## The Independent

### meets infamy When fame

such high-profile stars as A fresh addition to the annals Madonna, Demi Moore and of "lies that Hollywood Lindsay Lohan. roster of clients includes Weinberg, an influential Los the rich and famous" was publicists tell on behalf of Angeles talent rep whose recently made by one Jason

On 26 September, Weinberg clients, Hilary Swank, had asked, that another of his Foundation. Was it true, they from the Human Rights received an awkward inquiry accepted a large appearance

> fee to attend the 35th birthday Absolutely not, he replied in charge of Chechnya? party of Ramzan Kadyrov, the Kremlin-backed despot

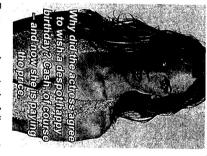
consider such a vulgar and winning Hollywood liberal of to attend the party," it read. to even wonder if an Oscarsuggested it was impertinent unethical career opportunity. "Hilary has no current plans in a dismissive email which Me Swank's stature would

watched by this newspaper's Dressed to the nines, and Fast forward exactly nine Moscow before delivering a charming can guess what happened. Mr Kadyrov's red carpet days, and, well, I think you Swank sauntered up correspondent,

spirit of the people, and I in Grozny. "I could feel the had already enjoyed her stay birthday, Mr President!" so happy," she said. "Happy could see that everyone was

been fired into the night sky, Joining her was another \$500,000 (£324,000). Van She was paid a rumoured Mr Kadyrov!" Then, after pronouncement: "I love you Van Damme. He got warm vintage star: Jean-Claude reportedly paid handsomely Damme and Swank were also Mae, performed a brief set the British violinist Vanessa hundreds of thousands of his applause for their attendance. dollars-worth of fireworks had speech for vith tinishing





courtesy of guests, that arrived yesterday by a hangover, however. Every good party is followed And for all three celebrity Human Rights a statement

> it read. "It's inappropriate for of the event and is calling legitimises a brutal leader." stars to get paid to party with horrific human rights abuses," to be reimbursed. "Ramzan for their appearance fees The Independent's coverage Kadyrov is linked to a litany of nım. It bolsters his image and

field have remained happily shameless exploits in this But traditionally, their more have no obvious connection. attend (or perform at) social occasions to which they to their wealth by agreeing to A-list have been able to add For decades, the international

Foundation, which had read to that, though. march of technology puts paid below the radar. The onward

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#### Guilty When fame meets infamy by association?

50 Cent, Mariah Carey and

were known, the money went once the links to the Gaddafis paid as much as £1.2m for a the Caribbean. Beyoncé said earlier this year. The latter was of 50 Cent, Mariah Carey Cell phone camera footage family in 2009 at St Barts in parties hosted by the Gaddafi private concert for the Gaddafi and Beyoncé performing at family caused an almighty row Beyoncé

to Haiti's earthquake relief still decided to play. Cultural

Sting

aware of the president's Karimov. Sting said he was daughter of dictator Islam Uzbekistan, organised by the for playing a concert in The singer was criticised appalling reputation"

productive, he said. boycotts were

# and Gerard Depardieu

Ą excruciating, Putin's ovation inexplicable slow-tempo, followed Vladimir standing rendition and

Sharon Stone, Kevin Costner and Gerard counter- charity event of "Blueberry benefit from the gala later said Chief they received nothing. count. Hospitals expecting to actress Sharon Stone, with Depardieu adding to the celeb cheerleader: I I 3 Russia. at a

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