



CEE Bankwatch Network
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Czech Republic
Email: main@bankwatch.org
http://www.bankwatch.org

Bulgaria:

Centre for Environmental
Information and Education
(CEIE)

Za Zemiata, For the Earth

Croatia:

Green Action

Czech Republic:

Centrum pro dopravu a
energetiku (CDE)

Hnutí DUHA

Estonia:

Estonian Green Movement-FoE

Georgia:

Green Alternative

Hungary:

National Society of
Conservationists - Friends of
the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ)

Latvia:

Latvian Green Movement

Lithuania:

Atgaja

Macedonia:

Eko-svest

Poland:

Polish Green Network (PGN)

Russia:

Sakhalin Environmental Watch

Serbia:

Center for Ecology and
Sustainable Development
(CEKOR)

Slovakia:

Friends of the Earth - Center
for Environmental Public
Advocacy (FoE-CEPA)

Ukraine:

National Ecological Centre of
Ukraine (NECU)

CEE Bankwatch Network's
mission is to prevent
environmentally and socially
harmful impacts of
international development
finance, and to promote
alternative solutions and public
participation.

TO:

Suma Chakrabarti
President
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

(sent via email on December 23, 2013)

Dear President Chakrabarti,

Two days after your institution approved its latest loan to Egypt, I read the following: <http://arabist.net/blog/2013/12/19/human-rights-ngo-raided-in-egypt> - the respected Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights, who actively and constructively engaged with the bank during its annual meetings in Istanbul in May, had its offices raided by Egyptian security forces. Several staff and volunteers were detained overnight, blindfolded and beaten. While five of the six initially detained were released, one remains held incommunicado at an unknown location.

I trust that I need not explain that this amounts to a gross human rights violation, that, indeed, this action seeks to instill a climate of fear and unease among the very people who seek to defend human rights across Egypt. I also trust that I need not remind you that Article 1 of the Agreement Establishing the EBRD states that the bank operates in "countries committed to and applying the principles of multiparty democracy, pluralism and market economics" and that the bank is, in fact, a public institution established to carry out a public duty. I would normally assume these are all clear to you; but then I cannot understand why you continue to operate in Egypt.

How is Egypt and the current government a country "committed to and applying the principles of multiparty democracy, pluralism[...]"? Have you chosen to derogate from this clause in your basic document? If so, is there some agreement from your shareholders that we missed that would allow you to do so?

I would very much appreciate a better understanding of how the EBRD can continue to operate in Egypt when doing so amounts to a blatant violation of your own commitments as a public institution.

Sincerely,

Mark Fodor
Executive director
CEE Bankwatch Network