

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis reacts to the arrests of Garry Kasparov and Boris Nemtsov

Strasbourg, 25.11.2007, "I am very concerned about the arrests of Garry Kasparov, Boris Nemtsov and a number of their supporters in Moscow and St Petersburg over the weekend.

The Russian Federation is a member of the Council of Europe and a party to the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the freedom of assembly and the freedom of expression. These are preconditions for a real democracy.

The elections to the Russian State Duma will be held next Sunday. I call on the Russian authorities to give the Russian voters an opportunity for a genuinely free and fair election."

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