August 22nd 2014

Open letter to Mr Lakshmi Mittal and ArcelorMittal S.A.

We are now writing you this letter as we find your partaking regarding the former concentration camp of Omarska unacceptable and completely immoral. As you will not respond to the previous letters sent by our lawyers of the Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer from London, we find an open letter to be the only possible way to gain your attention.

Even though we know that you are aware of these facts we will still like to remind you that Omarska is the most notorious concentration camp on European soil since the Second World War where monstrous executions, physical, psychological and sexual tortures, and summary killings occurred during a few summer months in 1992. We would also like to remind you that there are over 700 non-Serb inhabitants of the Prijedor municipality that were killed in that very camp. Having in mind these facts, we would further like to remind you of your company’s promises and agreements to us, as former camp detainees and activists.

On January 14th 2005 ArcelorMittal S.A. orally agreed that the White House in Omarska, that was used as a torture chamber and were many detainees lost their lives, would stay intact and untouched. ArcelorMittal S.A. also promised during the same meeting between former CEO Europe Roeland Baan representing Mittal and Satko Mujagic and Sten Fierant (representing Optimisti 2004 Foundation and other organisations), that the entrance to the former concentration camp will be allowed at all times. Moreover, ArcelorMittal S.A. stated in a press conference in Banja Luka, December 1th 2005, that there would be a construction of a memorial centre at Omarska financed by ArcelorMittal S.A. with 34 acres of land behind and around the White House.

Yet, the inside of the White House was repainted and by that the evidences of war crimes were covered and hidden. What is more, the promise of free entrance was modified later on in an email that stated that the entrance will only be allowed on two commemoration dated, May 24th and August 6th, while visits on other dates would be allowed upon requests on time. Likewise, almost ten years later there is nothing in Omarska that gives a hint of the fact that Omarska used to be a concentration camp let alone a memorial centre.

Instead, activists face sabotage and restrictions of commemorations in Omarska every single time in recent years both from ArcelorMittal S.A. and the local authorities whose actions, provocations, and denial of the genocide in Prijedor clearly sympathise with the nationalistic ideology of 1992 which was responsible for unthinkable horrors like Omarska in the first place with their leaders such as Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic who at moment find themselves in The Hague facing charges of genocide.

One of the examples of ArcelorMittal S.A. partaking in the sabotage and restriction of commemorating gatherings was the refusal of entrance to the activist group *Four Faces of Omarska* from Belgrade lead by Milica Tomic, together with the professor Eyal Weizmann and his associates from Goldsmith University from London on April 14th 2012.

Another example is the hindering of the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, a holocaust survivor, Mr. Theodor Meron on November 26th 2013 to enter the main building of the former concentration camp.

This year the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were prevented from entering the former concentration camp in order to pay their respects with their presence during the annual commemoration on August 6th. This summer, the same elite squadron were present at the commemoration in the former concentration camp of Keraterm on July 24th and the mass grave Hrastova Glavica on August 5th, both situated in the region of Prijedor. Yet, their entrance was denied in order to prevent them from joining the former detainees, surviving family members, international students, guests and activists from different countries, and several media houses in Omarska.

We find ourselves very confused in the partaking and motives of ArcelorMittal S.A. If ArcelorMittal S.A. is not directly responsible for these restrictions, we wonder how one of the largest multinational companies can allow their name to be dragged in the continuing, weapon-less, process of genocide in Prijedor where denial is the last checkpoint?

This has gone so far that we are not merely concerned former detainees, activists, and inhabitants of the municipality of Prijedor, but also concerned human beings, on a daily basis, observing the madness of nationalism at it’s peak and international actors’ passiveness to the mentioned. Your company’s slogan *transforming tomorrow* becomes somewhat questionable in this sense as you are directly, or indirectly, supporting the on-going situation described above. Your motives, reasons, and moral standing are also highly questionable and we find that your part in this story has become disgraceful.

We would like your comment on what is revealed above, and we would once again like to call you to a meeting as soon as possible in Prijedor, or if you find it difficult to visit us we could meet at your headquarters either in Luxemburg or London, to discuss the implementation of your promises and agreements.

We look forward to your open reply,

Satko Mujagic and Azra Muranovic on behalf of the group Guardians of Omarska (over 10.000 members)

Jasmin Meskovic on behalf of the Union of the Concentration-camp Detainees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mirsad Duratovic and Sudbin Music on behalf of the Association of the Concentration-camp Detainees Prijedor ‘92

Sabahudin Garibovic on behalf of the Association of the Concentration-camp detainees Kozarac

Supported by:

Goran Zoric and Nikola Kuridza on behalf of the Youth Association ’KVART’, Prijedor

Working group Four Faces of Omarska, Belgrade, Serbia.

Behzad Cirkin, Member of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska

Fikret Alic, former camp prisoner of Keraterm and Trnopolje camps whose images led to the closing of Keraterm and Omarska camps and initiated the founding of International Criminal Tribunal for ex-Yugoslavia

Murat Tahirovic on behalf of the Association of Witnesses and Victims of Genocide, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mirsad Tokaca, Research and Documentation Centre, Sarajevo

Dr. Susan Schuppli, Senior Research Fellow & Project Coordinator Forensic Architecture Centre for Research Architecture

Goldsmiths, University of London

Dr Marko Attila Hoare, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Kingston University, London

David Pettigrew, PhD, Professor of Philosophy. Southern CT State University;

Member, Steering Committee, Yale University Genocide Studies Program;

Board Member, Bosnian American Genocide Institute and Education Center, Chicago, IL;

International Team of Experts, Institute for Research of Genocide Canada.

Sten Fierant, former board member of the Foundation Optimisti 2004, The Netherlands

Geerlof de Moojj, winner of the price of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science in 2013 for his essay ‘*Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina’*

Amir Jatic on behalf of Platform BiH, umbrella organization of Bosnian associations in the Netherlands

Emir Ramic on behalf of the Institute for Research of Genocide, Canada

Sanja Seferovic Drnovsek , J.D. and Ed.M

President, Bosnian American Genocide Institute and Education Center. Member of the Illinois Holocaust & Genocide Commission, USA

Dr Hariz Halilovich, Genocide Scholar and Author of "Places of Pain" (Berghahn, 2013). Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

Ajla Delkic, Executive Director, Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Washington D.C.

Chris Keulemans, Journalist and Author, “*Omarska 15 years on”, The Netherlands*

Prof. Dr Dzemal Sokolovic

Prof. dr. Lada Sadikovic

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