



Paris, 11/03/2015

Monsieur Laurent FABIUS  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et du  
Développement international

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Mister Minister of foreign Affairs

We have been informed that a French company, Safege, is carrying out a feasibility study in Jerusalem concerning a cable car transport between the old Ottoman station in West Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. The project has received the approval of the Jerusalem municipality and the Israeli ministry of transport. This study follows a first draft of the project that Safege asserts they have completed while preceding a tender for which another French company, Poma, may bid.

This achievement which would inevitably imply the expropriation of Palestinian land would be a new tool to further colonize East-Jerusalem and would create facts on the ground, in violation of international law, to strenghten the judaisation of the city.

Furthermore il would desecrate several major religious sites like St Pierre-en-Gallicante or Gethsemani as well as the immediate surroundings of al- Aqsa Mosque and would seriously impair the world's heritage.

Under the excuse of improving public transports and protecting the environment, it's a real political time bomb which is in the making. Of course we believe that the French government is well aware of what is at stake. But it happens that Sagefe is the engineering branch of Suez Environnement whose strategic shareholder is GDF-Suez in which the state holds a 33,29 % share.

In June 2014, French companies were warned by your services against the risks they may face should they invest in Israeli settlements. We just can't believe the French government has not properly assessed the extremely serious political risks for our country, should a company in which the state is a shareholder be implied in a project aiming at re-enforcing an illegal situation. This would put France in contradiction with her constant position which is to refuse any fact on the ground imposed by the occupying power in violation of the Fourth Geneva conventions, of various UN resolutions and the very Charter of the UN. It would facilitate the colonization policies that France condemns.

Rather, we expect that the government will be as persuasive as the German government was with Deutsche Bahn concerning the tender for the fast train whose route dug into Palestinian occupied territory.

As you know, AFPS, with the PLO, took legal action as early as 2007, asking for the cancellation of the contract to build the Jerusalem light train, in which two French companies, Veolia and Alstom, were involved. The French court didn't agree with our conclusions, arguing that international law cannot affect domestic law and our case is now in the hands of the EHRC.

In the same way we have alerted your services as well as the Elysée's about the Orange company being also involved in a commercial branding agreement with an Israeli telecommunication company, Partner, which exploits the Palestinian occupied territory illegally with a whole network of antennas and Orange shops all around the settlements.

We are hereby asking to meet you as soon as possible so as to be reassured that France's position and intention in this case will remain in accordance with her traditional policy and the Law.

With my uttermost consideration.

Taoufiq Tahani  
President of AFPS