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REGIONALNI CENTAR ZA MANJINE
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR MINORITIES

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July 02, 2010
Belgrade, Serbia

To: Mr. Hakan Lucius
To: Mr. Sterlin Balenciaga
To: Directors of EIB

We want to draw your attention to the unlawful activities that are occurring in Belgrade, Serbia and are linked to the Sava River Crossing project and the feeder roads that will be financed by EIB. These illegal activities are related to the Belville settlement (also known as Buvljak) and the treatment of its inhabitants, which will be resettled as part of preparatory activities for building the feeder roads.

Recently we were informed by the settlement inhabitants that in the past 2 weeks they were pressured by City of Belgrade representatives to move their dwellings in preparation for the project. The representatives refuse to identify themselves upon request, disburse false information, and refuse to show any written eviction notice, and use threats. The city-appointed settlement representatives are not recognized by the settlement inhabitants, because they serve to the interests of the city, not the settlement. They resort to threats and physical assault. To illustrate, one Belville resident was assaulted by a settlement representative in the past week, because she was trying to video record the events.

Again, we want to use this opportunity to emphasize that there were no further steps taken towards the development of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) that is meant to serve as a basic document and prerequisite for all resettlements. From this, we see that the City of Belgrade is unwilling to improve on the poor quality resettlement process used in the case of Gazela and is again failing to include inhabitants and host communities in the development and implementation of the RAP.

Therefore we are calling upon you to:

- 1) Demand that the authorities do everything in their power to end the aforementioned unlawful activities and hold the responsible parties accountable.
- 2) Demand that Serbian and Belgrade authorities revise the general RAP for the city of Belgrade and based on the established shortcomings prepare a detailed and participatory RAP and to include recommendations from human rights

organizations and the affected people before any further steps in the preparation for the "Sava crossing feeder roads" project.

- 3) Use the revised RAP as a model for resettlements in all parts of Belgrade.

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