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**KHADIJA ISMAYILOVA**

**INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP**

**Application Instructions**

Fellowship Term: May 1 – October 31, 2016

**Deadline for Applications: February 1, 2016**

Applications are currently being accepted for the Khadija Ismayilova Investigative Journalism Fellowship. The Fellowship is a living tribute to Khadija Ismayilova, an award-winning Azeri journalist, who was imprisoned by authorities on December 5, 2014 and sentenced to 7.5 years in prison in an attempt to silence her. It seeks to ensure that her voice is heard, and that her work to use the tools of journalism to build open societies governed by the rule of law continues.

The Fellowship will support reporting projects within RFE/RL’s broadcast region that investigate persons in power and corruption.

The Fellowship is a joint initiative of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.

Eligibility:

The Khadija Ismayilova Investigative Journalism Fellowship is for aspiring or established investigative journalists. The selection process is competitive. Successful candidates will:

* Have citizenship in a country in RFE/RL’s [broadcast region](http://flashvideo.rferl.org/Flashmapsnew/index.html?country=allcountries&english=1), and a reporting focus in the broadcast region;
* Demonstrate previous experience in investigative journalism;
* Have a proven ability to pursue and complete an original, investigative project;
* Provide a compelling and plausible proposal for a report that investigates corruption and persons in power.
* Have a working command of English.

Required Application Materials:

A complete application includes the following information, submitted in English:

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Your statement of purpose is a very important part of your application, and will be thoroughly read and considered in the selection process. It should be written in English and should not exceed 750 words. It should address your journalistic experience, your reasons for pursuing investigative journalism, your reasons for applying for this Fellowship, the values and convictions that guide your work, and what you hope to accomplish in your career.

2. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Applicants must submit a brief proposal for the investigative project they would pursue during the Fellowship. The statement can be for a new project, or to advance work on an existing one. It should include a concept, some intended sources, research targets, the location and RFE/RL bureau where research would be based, and an explanation of the concept’s relationship to the Fellowship purpose and [RFE/RL’s mission](http://www.rferl.org/info/mission/169.html). It need not exceed one page.

3. WORK SAMPLES

Please attach three recent examples of your published journalistic work. At least one of the three pieces should demonstrate your investigative skills. All samples must include the date of publication and, if not in English, they must be accompanied by an English translation. If translations are not your own, please identify the translator.

4. TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

One recommendation letter should be from a current supervisor or colleague who practices journalism and knows you professionally. At least one should relate to your ability to conduct investigative work. The writers should explain their relationship to you and describe your qualifications, potential for professional growth and development, and reasons that make you an excellent candidate for the Fellowship. Letters must be submitted in English.

5. CURRICULUM VITAE

Please attach your curriculum vitae in English, including employment history, educational history, noteworthy certifications, distinctions and awards; current or recent memberships in professional, political, or other groups, language competencies, and contact information.

Candidates may be contacted and asked to participate in a telephone, Skype or in-person interview as part of the application process.

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT**

**khadijafellowship@rferl.org**

**BY 0600 CET FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

The selected candidate will be informed by February 19, 2016.

Questions? Please notify levisonj@rferl.org with any questions and a coordinator will respond to you promptly.