centre for International Studies. In 2006, she completed a graduate legal research degree, a Masters in Law, at U of T.

Dr. Falk is an experienced university lecturer, writer and researcher, with a specialization in Cold War history; theories of war and terrorism; contemporary public policy in Canada, the United States and Central and Eastern Europe; and debates regarding globalization and governance. As well, Dr. Falk was awarded a Canada Council grant to examine the post 9/11 world as a twenty-first century cultural and political “Cold War”. She is currently writing a book on political trials.

As to where she sees CJFE’s priorities for the future: “There are two main areas where we need to concentrate; fundraising and membership.”

This article was written by journalist and former Board member Marlene Benmergui.

JOB NOTICE: IFEX CAMPAIGNS/OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The International Freedom of Expression eXchange (IFEX) Clearing House, managed by CJFE, is hiring a Campaigns/Outreach Coordinator to work closely with the IFEX membership to develop campaigns and manage projects. Requirements include 3-5 years’ experience in international project development and management, as well as experience in campaign implementation in the human rights/free expression field. Spanish, French and/or Russian language skills are an asset. The deadline is April 21. For more info, see: http://charityvillage.ca/applicant/jobs.asp?fn=view&g_varID=108140

If you know of any upcoming press-freedom events in Canada, email jpayne@cjfe.org

If you do not wish to receive the CJFE E-Bulletin, please contact us to have your name removed from our list.