公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会
The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan
100-0005 Japan, Tokyo-to, Chiyoda-ku, Marunouchi 3-2-3, Marunouchi Nijubashi Building 5F
https://www.fccj.or.jp E-mail: front@fccj.or.jp Tel:+81-3-3211-3161 Fax:+81-3-3201-0677

FCCJ STATEMENT ON THE CLOSURE OF NOVAYA GAZETA

FCCJ condemns the closure of Russia's Novaya Gazeta newspaper, whose editor-in-chief, Dmitry Muratov, was a co-laureate of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. The paper also received an FCCJ Freedom of Press award in 2022.

The independent paper, whose reporters and editors over the years have been the target of sustained campaigns by Russian authorities over their critical reporting, announced in October it would permanently shut down this month.

The move, said former editor-in-chief Dmitry Muratov, came after what he said was intolerable pressure that included being stripped of its newsrooms, its donation platforms and its legal right to publish.

Novaya was launched in the 1990s, with funding that came from, among others, Mikhail Gorbachev. But in the years since, six of its journalists have been assassinated, including Anna Politkovaskaya, who was killed in 2006.

The closure of Novaya comes as Russian authorities continue to detain Hokkaido Shimbun journalist Yuki Imai on espionage charges. Imai was taken into custody in October while on a reporting assignment in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. The Hokkaido Shimbun and the Japanese government strongly deny the allegations and FCCJ joins them in calling for Imai's release.

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee