



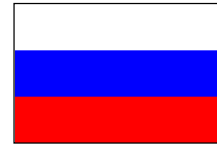
**Radio Free Europe  
Radio Liberty**

Free Media In Unfree Societies



**радио свобода**

## **Radio Svoboda RFE/RL's Russian Service**



### **Fast Facts**

- Language: Russian
- Coverage: 24 hours a day
- Established: 1953 (as Radio Liberty)
- Distribution: Radio (FM, MW, UKV, SW, CBL, Satellite), Internet ([www.svobodanews.ru](http://www.svobodanews.ru))
- Locations: Prague headquarters, Moscow
- Staff: 82 in Prague and Moscow, 1 (Washington), 1 (New York), approximately 100 stringers

### **Media Environment**

- Freedom House Freedom of the Press Index, 2009: **Not Free** (174th/195)
- Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index, 2009: 153rd/175

Russia continues to be one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. Most media is strictly controlled, and those who find themselves on the opposite side of the government put themselves at great risk. The Committee to Protect Journalists counts 17 journalists murdered in Russia since 2000. The country has further seen the assassination of three high-profile opposition figures in as many years: Anna Politkovskaya, Stanislav Markelov, and Natalia Estemirova.

### **Highlights**

- Radio Svoboda's new Web site ([www.svobodanews.ru](http://www.svobodanews.ru)) was launched in February 2009. The site had 1.2 million unique visitors in August 2009 (compared to 700,000 in August 2008) -- a 70 percent increase. The average number of page views per visit has increased by more than 300 percent over the same time period (total of 13.5 million page views in August 2009).
- Radio Svoboda conducted exclusive interview with Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov shortly after the prominent human rights activist Natalya Estemirova was abducted in Grozny and later found murdered in the neighboring region Ingushetia.
- In 2009, Svoboda conducted an exclusive interview with opposition leader Boris Nemtsov following his meeting with President Obama during the president's visit to Moscow.