



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

Call for an Independent Investigation into the Murder of Boris Nemtsov Statement of the Steering Committee of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

The Steering Committee of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum condemns in the strongest terms the murder of Boris Nemtsov, a prominent leader of the democratic movement in Russia. Nemtsov was shot on the night of 27 February 2015 in the heart of Moscow, at the bridge just meters from the Kremlin. We call on the Russian authorities to conduct a prompt, thorough, and independent investigation.

‘Boris Nemtsov is another name in the tragic list of those who lost lives in their struggle for fundamental rights and freedoms in Russia,’ says Katarzyna Batko-Tołuć, member of Forum’s Steering Committee. ‘There needs to be an efficient and impartial investigation into these killings. Every day of delay adds to the atmosphere of intimidation of independent critical voices and impunity for perpetrators of politically motivated crimes in Russia.’

Boris Nemtsov was an important ally and supporter of independent civil society in Russia. He was widely respected for his anti-corruption work and his consistent and clear position against the war in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea, as he was critical of the war in Chechnya in the 1990s. It is particularly tragic and emblematic that Mr. Nemtsov was assassinated on the eve of a major anti-war protest demonstration in Moscow, which he was a principal organiser of.

The Steering Committee of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum expresses its deepest condolences to Mr. Nemtsov’s family and mourns the tragic loss of life of a politician who was one of the leaders of Russia’s democratisation efforts and an inspiration to many people.

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