



CHECHNYA PEACE FORUM

PRESS RELEASE

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BROWN MUST HOLD RUSSIA TO ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AT G8

Commenting at the start of the G8 Summit in Japan, Ivar Amundsen, Director of the Chechnya Peace Forum issued the following statement:

“When Gordon Brown holds his first meeting with Dmitry Medvedev at today’s G8 summit it should be an opportunity to begin a new and more constructive phase in relations. Unfortunately for all Mr Medvedev’s recent comments about the importance of international relations and repairing rifts, the initial indications since his appointment do not bode well – as we have seen with the treatment of BP in Moscow.

“Gordon Brown must leave Mr Medvedev in no doubt that Russia must honour its international commitments or face the consequences of isolation on the international stage. Equally he must persevere in bringing to justice those responsible for the murder of British citizen Alexander Litvinenko.

“G8 leaders must also ensure the foundations of democracy and human rights are at the centre of the discussions. Under the former Russian president elections were rigged, the opposition marginalised, NGOs harassed, and critics silenced. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in Chechnya where the absence of the rule of law and free and fair elections do little to restore justice or make for lasting peace.

“Dmitry Medvedev has the opportunity to take Russia in a new direction and restore relations with the West. The G8 summit should be the start of this process.”

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