



Friends of
the Earth
International



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Mr. Lakshmi Mittal
Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO
ArcelorMittal

May 7, 2009

Dear Mr. Mittal:

In February we wrote to ArcelorMittal requesting information and clarification about the 'donation' of one hundred (100) pick-up trucks to the Government of Liberia. ArcelorMittal's response dated February 18, 2009 confirmed that the 'donation' of the vehicles was in direct response to an appeal from the President of Liberia for vehicles to support agricultural activities in rural areas. ArcelorMittal also indicated that there was an understanding with the Government that the Ministry of Internal Affairs would ensure the proper use and monitoring of the vehicles.

This response raises more questions than answers. We would be grateful if ArcelorMittal could further clarify the following:

- The vehicles were donated to support agricultural activities. Upon arrival the vehicles were assigned to Legislators instead of the Ministry of Agriculture. Virtually all the Legislators (except two Senators) are using the vehicles in Monrovia and not for agricultural activities in their constituencies. For example, of the fifteen pick-ups that were given to Legislators from Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu and Rivercess counties, only one of the pick-ups is actually being used by the Agriculture Officer in Grand Bassa County. ***Can you clarify this apparent inconsistency between the agreed purpose of the donation and the actual use of the vehicles? What is ArcelorMittal doing or has done in light of this?***
- According to the joint statement (Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal) sent to us along with your response of February 18, 2009, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was given the responsibility of ensuring the proper use and monitoring of the vehicles. ***What was the basis on which this role was assigned to the Ministry of Internal Affairs? How will the Ministry of Internal Affairs exercise authority over vehicles that are assigned to Legislators?***

- The role of the Legislature is unclear. *To what extent were the Legislators, as the eventual users of the vehicles, involved in these arrangements? Were they a party to these discussions and decisions?*
- We believe that it is not right for ArcelorMittal to put the full responsibility for proper use of the pick-ups on the Liberian government. As your company does profit from this gift, in terms of the credits for being a responsible investor and potential favors resulting from that gift, you also have the responsibility to ensure that the pick-ups are not used for purposes that differ from those that were agreed upon: support rural development. Did ArcelorMittal consider that there was a reasonable risk that the pick-ups would not be used for agricultural purposes? And if that would happen, did the company consider that it could be accused of a potential link between the gifts and future or past decisions of Liberian legislators that would be favorable for ArcelorMittal or even of bribery? And if so, why did the company decide to proceed with this gift?
- *In light of these developments, i.e. the vehicles not being used for the intended purpose, what will be ArcelorMittal's next course of action?*

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely Yours,

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