



Stichting Zelfbeschikking West-Sahara

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Zelfbeschikking West-Sahara te Leiden

To the Executive Committee of Fugro N.V.
Mr. G.-J. Kramer
PO Box 41
2260 AA LEIDSCHENDAM

Rotterdam, 7th of June 2004

Dear mister Kramer,

Your company is carrying out a detailed seismic survey in the coastal waters of Western Sahara, in collaboration with the US based company Kerr-McGee and the Norway based company TGS-NOPEC. The Netherlands Foundation for Self-Determination in Western Sahara is closely following, together with many other campaign groups on Western Sahara around the world, economic activities in Western Sahara. Hereby we would like to point out that any activity concerning the natural resources of this territory is a hazardous enterprise. Indeed, the activities in Western Sahara could at the end only be harmful for your company - as TGS NOPEC experienced. TGS NOPEC stated that they would not have entered the area had they known the consequences it would lead to.

As you might know, Western Sahara - the former Spanish Sahara - is a non-autonomous territory invaded in 1975 by Morocco and since then illegally occupied by Morocco. Morocco has no sovereignty whatsoever with regard to Western Sahara, and the people of Western Sahara have the inalienable right of self-determination. By doing the survey, your company can therefore be seen as complice to an illegal occupation.

The United Nations are trying since decades to have the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi's realised, through the organization of a free and fair referendum. Only very recently, at the end of April 2004, the Security Council discussed again the latest peace plan for Western Sahara (including a referendum) that it had unanimously adopted in July 2003. Like before, Morocco boycotts and in fact rejects self-determination, to the great dissatisfaction of Kofi Annan. The fact that your company accepted and actually carries out the survey is therefore sending a wrong message and politically very unappropriate.

What is more, it is unethical and contradictory to the spirit and practices of socially responsible entrepreneurship - a principle with which your company surely wishes to comply. Unethical because for the Sahrawi population in occupied Western Sahara Moroccan occupation means constant and systematical repression and for the Sahrawi refugees in exile it means prolonged

suffering and separation. It is this people of Western Sahara that should dispose of the natural resources of their territory.

We strongly recommend to you to end your current activities in Western Sahara. If you wish to undertake activities in Western Sahara, we suggest that you enter into contact with the Polisario Front - the organization that represents the people of Western Sahara upto the highest level, the Security Council of the United Nations included.

On behalf of the international campaign for Western Sahara, I propose to you to have a meeting with our Foundation and some of the members of the international Western Sahara campaign, at short term. We will be pleased to inform you on the juridical, political and human right issues that play a role regarding Western Sahara. In order to establish date, place and time, I will contact your office one of these days.

Yours truly,

Mrs E. den Haan,
President