



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: Lafarge admits having provided funds to armed groups in Syria

Paris – March 2nd, 2017

Following our complaint for financing terrorism and complicity in war crimes and crimes against humanity on November 15th 2016, LafargeHolcim admits it “provided funds to third parties to work out arrangements with a number of these armed groups, including sanctioned parties, in order to maintain operations and ensure safe passage of employees and supplies to and from the plant.”¹

The internal investigation of Lafarge shouldn’t imply that only the Syrian subsidiary is responsible of arrangements with armed groups. The French parent company holds 98.7% of the subsidiary, and was most of the time the source of all decisions it made.

This partial recognition of the facts demonstrates yet again the need for a legislation requiring multinationals to respect human rights in the course of their activities abroad. The multinationals’ duty of care law definitively adopted on 21 February should help to prevent this type of violations.

After being adopted, members of the French Parliament referred the law to Constitutional Council which could censure it for violating the entrepreneurial freedom’s principle. We cannot remain silent when faced with such violations and hope, with the whole civil society that the Council will not choose entrepreneurial freedom over human rights.

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¹ <http://www.lafargeholcim.com/LafargeHolcim-responds-syria-review>