



Sr. Pietro Salini
Amministratore Delegato
SALINI COSTRUTTORI S.p.A.
Via della Dataria 22
00187
Roma
Italy

12 April 2010

Dear Mr Salini

In a series of press releases issued on 23rd, 26th and 30th March 2010 Salini Costruttori made serious allegations about Survival International and our campaign to stop the Gibe III dam in Ethiopia. The purpose of this letter is to offer you the opportunity either to substantiate the allegations you have made - or if you are not able to do so, to withdraw them.

Press Release of 23rd March

The first press release named Survival and claimed that all the statements contained in our own press release of the same date were 'false', or were the result of "elementary arithmetic errors" or 'gross errors of fact'. The only error identified in your press release, however, was that we had claimed that the Gibe III dam would result in a 12 metre drop in the level of Lake Turkana.

We are not aware that we have ever made such a claim. All that we have done is to make the ARWG report available to visitors to our website who wish to inform themselves about the issues. This report has been available to Salini for more than a year, but rather than refute it with 'scientifically provable' facts you have chosen to misrepresent what it says.

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We help tribal peoples defend
their lives, protect their lands
and determine their own futures.

The report does not say that water levels will drop by 12 metres. It merely refers to “high estimates [that] extend to 10 to 12 metres.” Your claim that the drop is based on a ‘gross error’ about the volume of the reservoir is also incorrect. As the report makes clear, ARWG is concerned amongst other things by potential leakages from the reservoir itself and by extensive ‘oftakes’ downstream of the dam.

In the interests of the scientifically informed debate, which you say you want to encourage, we invite you to confirm or deny that:

- (a) during the filling of the reservoir you will be contractually obliged to limit the water flow to $15\text{m}^3/\text{sec}$;
- (b) the average flow at present is $61\text{m}^3/\text{sec}$ during the driest month and $438\text{m}^3/\text{sec}$ annually; and
- (c) significant quantities of water are likely to:
 - (i) be lost to evaporation on the surface of the reservoir;
 - (ii) escape from the reservoir through underground cracks; and/or
 - (iii) be diverted to the large-scale irrigation schemes planned by the Ethiopian authorities.

Each of these factors will have an important effect on water levels at Lake Turkana. Each has been identified by experts in the field and has been widely discussed over many months. If Salini has the evidence to show that they are based on “gross errors of fact” it is in the company’s own interests to disclose this evidence now.

Press Release of 26th March

This press release does not name Survival but we are one of the founders of a campaign to stop the dam which is described as ‘irresponsible’ and is supposedly based on ‘blatant factual errors’ and ‘elementary mistakes’. Once again we must ask you to identify the specific errors and mistakes that we are said to have made, and any Survival publication in which these errors and mistakes are said to have appeared.

Press Release of 30th March

The strap line to your third release is in capital letters and reads: 'Gibe III: The Survival figures are obviously incorrect.' It goes on to criticise our 'dramatic' and 'alarming' claim that the capacity of the dam basin is 216 billion cubic metres. We are not aware that we have made such a claim. Please identify any Survival publication or letter in which you think that it appears.

You make the general remark that we are 'not in possession of adequate information or adequate competences to assess' the project. We agree, but have never attempted to 'assess' any technical aspects of the project. Our sole concern has been the welfare of the indigenous communities downstream of the dam, on which we believe we are well qualified to speak.

Future discussions

We would like to talk to you about the impact of the dam on these communities. You say that you are willing to attend discussions as long as they are based on 'accurate and scientifically provable elements and not merely on sterile ideological prejudice'. We agree with this sentiment, and if it can be demonstrated that we have made inaccurate statements we will correct them.

The same must also hold true, however, for Salini. If, as we believe, the company has made unfounded allegations against Survival it should withdraw them without qualification.

Our reputation for factual accuracy is important to us and we will do what is necessary to protect it. We would much prefer to do this by an exchange of letters than by other, more formal means.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Corry
Director