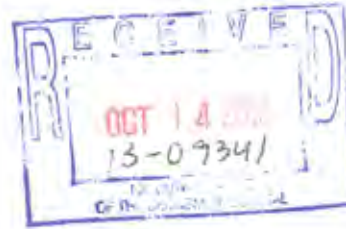


United Nations

His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
UN Headquarters
First Avenue at 46th street
New York, NY 10017.
United States



ACTION *Feltman*
COPY *DSG*

Sampa Soares
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Amsterdam, 10th October 2013

Dear Mr Secretary General,

I thank you for your continued leadership in the face of climate change, including the recent invitation to a Leaders Summit at the United Nations in 2014.

But I write to you with a heavy heart and in the face of the greatest attack against the right to peaceful protest we as an organization have experienced since French secret service agents sank our ship, the Rainbow Warrior, in New Zealand in 1985.

30 Greenpeace crew and activists have been and are being charged with piracy in Murmansk, Russia. The only crime that they committed was having a conscience, which drove them to peacefully protest against oil drilling in the Arctic. Oil drilling in the Arctic endangers not only this precious, unique environment but also leads to more dangerous climate change.

The authorities response to our peaceful protest has been disproportionate from the beginning, when, on September 18th, activists attempted to climb the outside structure of the Prirazlomnaya platform to protest against imminent oil drilling.

The Russian Coast Guard launched inflatables manned with agents masked in balaclavas, who rammed and slashed the Greenpeace inflatables, threatened our activists at gun and knife point and fired warning shots from automatic weapons. On September 19th, our ship, the Arctic Sunrise was in turn illegally seized in international waters.

You can find a full timeline of events here:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/features/From-peaceful-action-to-dramatic-seizure-a-timeline-of-events-since-the-Arctic-Sunrise-took-action-September-18-CET/>

The charge of piracy is truly astonishing, especially as Russian President Vladimir Putin himself stated last week that our activists are "no pirates" (see: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/25/us-russia-greenpeace-idUSBRE98O09I20130925>) and many international legal experts have stated unequivocally in recent days, that the seizure of the "Arctic Sunrise" was illegal under international law (see:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/features/legal-experts-on-arctic-sunrise/>).

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and many other civil society organizations have also condemned the charges, calling them "absurd and damaging" (Amnesty International).



The right to peaceful protest, but also the sanctity of international law, is at stake in this case. I therefore appeal to you to personally intervene and defend international law, which we know is at the very core of the United Nations.

I am calling on you to:

- Request an immediate, private meeting with the Russian Ambassador to the UN to raise your grave concern over this situation
- Personally call President Putin and ask for him to ensure that Russia abides by international law and standards
- To publicly state your concern about peaceful protest not being treated like piracy

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you require any more detail on this situation and I would, of course, also be available for a phone conversation or even a meeting, if your calendar allowed.

We thank you for your support, also on behalf of our 30 activists and their families.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Kumi Naidoo
Executive Director
Greenpeace International