



CHECHNYA PEACE FORUM

PRESS STATEMENT

For immediate release: Wednesday, December 2nd 2009

Nevsky Express Bombing Damages The Cause For Peace In Chechnya

In reaction to reports that representatives of a group called the 'Caucasian Mujahadeen' have claimed responsibility for the derailment of the Nevsky Express last Friday, Ivar Amundsen, Director of the Chechnya Peace Forum, said:

"The Chechnya Peace Forum strongly condemns this heinous crime and we are deeply saddened by the loss of innocent life. KavKazCenter, the Islamist extremist website has today published a letter, signed by the headquarters of the armed forces of the 'Caucasus Emirate'. In the letter the 'Caucasian Mujahadeen', which is headed by the insurgency leader Doku Umarov, claims responsibility for the 'sabotage operation' of the Nevsky Express train which was derailed between Moscow and St. Petersburg on Friday 27 November, killing 26 and seriously injuring scores more."

"The Chechnya Peace Forum denounces any act of terrorism in the name of Chechnya, and our hearts go out to the families of the victims. The brutal murder of so many innocent people violates all international law and must not be tolerated. These attacks deeply damage the ambitions of Chechens to promote peace, human rights and the rule of law in Chechnya."

"The Chechnya Peace Forum is dedicated to pursuing a sustainable and peaceful political settlement in Chechnya and the democratic self-determination of the Chechen people. This attack, which the extremist Doku Umarov and the 'Caucasus Emirate' have shamefully claimed responsibility for, damages the cause for real freedom in Chechnya."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. Ivar Amundsen is Director of the Chechnya Peace Forum, a human rights organisation based in London which seeks to promote the cause of democracy and human rights in Chechnya by bringing the humanitarian crisis there to greater international attention.