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Pulitzer Prize Board  
The Pulitzer Prizes  
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Honorable Co-Chairs of the Pulitzer Prize Board:

“Truth, does it matter? Is it constructive?” As the Pulitzer Board once again prepares to award its prestigious prizes for excellence in journalism, one newly discovered voice cuts through the historical haze and demands belated posthumous recognition. She is Rhea Clyman, a reporter of Polish Jewish background, who traversed the starving heartland in Soviet Ukraine when Stalin’s genocide was unfolding on Ukraine’s rich black earth. Clyman’s newspaper articles from 1932 to 1933, published in the Toronto *Evening Telegram* and the London *Daily Express*, show her remarkable resourcefulness and courage. A journalist stood against the Stalinist system, exposing a secret heavily guarded from the world by a special GPU office of disinformation: the exploitation of political prisoners, mainly Ukrainian nationally conscious intelligentsia, officers and prisoners of war in the aftermath of the national liberation struggle, students, teachers, and Ukrainian Orthodox Church clergy as slave laborers in the Solovetsky Islands concentration camp.

The belated recognition of Rhea Clyman will erase the disgrace of the 1932 Pulitzer Prize awarded to Walter Duranty, *New York Times*’ Moscow correspondent. Duranty used his reputation as a Pulitzer winner and Soviet expert to contradict truthful reports by journalists like Rhea Clyman and Gareth Jones. Clyman was deported from the Soviet Union in 1932 for writing about the famine, starving children, and labor camps. Despite her truthful reporting, linguistic prowess, and vivid writing style, she died unrecognized for her professional accomplishments on July 9, 1981 in the Jewish Institute for Geriatric Care in Queens, New York. After all, Clyman was an American citizen.

Rhea Clyman’s biographer, Jars Balan, of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, noted that her accomplishments need to “get the attention that they richly deserve,” and the Holodomor of 1932–1933 needs to be “acknowledged for what it clearly was and remains—not just a ‘tragedy,’ but a crime against humanity and an act of genocide that was covered up and denied for far too long by its perpetrators, their political descendants, and far too many Western apologists for Soviet tyranny.”

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Clyman's biography inspired Andrew Tkach, the French-American filmmaker of Ukrainian ancestry, to create a feature length documentary, "Hunger for Truth: The Rhea Clyman Story." The documentary won Honorable Mention in the short film category, nonfiction, at the 2018 USA Film Festival in Dallas. It masterfully interweaves Clyman's truth telling trip during 1932 with today's conflict in eastern Ukraine. Today another Stalin's apologist in Russia is trying to dismember Ukraine by using disinformation and brute force. Those areas that suffered from the genocidal Holodomor are currently invaded by Russia, where an ongoing war has lasted for over seven years. Ukraine's soldiers are held as prisoners of war.

In 2003, *New York Times* Executive Director, Bill Keller, said that his newspaper would have no objection if the Pulitzer Board were to revoke Duranty's award. Professor of political science at the Royal Military College of Canada, Lubomyr Y. Luciuk, documented the history of the 2003 revocation campaign in his book, *Not Worthy: Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize and the New York Times*. Revoking Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize for his official dispatches which reflected the "official opinion of the Soviet government and not his own," as A. W. Kliefoth of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin reported to the U.S. State Department in his June 4, 1931 memo, and awarding it posthumously to an American journalist, Rhea Clyman, who dared to debunk Stalinist lies, will send a powerful signal to journalists that truth matters now more than anything else to win the Kremlin's onslaught on our democratic principles and freedom of the press. Stripping Walter Duranty of his Pulitzer Prize would be a symbolic accountability for his complicity in genocide.

Sincerely,



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