

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HAZARDS CAMPAIGN**

**No embargo**

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## **Hazards Campaign comment on PM Cameron's linking the riots and looting to health and safety legislation**

Following the statements made by PM Cameron yesterday, a Hazards Campaign spokesperson said: "Cameron's linking of the recent social unrest to "'elf and safety gorn mad" is not only complete rubbish but completely crass and scraping the bottom of the daft ideas barrel. What next - the unrest in Syria down to 'elf and safety? Our rubbish summer - 'elf and safety! The failure of the England football team to win anything - 'elf and safety!

"To link the looting to health and safety legislation is an absolute insult to the lad who died in crane incident in Lancashire yesterday, the lad who died on the Woolwich ferry last week, the lad who died on the tug on the Thames last week and the family of Noel Corbin whose employers have just been fined only £1. Noel's employers went into liquidation thus avoiding any accountability or paying the penalty for the crime, not a get out clause available to rioters so why should it be available to killer employers?

"Blaming health and safety for rioting is a disgraceful insult to the 20-50,000 people who die in the UK EVERY YEAR because their employers failed to manage health and safety at their workplaces."

"Bad and negligent employers cost the UK economy up to £30 billion every year for health and safety failings - not our figures but ten year old government figures which will be far higher now. The government's answer to this is to let employers get away with even more killing, injuring and making workers ill, as well as looting our economy by attacking and cutting health and safety provisions. We

have called on many successive governments to do what Cameron has announced in the war on "gang culture" but against those bad employers and their criminal lack of health and safety culture, and every successive bad government has refused to do it."

"Until those who run organisations are held accountable for the consequences of their actions - death, injury and illness of workers - they will go on behaving in morally and criminally irresponsible ways. We ask when will those employers be pursued and punished in a similar way to those being sought now by government for rioting and looting?"

For more information contact:  
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Further information:

We didn't vote to die at work: <http://www.hazards.org/votetodie/>

Hazards Campaign: <http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/>

Firm fined £1 over death of satellite TV engineer:  
<http://www.camdennewjournal.com/news/2011/aug/firm-fined-%C2%A31-over-death-satellite-tv-engineer>

The whole story: <http://www.shponline.co.uk/features-content/full/the-whole-story>