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Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage

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To Mr. Alexander Kellner Director of National Museum

Mr. Keller we would like to express our sympathy for the current situation in National Museum of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro. Following the world medianews a fire tore through the 200-year-old National Museum of Brazil, burning for more than five hours and destroying or damaging countless irreplaceable artifacts, fossils, memorabilia, works of art, and more. Words fall short of expressing our sorrow for your loss. The National Museum is the oldest scientific institution of Brazil and one of the largest museums of natural history and anthropology in the America. Brazilian National Heritage is important for all nations. Please accept our heartfelt condolences. We are familiar with the feeling on lose Cultural Heritage. Please, accept our deepest sympathy, Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage stands by National Museum of Brazil.

About Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage

Sakdrisi was established on March 2014. At this time gold manufacturing company named Rich Metal Group - RMG decided to seize control over Sakdrisi Gold Mine, recognized as Cultural Heritage, one of the oldest gold mines in the world, dating back almost 5,000 years. RMG started gold recovery process. By this time Georgian Government position was unclear about RMG's illegal actions. Volunteers from different regions of Georgia started gathering to survive the Cultural Heritage. Documentary film about Gold of Sakdrisi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNuT5VR9tfE> Volunteers began 24 hours constant monitoring of Sakdrisi that lasted 9 months. This was the longest act of protest in the history of Georgia. Groups of volunteers – protectors of Sakdrisi were named as Sakdrisi Survival Committee. During these nine months of constant monitoring we moved the case through the court system. Europa Nostra (the largest European union, working on the cultural heritage matters), UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and a lot of other famous scientists, politicians from France, Germany, USA, Austria and Switzerland provided support for Cultural Heritage - Sakdrisi. Besides the protest actions on 13th of December, 2014 Rich Metal Group illegally exploded ancient gold mine of Sakdrisi-Kachagiani located in Bolnisi Municipality. The Historical Mine had been destroyed. After the "barbaric explosion" of Sakdrisi Civil society activists in Georgia have staged protests against the site's destruction. A few dozen young students have been camped out near Sakdrisi.

In February 2015 Sakdrisi Survival Committee demanded for establishing Temporary Parliamentary

Investigative Commission in Parliament of Georgia to investigate the illegal explosion of the Historical Mine and started consulting process with different Political Parties.

After the great effort of Sakdrisi Survival Committee the Government of Georgia and Rich Metal Group (RMG) agreed to build museum - a modern archaeological museum, value of 4 000 000 dollars.

Unfortunately, we couldn't manage to defend Sakdrisi. On February, 2016 Sakdrisi Survival Committee changed the named. Nowadays Sakdrisi Survival Committee is known as Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage. These activists and volunteers became the most influential civil society activists in Georgia. Lately we began to protect Cultural Heritage in Georgia and Ecosystem. Sakdrisi Survival Committee secures all of the Cultural Heritage which is threatened by private businesses, especially in the region where Rich Metal Group operates. Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage contradicts open cut mining process and cyanide irrigation process. We managed to stop the processes that could damage ecosystem. Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage still remains union of volunteers and negotiates with non-Governmental and Governmental organizations, organizes cultural events for popularization Cultural Heritage and for protecting ecosystem.

In 2016 Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage managed to stop the airdrome construction process near Mtskheta (Mtskheta site is in the list of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage) and staged protest scale requesting to build museum in the city Mtskheta, UNESCO was involves in project development process.

In February 2017 Sakhdrisi Committee of Cultural Heritage managed to interrupt Rich Metal Group's intention gold mining process in „Bneli Khevi”, Tetrtskharo Municipality.

In summer 2017 Sakdrisi Committee of Cultural Heritage with other organizations sent request to The Venice Commission to restore the Issue about Cultural Heritage in the new version of The Constitution of Georgia.

In 2016 Sakdrisi Committee of Cultural Heritage every 13th of December (Sakdrisi explosion day) awards companies, who promoted destroying Cultural Heritage with anti-prize - Golden Hammer.

From 2014 to February 2018 Sakdrisi Committee of Cultural Heritage organized 108 conference.

About Sakdrisi Committee of Cultural Heritage is done a research, shot 3 documentary films and made several programs in Media.

Kind Regards,

Team of Sakdrisi Committee for Cultural Heritage