Statement from BSGR about faked French Intelligence Service Documents

20 January 2014

By relying on intelligence files that the French government has now confirmed were fabricated, Le Canard enchaine published false and defamatory accusations that BSGR and Beny Steinmetz were part of a coup effort in Guinea. These damaging allegations were widely reproduced by worldwide media organisations. Le Canard's September 25, 2013 headline claimed: "CIA and DGSE memos announce a coup d'état in Conakry -- Trouble might start as soon as next week according to the secret services."

But the French government informed BSGR in a letter dated January 13, 2014 that the documents are forgeries, stating: "I have the honour to let you know that the document attached in your transmission of 24 Oct 2013 is not from the DGSE." The letter is signed by Stephane Genest, on behalf of the DGSE’s Chief of Staff.

Le Canard was required under French law to provide the fake documents to BSGR as part of the libel action filed against Le Canard by BSGR and Mr Steinmetz following the defamatory report. Le Canard has acknowledged that these documents -- now disavowed by French intelligence -- were the basis for falsely claiming that BSGR and Mr Steinmetz were encouraging a coup in Guinea.

Le Canard's story was exploited by the Guinean government ahead of legislative elections to undermine BSGR and Mr. Steinmetz, with the Minister of Security, Madfing Diane, declaring, "Guinea is in danger and the strings are being pulled from outside."

These falsified allegations are consistent with the international campaign to damage BSGR's reputation as part of the effort to revoke the company's legally acquired mining rights in Guinea. This scheme is believed to have begun with a $5 million grant that George Soros announced he was providing the Guinean government (source: http://www.revenuewatch.org/sites/default/files/GS_Communique_Guinea.pdf).

The fabrication and dissemination of forged intelligence reports are the latest indications that Guinean President Alpha Condé will use illegal tactics in order to fulfil his ambition of seizing BSGR's mining assets. As BSGR has stated previously, any effort to revoke or diminish the company's mining rights will be met with an international arbitration claim in an independent court that can properly assess the facts.

- ENDS –

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