

**letter zembla April 13<sup>th</sup>/ reaction April 21st 2017**

**ZEMBLA (Z):**

**“The mining activities in Africa. In Angola there are serious accusations of human rights violations.”**

Lev Leviev (LL):

No complaint regarding human rights violations in Africa (or any other complaint) has ever been attributed to Mr. Leviev or to any company controlled by him. Furthermore, LGC does, and has always done, everything in its power to ensure that no human rights violations occur in any business operations controlled by it.

**Letter Zembla April 30<sup>th</sup>/ Reaction LETTER 04/05/2017**

**Z:**

**- According to Rafael Marques, an investigative journalist from Angola, Mr Leviev is partly responsible for severe human rights abuses in Angola connected to the mining industry. Mr Marques investigated the human rights offenses committed by a security company working for Mr Leviev, K&P Mineira. He accuses Mr Leviev of trading blood diamonds since local inhabitants are subjected to human rights abuses and killings.**

LL:

- Mr Leviev and LGC have never been responsible for human rights violations
- Mr Leviev commenced his activities in Angola in 1995, at a time when Angola had been suffering from a long civil war fueled by illicit trade in “blood diamonds”. The problem of rebel forces arming themselves from the revenues of such illicit trade gravely concerned the local and international community, as evidenced by various UN reports and Security Council resolutions from those years.
- Pursuant to the request of Angola’s government, by 1999 Mr Leviev engaged in a joint-venture with the government, in order to plan and implement a complete restructuring of the country’s diamond sector. That plan assisted the government to regulate and stabilize the diamond industry, and to effectively combat the illicit trade of diamonds. Furthermore, the activities of Mr Leviev, through his privately held companies, created hundreds of jobs (including in remote villages in proximity to the mine in which employment options are scarce) and contributed to the significant production increase of the Angolan diamond industry, and thereby had a positive impact on the economy.
- Mr Leviev and LGC take human rights very seriously and have accordingly always done everything in their power to ensure that no human rights violations occur in any business operations in which Mr Leviev has an interest. Mr Leviev and LGC condemn in the strongest terms any human rights violations in the diamond industry in Angola (or anywhere in the world).
- We are aware of a number of allegations that have been made, primarily by Mr Rafael Marques, in relation to the conduct of members of security companies active in mines in Angola. However, none of the alleged violations is attributable to Mr Leviev or LGC.
- Rafael Marques de Morais extensive 2011 report, titled “Blood Diamonds: Corruption and Torture in Angola” (re-published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in 2015) does not accuse Mr Leviev of any human rights violations. While the report mentions Mr Leviev several times, it does not contain

any accusation that Mr Leviev was “responsible for severe human rights abuses”, nor is Leviev accused of trading in blood diamonds.

- It should be noted that publications about alleged human rights violations in the diamond industry in Angola often contain inaccuracies and factual and legal errors, which in some cases amount to falsely attributing to Mr Leviev certain improper conduct of employees of security companies. Accordingly, the following clarifications are called for:

o Mr Leviev indirectly holds a minority ownership interest in the Luminas mining company. Any reference to “Leviev’s mine” which implies that Mr Leviev is controlling the activity in that mine is incorrect.

o Mr Leviev does not have any ownership interest in any of the security companies accused of human rights violations. More specifically, Mr Leviev does not (directly or indirectly) own the security firm K&P Mineira, nor does he own any of the security companies which provided services to mines in Angola.

o Luminas received security services from the security firm K&P Mineira. When hearing of an incident involving misconduct by employees of K&P Mineira, the Leviev Group was greatly concerned and, condemning any kind of violence or abuse of human rights, prompted the Luminas management to ensure that measures were taken by K&P Mineira to treat this incident. Subsequently, legal measures were taken against personnel involved in wrongdoing.

o That said, neither Mr Leviev nor Luminas can be held responsible for the wrongdoing of K&P’s personnel. There is a letter from K&P Mineira (which can be provided upon request), confirming that K&P Mineira is not controlled by Luminas and is solely responsible for the conduct of its employees.

Mr Leviev and LGC never traded blood diamonds

- The accusation regarding trade in “blood diamonds” is also unfounded. In fact, the opposite is the true, as we elaborated above, and LGC takes measures to ensure that no blood diamonds are traded by any of the group companies.

- Mr Leviev is proud of having a role in promoting the Angolan diamond industry, and all of LGC’s operations there have always been absolutely legal and legitimate.

### **Reaction letter May 9th 2017**

The clients further wish to reiterate that they hold human rights very highly and condemn any human rights violations in the strongest terms. They expressly deny any responsibility to human rights violations in Angola or anywhere else, and they do not accept being associated with such violations in any way. The clients further reject any alleged involvement in "diamonds smuggling", illicit trade or trade in "blood diamonds". The clients, quite to the contrary, stress that the activities of Mr Leviev in Angola

have contributed to a reduction in the trade of blood diamonds and that, until today, LGC only trades rough diamonds accompanied with a Kimberly certificate, proving the origin and legality of the traded diamonds. No allegation of "human rights abuses", "smuggling" or "trading blood diamonds" was ever made by any relevant authority.

The clients are not aware of any occasion where Mr Marques or any other person has accused Mr Leviev of *being "partly responsib/e"* for human rights abuses. If Zembla were to publish such allegations, it is obliged by law, and the clients demand that they be enabled to express their views

as to these allegations. Accordingly, if you still plan to include in your program any allegations of such (partial) responsibility, please let us know the exact contents of these allegations so that clients will be able to respond to them.