

**From:** Gunnar Thorenfeldt gth@dagbladet.no  
**Subject:** SV: From Dagbladet  
**Date:** 20 November 2018 at 10:59  
**To:** Siri Gedde-Dahl Siri.Gedde-Dahl@dagbladet.no, Kirill Levanidov [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** peteris pildegovics [REDACTED]

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Dear Kirill and Peteris

I read your comments on Facebook. You are off course entitled to your opinion. But it would be nice if you can clarify something.

1. You are writing that we “declines to publish our documents proving that we do supply our sailors with proper food and clothes regardless their nationality – be those Russians, Latvians, Ukrainians, or Indonesians”.

To my knowledge we have never declined such a thing. I saw that you sent us documents on this, but since we didn't write that people were starving while they worked for North Star, we didn't see it necessary to disprove a claim that was not published. If you still want to publish this information, please let me know.

2. We have published your claim that the contract is fake, and we are as eager as you to find out what's real here. We can't conclude that the signature in the contract are real, as the same time we cannot conclude that the signature in the contract are fake. But we know for fact that the contracts were used to invite Indonesians to work in Båtsfjord. We have many times explained for you that the contract is from the Norwegian embassy in Indonesia, and that we got the contracts through a normal freedom of information request.

You are writing that “The newspaper does not find it necessary to provide any proof for that; neither does it agree to question the credibility of its sources even though prompted that these facts are incorrect».

We have in fact given you all fact as soon it has been possible. And we still want to cooperate with you to find out what real, what's fact, and what have really happened. Opposite of what you are writing, we are not closed on a fixed conclusion, but want just to find out what's rally happened.

3. If you have fact or information you think we should consider, or if you think we have misunderstood something, or published some wrong information – please let us know. We are off course always interested in relevant information.

Best Regards  
Gunnar Thorenfeldt

In an emotional drivel of rumours and speculations, newspaper Dagbladet has recently sputtered out a few stories about EU fishing in the Barents Sea. Although the boats under European flags stopped fishing crabs in the Barents Sea two years ago, the newspaper promises more stories to come in the nearest future. Be that an odd coincidence or not, this defamation campaign unwinds amidst ongoing Supreme court debates over EU boats fighting for quotas in the Svalbard area.

Referring to its anonymous sources, Dagbladet claims that some Indonesian seamen worked aboard the boats owned by Latvian Baltjura-Service for over two years. Based in Batsfjord, starved and treated as slaves. The newspaper does not find it necessary to provide any proof for that; neither does it agree to question the credibility of its sources even though prompted that these facts are incorrect. As a matter of fact, Baltjura-Service operated in the Barents Sea in May 2015 - September 2016 which is far less than two years in total.

Dagbladet mixes all European and Russian crabbing companies together. Ignoring facts and details, all are painted equally black. Although Seagourmet Norway AS and its partners (SIA North Star and Sea & Coast AS) are in no way associated or connected to Baltjura-Service, the newspaper declines to publish our documents proving that we do supply our sailors with proper food and clothes regardless their nationality – be those Russians, Latvians, Ukrainians, or Indonesians.

Furthermore, the newspaper smears the fair name of Batsfjord – the fishery capital of Norway. The small town is now labeled ‘Pirate bay’ because someone heard someone saying that. Opinions instead of facts.

A cherry of the cake is a published employment agreement that has been allegedly stamped by Sea & Coast AS and signed by Mr. Sergei Ankipov. Dagbladet uses this paper to prove that seamen hired for Saldus are surviving in indecent conditions. The list of working requirements and wages is indeed controversial and inappropriate. This paper is however a total fake, and we sent that message to Dagbladet but they still chose to publish it.

This paper is fake, and here is why: Sea & Coast AS has never recruited crew members or signed labour contracts with crew members. Sea & Coast AS has a different stamp (the one on the paper is of some Sea and Coast Limited that we have not even heard of before). The signature of Mr. Sergei Ankipov is far from his authentic one. All crew members aboard Saldus have contracts with 6-month maximum validity. Everything is a lie on the paper. Neither Sea & Coast AS, nor SIA North Star has ever recruited seamen on the terms stipulated in that fraudulent paper. We are very keen to find out where that paper comes from.

We have been following the dramatic story about the Ukrainian crew member of a Latvian crabber. He drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while the vessel was on its way to Africa. We admire the heartfelt efforts of Ms. Sannes to help the family of the deceased. Our opinion though is that journalistic integrity should stay away from speculating on emotions. Dagbladet does not seem to second the opinion.

Our guess is that the ongoing defamation campaign run by Dagbladet is politically motivated. The alleged motive is to stir public disapproval against EU ship owners currently fighting for their historical fishing rights in the Svalbard zone. It is otherwise difficult to understand why the newspaper chooses to ignore our arguments and facts.

Seagourmet Norway AS and its partner companies – SIA North Star and Sea & Coast AS – have not broken any legal or ethical principles in business.