



Stichting Zelfbeschikking West-Sahara

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Zelfbeschikking West-Sahara te Leiden

FUGRO N.V.

For the care of Mr G-J. Kramer,
President & Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 41
2260 AA LEIDSCHENDAM

Rotterdam, 30 June 2004

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letters of 11 and 25 June 2004 and considering the poor answer from you to the contents of our letter of 7 June 2004, we decided to publicly denounce from today on the complicity of Fugro N.V., Robertson Research International and Fugro SL Limited (Svitzer) in the illegal occupation of Western Sahara and in the plundering of the hydrocarbons of Western Sahara by its occupier.

We have recently been made aware that your seismic surveys offshore Western Sahara is to terminate within the month of June. The silence from Fugro and its subsidiaries we must therefore interpret as a deliberate strategy from your company to try to stall for time until the unethical activities would have been completed.

We are disillusioned about the lack of transparency that your company claims to abide with. Indeed, the letter sent to Fugro Geoteam by the Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara on 27 May 2003 – informing you about the negative aspects of any survey activities in Western Sahara – was never answered to, and the activities were carried out. Despite our efforts to have information on the Svitzer involvement, we did not get any substantial answer or explanation, but were only referred to the main office of Fugro. We have also been in contact with Robertson Research International in Wales. Despite that Robertson states to “openly report our performance, either good or bad”, they refuse to communicate the contents of their activities in the Western Sahara. Though, on the website pages of Robertson is mentioned that the company is since 2003 carrying out some sort of a study on Western Sahara and other countries in the region.

Any involvement of Robertson and Svitzer is contrary to the policy stated by Department of Trade and Industry (UK) in the issue. In his letter of 2002, the minister for Relations with North Africa wrote: “On the issue of the exploitation of mineral and fishing resources of Western Sahara, the UK notes the undetermined status of the territory. We recognise the realities of the situation in the territory itself. Therefore, we advise UK companies wishing to operate in Western Sahara to seek the advice and agreement of both parties to the dispute in their business planning.” And the Dutch foreign policy is that no sovereignty of Morocco is recognised over Western Sahara – in line with international law.

The referral to the non-existence of a UN embargo is irrelevant and does not change the validity of the legal, ethical and political arguments we put forward in our letter of 7 June 2004. Those arguments are also evoked by the Sahrawi state, by letter from its minister for Foreign Affairs, who has explicitly condemned your involvement in the hydrocarbons exploration.

We urgently demand a meeting to be held with Fugro N.V. in The Netherlands, at real short notice, meaning this week or next week. In the meeting, we would like to be informed about the ethical, political and legal considerations taken by Fugro and by each of its subsidiaries in this affair, and about the activities that were or are being carried out in Western Sahara.

We also request an explanation of what kind of activities were carried out by Fugro in the occupied territories of Western Sahara from June to September 2002, on behalf of the seismic company TGS-Nopec.

At the meeting, we would like to formally present to you our demand that all current survey activities be stopped, in future no explorative or related activities be carried out and that the data sets collected by Fugro to this date be handed over to the Polisario Front.

Finally we urge you to initiate a dialogue with the Polisario Front as the sole and legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people.

We will contact you within a few days.

A copy of this letter is sent to:

- Robertson Research International
- Fugro LS Limited 'Svitzer'
- the International Press"

Yours truly,

Elizabeth den Haan

Netherlands Foundation for Self-determination in Western Sahara, president

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On behalf of the international coalition for the protection of the natural resources in Western Sahara:

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Western Sahara Campaign - UK, coordinator

John Gurr

Western Sahara Campaign - Cymru (Wales), secretary

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Coordination européenne de Soutien au Peuple Sahraoui, president

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Asociación de Amigas/os de la RASD - Gipuzkoa en Donostia (San Sebastián, Spain), member of the permanent committee

Beatriz Olagüe

Asociación Navarra Amigos del Sahara, spokeswoman

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