

## **Lidia Yusupova: Curriculum Vitae** **Chechen human rights advocate and journalist**



©Photo: Hans Jørgen Brun

- 1961: born on September 15, 1961 in Grozny, Chechnya.
- 2009 – today: journalist for the internet mass medium named "Caucasian Knot" and the Chechen independent magazine "DOSH".
- 2007: Left the law practice. The newspaper the First Post described Lidia Yusupova as "Chechnya's last witness", article of August 16, 2007.
- 2000-2005: Lawyer and Coordinator of the Grozny office of human rights organization Memorial. Memorial is one of very few such organisations that continue to operate in Chechnya. The incidents that Yusupova and her fellow co-workers in Memorial have documented are serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by Russian federal and Chechen security forces, committed without fear of legal consequences.

RAFTO FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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- 2005: Awarded the 2005 Rafto Prize for Human Rights "in recognition of her brave and unrelenting efforts to document human rights violations and act as a spokeswoman for the forgotten victims of the war in Chechnya".
- 2004: Awarded the 2004 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders. This Prize is given out in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2000: during the Second Chechen War, she decided to devote her life to human rights, using her legal expertise and personal experience during both wars to help others that were entangled in the bloody conflict.
- During the First Chechen War (December 1994-August 1996), she witnessed the tragedy of war, and suffered the loss of several friends, neighbors, colleagues, and family members.
- Law studies in Moscow (MA degree not completed)
- Studied Russian literature at the Karachaevo-Cherkeski Intstitute. Later she studied law at the Chechen University in the city of Grozny, and worked as a lecturer.

Bergen, 10.10.2009

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