



11 May 2020

Dear Donors,

It is with heavy heart that I write to make you aware of an unpleasant situation CIJA finds itself in. Unfortunately, allegations and rumours regarding CIJA are of such nature that, should they be publicly spread and not refuted, they will damage not only the Commission but also the successes we have made and the good work we continue to do in the accountability field.

There are two separate issues I want to address with you today:

1. The claim – first put out by ^{10.2.g} in outlets such as the ^{10.2.g} (and now being picked up by newspapers in Belgium and the Netherlands) - that CIJA and ^{10.2.g} (a private company owned by ^{10.2.e}) are one and the same.
2. The claim that [a press release put out by the EU's OLAF](#) on 24 March 2020 concerns an EU grant awarded to CIJA. ^{10.2.g}

Both of these claims are manifestly false, and I will address them here in detail. It is a complex matter that requires delving back to the past and the discussions we have had with programme officers who have been long-standing supporters of our work in Syria, albeit at the time when they were overseen by different personnel. There is no truth in these claims, but the complexity of the facts is such that those seeking to write or discuss the topic – intentionally or not – end up creating a misleading and false narrative.

We firmly believe that the steps that led to the set up and current organizational capacity of CIJA are a testament to the success of innovative and entrepreneurial thinking on behalf of many individuals from the non-profit, commercial and donor sectors who came together at a time of crisis and found a viable way to secure evidence that is essential to the current as well as future avenues for justice in Syria. Most importantly, it is a testament to the engagement of the best minds in the criminal investigative and analytical fields of criminal justice, many of whom left highly-paid and secure jobs to join a novel idea. They have been joined by numerous leading experts in the world of international criminal law who selflessly continue to put in unpaid hours as advisors and oversight board members. At no time did CIJA hide the story of its beginnings from these professionals, its staff or the general public - let alone from its donors.

In less than eight years together we have managed to build an organization that has indisputably advanced the idea of international criminal justice and unequivocally secured

unrivalled amounts of evidence pertaining to the Syrian conflict, to a degree unseen in any war to this point in history. This is a story we are proud to tell.

CIJA has thus far received fifty-nine grants from eleven donors, including five from the European Union. The total value of these grants is EUR 37.5m. During this same period, CIJA has passed forty-nine external audits undertaken by independent auditors, including those appointed by its donors, not least the European Union. No donor grant to CIJA has ever failed an audit, nor have any of the audits of CIJA records led to adverse findings regarding the financial management of public monies by CIJA or the more general administrative practices of the Commission.

The threat and allegations we are now facing are not new. Previously they were an outcome of 10.2.g attempts to discredit the work of CIJA and 10.2.g, and tarnish the image and reputation of individuals such as 10.2.e. 10.2.g

- May 2019: 10.2.g [issues a statement](#) for the first time attacking openly the veracity of CIJA's work, calling the organization "opaque."
- June 2019: 10.2.g publish [an article in](#) 10.2.g the objective of which is to discredit CIJA and 10.2.e; this followed a similar piece on 10.2.g and 10.2.e.
- Summer 2019: 10.2.g as well as for its attacks upon the reputations of the 10.2.g and 10.2.e, commences work on a "research paper" about CIJA, 10.2.g and 10.2.e. The same collection of 10.2.g involved in putting together an alleged 10.2.g – in which they attempt to link business and non-profit interests to a conspiracy in order to discredit the 10.2.g – starts asking exactly the same questions about SCJA/CIJA as they did about 10.2.g.
- 10.2.e en 10.2.g
- 10.2.g
- 10.2.g
- 10.2.g
- 10.2.g

- Simultaneously (according to its later press release), in January 2020 OLAF concludes its investigations into a rule of law project relating to Syria and forwards its findings to various national authorities.
- 10.2.e en 10.2.g [REDACTED].
- 23 March 2020: OLAF makes public that it had concluded the aforementioned investigation in January.
- April/May 2020: CIJA is approached by a journalist from 10.2.g [REDACTED].

10.2.g [REDACTED]

10.2.g [REDACTED]

Most of you are aware of the fact that 10.2.e [REDACTED], the chairman of the CIJA Board of Directors, owns a company called 10.2.g [REDACTED]. While some detractors of the CIJA project claim this is a conflict of interest, the truth is the opposite as you will know from many examples around the world of individuals successfully fulfilling their roles in commercial and non-profit sector.

Neither 10.2.e [REDACTED] nor CIJA ever hid the fact that he is the owner of 10.2.g [REDACTED] and transparently talked about it, including in these articles [published by the Guardian](#) and [the New Yorker](#). CIJA has also publicly discussed how 10.2.g [REDACTED] was involved in the set-up of the initiative that eventually led to the creation of CIJA, as you will be able to see in the above referenced articles as well as in other media including [this lengthy academic deconstruction](#) of CIJA's beginnings in a peer-reviewed journal.

10.2.g [REDACTED] involvement in the set-up of the project that eventually led to the creation of CIJA will be well known not only to our early donors but also to those of you who joined later. The early years of the Syrian conflict (2011-2012) presented an urgent challenge for the international community interested in supporting two strands of activities: accountability and humanitarian assistance. CIJA was born out of the first strand. 10.2.g [REDACTED] and the 10.2.g [REDACTED] were an outcome of the second one. The focus at the time was on establishing the presence in the field and building the capacity for this work to be done – and indeed, to start doing the work as soon as possible. Nobody expected that in 2020 CIJA would still be conducting investigations nor 10.2.g [REDACTED].

This is the reason why our first donors (10.2.a [REDACTED], followed by the 10.2.a [REDACTED]) streamed funding for Syria investigations through 10.2.g [REDACTED] a company that had the financial and administrative capacity to receive grants when CIJA's predecessor organisation (i.e., the Syrian Commission for Justice and Accountability, whose personnel were, in the main, retained by CIJA upon its establishment) had no formal administrative structure nor any type of capacity to handle

funds. By that time ^{10.2.g} already had a strong foothold inside Syria as well as a lengthy portfolio of projects implemented with donor funding. ^{10.2.g}

By the end of 2011, a number of trainings had taken place allowing the establishment of an investigative cadre of forty-seven Syrian nationals. In the first months of 2012 these teams started proving that set goals were achievable and they secured first caches of Syrian Regime documentation. By mid-2012, over 200,000 pages of regime documents had been secured. The documents were not and could not be seen as the property of either ^{10.2.g} or ^{10.2.g} which is why the SCJA was established in May 2012 and registered in the Commercial Registry in the Netherlands in November 2012.

However, donors would not give direct grants to SCJA following its registration. As a nascent organization, SCJA did not have the managerial, administrative or financial capacity to administer grants; as such, donors were reluctant to provide funds directly to the SCJA until such capacity had been built. Meanwhile, for SCJA this was not a problem – as at the time its goal was to ensure the teams could safely collect and extract the crucial documentation while it was possible to preserve it. The urgency with which donors and implementers acted proved wise as the regime has now recaptured most of the territory upon which this evidence, which has been adduced in various proceedings in Europe and North America, was found.

SCJA and its supporters thought it would only be engaged in this activity for two years at the most. In 2012, SCJA, ^{10.2.g} and ^{10.2.g}, as well as project donors and even the wider public, thought that the Syrian conflict would be of short nature. That is the (geo)political, diplomatic and military context in which the SCJA work was happening in 2012 and at the beginning of 2013. Indeed, the early applications to fund SCJA work through ^{10.2.g} show that the immediate goal was for SCJA to collect evidence with the final objective being to turn over this documentation to the Syrian state immediately upon its transition to a democratic form of governance, or once a referral to the ICC had been secured. ^{10.2.g}

^{10.2.g}, but those of you engaged and following the development of the conflict at the time will recall that this view was widely shared and there was optimism for a positive solution to the war before too long.

The way the conflict and project activities developed in 2013 made it clear that the efforts to collect, preserve and analyse evidence of crimes would have to be of a longer duration than initially anticipated. It was immediately evident to all parties involved, including the donors, that SCJA's organizational capacity was insufficient to ensure longer term success. Whereas ^{10.2.a} and ^{10.2.a} (through ^{10.2.g} and ^{10.2.a}, in the case of ^{10.2.a}) at that time funded the document collection efforts of SCJA, the EU awarded a grant focusing on the set up of analytical/legal and organizational capacity. This grant was awarded to ^{10.2.g} which, in turn,

was expected by the EU to nurture the organisational (i.e., financial and administrative development) of the SCJA, which it did.

During 2014 the SCJA began receiving direct grants from donors; likewise, certain of the senior SCJA personnel envisioned the application of the model, which was already working well, to other armed conflicts vis-à-vis which domestic and international law enforcement authorities were, or would have, difficult engaging. In this context, the SCJA took steps to strengthen further its organizational set up and structures with an eye to its institutional expansion. In this context, CIJA was established pursuant to Dutch laws which required a significant strengthening of its governance arrangements. Additionally, SCJA personnel were, in the main, offered positions with the newly-established organisation; that is, with CIJA.

The aforementioned re-registration was necessitated by a more immediate consideration: the appearance of “Syria” in the SCJA’s name resulted, in two occasions, in the SCJA’s accounts being closed by different banks. As donors, you will recall that in 2014 this was a major problem for the vast majority of NGOs and organisations operating in Syria as a result of international banks’ attempts to de-risk their exposure to hefty fines and sanctions that were at the time imposed on HSBC and BNP Paribas by the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control, albeit on unrelated grounds. This 2018 [working paper by the Overseas Development Institute](#) elaborates on the impact that the banks’ skittishness had upon the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis. Innovative solutions were required to deal with this challenge just like they had been at the start of the conflict. The first time that SCJA’s bank accounts had been closed it took months to find another bank willing to accept its money. The donors were asked but were unable to help us to open accounts with banks in their jurisdictions. ^{10.2.a en 10.2.g}

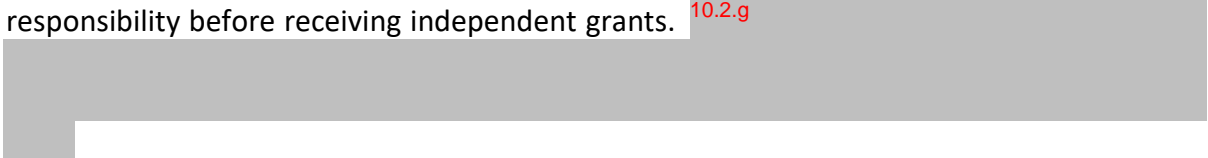
Throughout those early years, SCJA and later CIJA discussed each of the issues above with donors. ^{10.2.g}

At no point was the involvement of third parties such as ^{10.2.g} and ^{10.2.g} kept from donors in those early years of SCJA’s beginnings. Indeed, SCJA as well as in turn CIJA were commended by their donors for the transparency with which they handled their missions as well as donor funds. ^{10.2.g}

Indeed, CIJA inherited from the SCJA a robust archive of correspondence and discussions with donors from these formative years demonstrating how these partnerships were developed and I will, on request, provide you with more examples of the same.

Unfortunately, working in conflict zones and in the humanitarian and human rights not-for-profit fields is such that rumours can pose as serious a danger as any other risk. Thus, by the time our organizational set up was put in place and CIJA was functioning independently of

other entities, the rumours by those critical of this work were suggesting that SCJA's incubation by established companies somehow delegitimised its aims; something that we all know is normal and often necessary for start-up non-profits to demonstrate their viability and responsibility before receiving independent grants. ^{10.2.g}



By this time, the first generation of individuals working for donors on the Syria response had changed; and, once the rumours mentioned above made their way to your predecessors, they naturally reached out to CIJA looking for answers. We correspondingly presented detailed and transparent chronologies of events leading up to foundation of CIJA. We did this in 2014, as well as in 2015 and 2016; that is, every time donor representation changed - and every time to the satisfaction of donors as evidenced by the expansion of donor support to CIJA.

Finally, it was agreed with donors in 2014 that CIJA had to absorb some risk and start appearing publicly in order to counter the damaging front-for-intelligence-services narrative. Thus in 2014, senior CIJA personnel started interacting with selected media outlets as well as at symposiums and conferences where the setup of SCJA and its transitions to CIJA were always declared.

In 2016, CIJA further strengthened its organizational set up and capacity by registering as a foundation with a new set up of the Board of Directors as well as that of the Board of Commissioners.

OLAF

This leaves the matter of the allegations made in the OLAF press release of 24 March 2020.

^{10.2.g}



^{10.2.g}



^{10.2.g}



10.2.g

10.2.g

10.2.g

In the meantime, CIJA stands ready to provide you with any correspondence and documentation which you may wish to have in order to demonstrate the accuracy of the assertions made by me in this letter to you. As always, CIJA stands ready to answer any and all questions which any of you may have. Equally importantly, we seek your advice and assistance with our approach to facing down any and all attacks upon CIJA and, as the coordinator of the CIJA response, I would welcome all of your thoughts and suggestions. 10.2.g

In conclusion, it is important for me to note that I believe a wider discussion should be had between CIJA and its donors regarding these matters. As such, I would suggest strongly that we organise a teleconference to discuss this matter as a group at a date and time which is convenient for all – ideally with some urgency. It is for this reason that I am including all of your email addresses in the “to” rather than the “bcc” field. You will note that the list is rather exhaustive and includes non-Syria-related donors, and I would urge all of you to consult others who, in your respective views, ought to be part of this discussion. Finally, I would encourage you to consult with one another independently of CIJA, as you see fit – in accordance with longstanding donor practice which has served to foster the development of CIJA.

In the meantime, should you have any immediate questions, I can be reached by return email or on my mobile: +3510.2.e

10.2.e

On behalf of the CIJA Board of Directors

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e
Subject: Re: Delicate question
Date: maandag 11 mei 2020 15:36:39

Hi 10.2.e - 4pm your time yes. My number is +35 10.2.e

On 11 May 2020, at 14:35, 10.2.e <10.2.e@minbuza.nl> wrote:

Hi 10.2.e, glad to hear you are all well. Could you maybe speak at 4 pm? What's your WhatsApp number?

From: 10.2.e <10.2.e@cijaonline.org>
Sent: maandag 11 mei 2020 14:22
To: 10.2.e <10.2.e@cijaonline.org>
Cc: 10.2.e <10.2.e@minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e <10.2.e@minbuza.nl>
Subject: Re: Delicate question

Dear 10.2.e, Dear 10.2.e,

I hope you are both well and coping with the challenges the pandemic has sprung up. Do let me know if one or both of you want to chat anytime between now and 17:00 your time today at which point I am scheduled to speak to the journalist myself. The issues he is looking at pertain to the time the SCJA was set up in 2012-2013 and having discussed issues with 10.2.a already I am also preparing a statement that was to go to the group of our donors funding our work in Syria. 10.2.a en 11

I will include you in our email to donors but happy to discuss beforehand should you wish to.

All the best,
10.2.e

On 11 May 2020, at 12:22, 10.2.e <10.2.e@cijaonline.org> wrote:

Greetings 10.2.e !

ander onderwerp

11 en 10.2.a

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

10.2.a en 11

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Anyhow,

10.2.e is the communications genius within the CIJA and is atop all this. As I understand it, she has a lengthy brief to donors which will go out later today. In the meantime, I am copying her here should the you lot wish to discuss anything in the interim.

My warmest regards, as ever,

10.2.e

[Redacted]

From: 10.2.e <[Redacted]@minbuza.nl>

Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:29 AM

To: 10.2.e <[Redacted]@cijaonline.org>

Cc: 10.2.e <[Redacted]@minbuza.nl>

Subject: Delicate question

Dear 10.2.e

[Redacted]

10.2.e

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I am writing with a delicate question. We got a question from a journalist today about the NL role in CIJA. We wonder if this could be linked to the recent developments around the OLAF investigation 10.2.g

[Redacted] Could you let us know what the situation is and whether you expect any consequences for CIJA? We would like to hear from you before we attempt to answer any questions.

Warm wishes,

10.2.e

[Redacted]

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: FW: CIJA statement to donors
Date: dinsdag 12 mei 2020 12:09:00
Attachments: [CIJA Letter to its Donors, 11 May 2020.docx](#)
[ANNEX I - IREX Letter to CIJA Re Conclusion of OIG Investigation.pdf](#)

Ha allen,

in opvolging van mijn mails van gisteren het volgende. 10.2.e en ik hebben met 10.2.e van CIJA gesproken. Vannacht volgde bijgevoegde brief (van 13 kantjes!) aan alle donoren. CIJA geeft aan dat de huidige interesse past in een bredere aanval op het werk van CIJA, die gestart is door 11. Het onderzoek van OLAF ziet niet op CIJA, maar de journalist is wel geïnteresseerd in het werk van CIJA (van oprichting tot nu). 10.2.e richtte zich daar gisteren dan ook op, en ook de brief bevat zeer veel details over de oprichting en werk van CIJA.

10.2.g
10.2.g. We gaan daarom nu eerst de journalist beantwoorden: ja wij steunen CIJA, nee wij zitten niet in de board. Om vervolgens nogmaals met 10.2.e te spreken over onze resterende vragen.

10.2.a, 10.2.e en 11
10.2.a, 10.2.e en 11
10.2.a, 10.2.e en 11
10.2.a, 10.2.e en 11
En stel daarom voor dat we de journalist laten weten dat wij (naast steun DSH) CIJA steunen met een project uit het MRF van 1,6 mln die loopt vanaf 1 oktober 2019 t/m 30 september 2021 en valt onder de categorie Bevordering van de internationale rechtsorde/strijd tegen straffeloosheid. 10.2.a en 11
10.2.a en 11
10.2.a en 11
10.2.a en 11

Hoor graag of jullie het hiermee eens zijn.

Groet,
10.2.e

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e
Subject: RE: CIJA statement to donors
Date: woensdag 13 mei 2020 12:20:00

Dear 10.2.e ,

Unfortunately today and tomorrow are tricky for me too with many other obligations but Friday would be fine too. We have enough info to answer the journalist for now.

Thank you,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @cijaonline.org>
Sent: woensdag 13 mei 2020 09:34
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Cc: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: Re: CIJA statement to donors

Dear 10.2.e ,

Sorry I was not able to get back to you yesterday, I am working on public strategy and should be done later today. I can speak at 11:30 your time or late afternoon (after 16:30 your time) or tomorrow afternoon. Otherwise I can ask 10.2.e or 10.2.e if this doesn't work. Please let me know what works for you and we will find the time.

Many thanks,

10.2.e

On 12 May 2020, at 14:14, 10.2.e @minbuza.nl> wrote:

Dear 10.2.e ,

Thanks so much for sharing. This is a long and complex issue as we can see! It would maybe be useful to have an additional call on it at some point, as we have a few further questions. 10.2.g

We may have more questions so it could be useful to follow up.

In general it may be useful to prepare a short document with main messages that you want us donors to grasp?

Thank you,

From: 10.2.e
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 11:43 AM
To: 10.2.e @international.gc.ca>;
 10.2.e @cijaonline.org; 10.2.e 10.2.e
 10.2.e @international.gc.ca>; 10.2.e
 10.2.e @international.gc.ca>; 10.2.e
 10.2.e @international.gc.ca>; 10.2.e
 10.2.e @international.gc.ca>; 10.2.e
 10.2.e @international.gc.ca>; 10.2.e
 10.2.e @minbuza.nl; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl;
 10.2.e @opensocietyfoundations.org; 10.2.e
 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e @cijaonline.org; 10.2.e @cijaonline.org; 10.2.e
Subject: RE: CIJA statement to donors

10.2.e, all

Many thanks. Understanding CIJA's wish to counter any inaccurate reporting, for what it is worth I would strongly advise that any statement be as short as possible, and focus on the positive impact of CIJA's work and its overarching objective of driving accountability in the Syrian crisis. I would also advise against attempting to rebut any specific allegations, given that CIJA does not have access to the OLAF report.

Further media attention, including English language, seems likely at this point - I would welcome coordination with donor colleagues on our own reactive lines, as well as views on the wider issue, in particular from those representing EU Member States. 10.2.a en 11

10.2.a en 11

On this, can I ask whether CIJA is engaging directly with EU Delegation Syria colleagues: presumably they are best placed to shed further light on the situation. I would also be grateful if CIJA could clarify the reference in 10.2.g, for those who have not seen – to a Belgian court finding 10.2.g liable to repay €378k to the EU in relation to the Iraq project mentioned below. Is that accurate?

Best wishes,

10.2.e

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e
Subject: 10.2.g
Date: vrijdag 15 mei 2020 12:53:29
Attachments: [2020_04_27 - Verzoekschrift hoger beroep - PDF_03926131.pdf](#)

Greetings Both!

10.2.e told me that you would like to see the judgement in 10.2.g . I cannot find it and so have requested same from counsel in Brussels and shall send that along when it arrives. What I did find is the 10.2.g appellate, which I believe was filed on or about 27 April; it is attached.

10.2.a

Warmest regards,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e (FP Amsterdam)
To: 10.2.e
Subject: Antw: OLAF onderzoek naar "Rule of Law project in Syria"
Date: vrijdag 15 mei 2020 15:55:06
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Ha 10.2.e ,
 Ik check t even. Je hoort nog.
 Groet
 10.2.e

Van: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Datum: 15 mei 2020 om 14:32:35 CEST
Aan: 10.2.e (FP Amsterdam) 10.2.e @om.nl>
Onderwerp: OLAF onderzoek naar 'Rule of Law project in Syria'
Prioriteit: Hoog

Dag 10.2.e ,

Ik probeerde je al even telefonisch te pakken te krijgen. Ik heb je contactgegevens van 10.2.e ontvangen. Ik ben op zoek naar iemand die mij meer kan vertellen over een onderzoek van OLAF naar een Rule of Law project in Syrië. BZ heeft deze week vragen ontvangen van een journalist van Trouw die vroeg naar de Nederlandse steun aan CIJA (Commission for International Justice and Accountability). We zijn vervolgens op een pers statement van OLAF gestuit, waarin wordt aangegeven dat er een onderzoek heeft plaatsgevonden naar een niet nader genoemde organisatie en dat het de autoriteiten van NL, België en het VK heeft ingelicht over het onderzoek en mogelijke verdere stappen. BZ is een donor van CIJA en we zouden daarom graag achterhalen of het onderzoek inderdaad op CIJA ziet.

Hoor graag of ik bij jou aan het juiste adres ben of jij me anders wellicht verder kan verwijzen.

Veel dank alvast.

Groet,

10.2.e

.....
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Multilateral Organisations and Human Rights Department
Political and Legal Affairs Division
 Rijnstraat 8 | 2515 XP The Hague
 P.O. Box 20061 | 2500 EB The Hague | The Netherlands

T +31 (0)6 10.2.e

10.2.e @minbuza.nl
www.government.nl

 [Nederland, Mensenrechten en de VN](#) |

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: RE: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria
Date: dinsdag 26 mei 2020 15:37:45
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Ha 10.2.e ,

10.2.e heeft het doorgegeven aan FEZ, of in ieder geval hun CU of het hiervoor in aanmerking kwam inderdaad.

Groet,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: dinsdag 26 mei 2020 15:03
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria

Hi 10.2.e ,

Ik kreeg de vraag van 10.2.e , onze 10.2.e , of dit al bij de malversaties-postbus van FEZ gemeld is. Zo niet, dan weet ik ook niet precies hoeveel zin het heeft om dat te doen terwijl we de inhoud van het rapport nog niet kennen, maar ik dacht ik meld het voor de zekerheid even en laat het verder volledig aan jou.

Groet, 10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: dinsdag 26 mei 2020 10:24
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; DAM-MASHREQ <DAM-MASHREQ@minbuza.nl>
Cc: BLN-PA <bln-pa@minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria

Dag 10.2.e ,

Wij hebben inderdaad het rapport van OLAF nog niet in handen weten te krijgen, zijn verder goed op de hoogte denk ik. Spreek later vandaag nogmaals met CIJA en ook het VK (die tevens genoemd worden in het persbericht van OLAF). Je kunt mijn gegevens aan 10.2.e doorgeven voor verdere info.

Groet,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: maandag 25 mei 2020 22:04
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; DAM-MASHREQ <DAM-MASHREQ@minbuza.nl>

Cc: BLN-PA <bln-pa@minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
Subject: RE: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria

Ha 10.2.e,

Goed van je te horen.

10.2.e (cc) stuurde ruim een week geleden het bijgevoegde bulletin hierover en afgelopen vrijdag stond er [een uitgebreid artikel in Trouw](#).

Helaas hebben wij het rapport dat OLAF o.a. naar ons OM heeft gestuurd nog niet in kunnen zien. OM verwijst ons naar de EU en vice versa. Volgens mij weten wij dus niet veel meer (en stonden collega's van 10.2.e ook al in contact met CIJA hierover), maar misschien dat zij wel meer weten dan wij als zij denken te weten over welk project het gaat dus wie weet wil 10.2.e wel rechtstreeks contact. Zo niet dan lijkt het mij prima als jij op basis van het bulletin antwoordt.

Groet!

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
Sent: vrijdag 22 mei 2020 11:43
To: DAM-MASHREQ <DAM-MASHREQ@minbuza.nl>
Cc: BLN-PA <bln-pa@minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
Subject: FW: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria

Beste collega's,

Syrie desk AA wijst op persbericht van OLAF mbt fraude bij "rule of law project in Syria". Aangezien NL aantal keer met naam genoemd wordt, vraagt AA zich af in hoeverre BZ op de hoogte is. 10.2.e noemt CIJA-project uit 2013/14 als het mogelijk betreffende project.

Willen jullie 10.2.e rechtstreeks van een stand van zaken voorzien? Of mij info sturen we vanuit de PA kunnen overbrengen?

Groet,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @auswaertiges-amt.de
Sent: woensdag 20 mei 2020 10:07
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
Subject: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria

Lieber 10.2.e,

wir versuchen gerade weitere Informationen bzw. den Bericht der OLAF-Untersuchung zu bekommen. Da die Niederlande in der Pressemitteilung genannt werden, wollte ich fragen, ob ihr den Fall auch verfolgt? Es müsste sich, soweit wir das erkennen können, um ein CIJA-Projekt handeln, dass 2013 – 2014 von der EU gefördert wurde.

Habt ihr vielleicht weitere Infos bzw. den Bericht von OLAF erhalten?

Vielen Dank und viele Grüße

10.2.e



Auswärtiges Amt

10.2.e

Referat 313 / Division 313

Auswärtiges Amt / Federal Foreign Office
 Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin
 Telefon: +49 30 10.2.e
 E-Mail: 10.2.e@diplom.de

Von: 10.2.e

Gesendet: Montag, 18. Mai 2020 16:37

An: olaf 10.2.e@ec.europa.eu

Betreff: OLAF investigation and report into a rule of law project in Syria

Dear 10.2.e,

as we just discussed over the phone, I'd be very interested in speaking with someone, who was part of the investigation into the rule of law project in Syria (https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/24-03-2020/olaf-unravels-fraud-among-partners-rule-law-project-syria_en).

We have a few questions regarding the allegations and background of the investigation. We'd be delighted if you could therefore direct us to someone involved.

Please let me know, should you need any further information from our side.

Thank you very much for your help and best regards

10.2.e



Auswärtiges Amt

10.2.e

Referat 313 / Division 313

Auswärtiges Amt / Federal Foreign Office
Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin
Telefon: +49 30 10.2.e
E-Mail: 10.2.e@diplo.de

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: RE: OLAF investigation Rule of Law project in Syria
Date: dinsdag 19 mei 2020 14:19:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi 10.2.e, nog even de vraag of we FEZ op de hoogte moeten stellen? Ivm parlementaire verplichting om corruptie gevallen aan te kaarten- hoe staan jullie daar in?

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: maandag 18 mei 2020 17:36
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: FW: OLAF investigation Rule of Law project in Syria

Reactie van OLAF. Niet heel veel info, 11, zal nog even de specifieke afdeling aan ze doorsturen.

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e
Subject: RE: CIA statement to donors
Date: vrijdag 22 mei 2020 12:57:27

dank je 10.2.e ! Lange artikel.. ik ben benieuwd wat: 1

Enig idee hoelang de zaak bij het OM ligt?

Dank en groet

10.2.e

•

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: CIJA further developments
Date: maandag 25 mei 2020 18:38:37

Dear 10.2.e,

Forgive me for writing late but I wanted to see if I could catch you tomorrow if possible. Whereas I have suggested group donor meeting towards the end of the week, it does not appear likely to work for most of them. Meanwhile, things are developing in the background such that it requires CIJA to be able to 10.2.g

10.2.g

As you know only the 10.2.d have managed to locate the Olaf file and review its contents. This together with the information you managed to gather last week is the only avenue we can follow at the moment. I wonder if you might be open to having a bilateral meeting with the 10.2.a so that we can see if we can somehow move CIJA to the position where it is able to start addressing these claims publicly. Please let me know if this would be possible and potential times that work. I will ask the 10.2.a the same.

All the best,
10.2.e

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: FW: OLAF investigation Rule of Law project in Syria
Date: dinsdag 26 mei 2020 14:26:37
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Ze checken het.

Van: 10.2.e @ec.europa.eu <10.2.e@ec.europa.eu>
Datum: dinsdag 26 mei 2020 2:25 PM
Aan: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
Kopie: 10.2.e @ec.europa.eu <10.2.e@ec.europa.eu>
Onderwerp: RE: OLAF investigation Rule of Law project in Syria

Dear 10.2.e,

I will consult our Legal unit to check whether this is possible and let you know.

Best regards

10.2.e

10.2.e

Unit A4

European Commission
European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)
Office: 10.2.e
Phone: +32 2 10.2.e
E-mail: 10.2.e@ec.europa.eu

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e; SYR
Subject: RE: CIJA confidential
Date: woensdag 27 mei 2020 13:05:00

Ha 10.2.e,

Nee er wordt op dit moment binnen OLAF gecheckt met hun juridische afdeling of het rapport aan ons verstrekt kan worden.

Heb bij 10.2.e aangegeven dat 10.2.e mij kan benaderen, dus heb nog niet gereageerd. 10.2.e kan aangeven dat wij ook proberen het rapport te bemachtigen en dat ik graag bereid ben verder toelichting te geven via de tel of mail.

Begrijp daarnaast dat er binnenkort een afspraak met de donors wordt ingepland, zullen daar ook bij zijn. Neem aan DUI ook.

Groet,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: woensdag 27 mei 2020 13:00
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Cc: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; SYR <SYR@minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: CIJA confidential

Hi 10.2.e,

Hieronder nog een mail van de Duisters over CIJA. Neem aan dat wij het rapport nog steeds niet hebben?

Was jij toevallig van plan 10.2.e schriftelijk te antwoorden? Zou je dat dan misschien ook naar 10.2.e kunnen sturen zodat hij weet wat hij zijn Duitse collega kan vertellen?

Groet, 10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: woensdag 27 mei 2020 10:15
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; SYR <SYR@minbuza.nl>
Subject: FW: CIJA confidential

Verzonden met BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

Van: 10.2.e @auswaertiges-amt.de>
Datum: woensdag 27 mei 2020 10:06 AM

Aan: 10.2.e >, 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>

Onderwerp: CIJA confidential

Dear 10.2.e and 10.2.e ,

hope you and your families are still doing well in these special times.

Sorry for bothering you with a project of CIJA. Certainly you are aware of a report about irregularities within a CIJA project that has been financially supported by the EU (https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/24-03-2020/olaf-unravels-fraud-among-partners-rule-law-project-syria_en).

We have been asked asked to provide further internal clarification into the matter. We are willing to do so, but unable without having access to the OLAF report. We were already in contact already with OLAF but they could not provide us directly with the report.

10.2.a en 11

Best regards,

10.2.e

10.2.e

Auswärtiges Amt
Federal Foreign Office
tel: +49 (0) 30 10.2.e
fax: +49 (0) 30 1 10.2.e
mail: 10.2.e @diplo.de
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin, Germany

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: CHANGE OF VENUE Re: CIJA statement to donors
Date: donderdag 28 mei 2020 15:11:21

Dear all,

One of the donors has informed me that they are unable to join via 10.2.g and we do not have the possibility of adding a dial in number. I am changing the venue to 10.2.g and calendar invite will be updated accordingly. Even if you are prompted to download the app you do not need to do that - you should see the option to "Join With Browser" lower on the screen. This should work for everyone as you can use either internet or phone to join.

Thank you and apologies for last minute change

10.2.g

10.2.g

(Join from computer or phone)

Phone Dial-in

+ 10.2.e

10.1.c

10.1.c

On 27 May 2020, at 17:55, 10.2.e <10.2.e@cijaonline.org> wrote:

Dear all,

Thank you for to all of those that have responded to the invitation to have a group meeting. It would appear that tomorrow at 15:00BST would work the best for the majority bearing in mind different timezones etc. What I will do is set up an 10.2.g invitation and send it to the following individuals that I understand will represent each of the donors. The invitation will go to each of your emails so please let me know if anyone else should be included so I can add their names:

10.2.e

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey box.

From CIJA it will be the Board of directors composed of 10.2.e
10.2.e) and chair of the Board of Commissioners - 10.2.e
10.2.e

As for the format: CIJA will present the situation as it is now before opening the floor to all the donors who are able to offer updates or ask questions. We will then discuss next steps. I am happy to add any other items to the agenda if you have suggestions.

Please let me know if other people should be added to meeting invitation and also if you have not located your invitation in the email/calendar.

All the best,
10.2.e

A small rectangular area at the end of the signature line is redacted with a solid grey box.

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e
Subject: FW: Russia statement
Date: dinsdag 2 juni 2020 12:07:00

Beste 10.2.e ,

Ter info ... 10.2.a en 11

(We hebben CIJA nooit voor werk in Syrie gefinancierd maar goed). Maar tot nu toe gaat de pers er verder niet echt op in. 11 - maar laat graag weten als je dat anders ziet.

Dank,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @cijaonline.org>
Sent: zondag 31 mei 2020 23:25
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: Russia statement

Dear both,

Thank you so much for your interventions at the donor meeting. 11 Just as I thought we could start focusing on the positive, the following statement of Russia MFA was brought to my attention on Friday night. I am not sure if you are aware of it. 10.2.a

This raises a whole new level of concern for us. Since they call the Netherlands out specifically, I am sending to you first before sharing with others. I wonder if we could discuss at some point tomorrow?

All my best,

10.2.e

https://www.mid.ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4141659?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_cKNonkJE02Bw&_101_INSTANCE_cKNonkJE02Bw_languageId=en_GB

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Cc: 10.2.e
Subject: CIJA en OLAF
Date: donderdag 4 juni 2020 12:18:00
Attachments: [OLAF samenvatting.docx](#)

Hi 10.2.e

We hebben een samenvatting ontvangen van het OLAF onderzoek tegen ARK en partners in Syrië van 2012-2013 (inclusief de voorganger van CIJA, SJCA). Nogmaals, dit gaat over EU financiering, niet NLs geld. De uitkomst is niet helemaal duidelijk, maar het lijkt erop alsof ze het dossier hebben overgedragen aan het OM in NL om verder onderzoek te doen. We zijn in contact met het OM 11

Wel is er dus wat media aandacht geweest.

Is het nog nodig om hier verdere melding van te maken? Verder willen we als NL evengoed door met financiering van CIJA (vanuit DMM niet DSH) maar zullen wel extra audits/controles uitvoeren.

Dank,

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e
To: 10.2.e
Subject: FW: CIJA
Date: dinsdag 7 juli 2020 14:02:55

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: woensdag 17 juni 2020 12:11
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: CIJA

Yes, de audit kun je [via deze link in Sophia](#) en bijgevoegd vinden.

Audit is uitgevoerd door 10.2.g. Ze geven aan dat financial statement CIJA voor (activiteit 4000001104) periode 1 januari 2018 – 14 januari 2019 “*were prepared, in all materials respects, in accordance with the requirements laid down in the grant decision awarded under the grant 4000001104, dated 8 February 2018*”.

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: woensdag 17 juni 2020 11:56
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: CIJA

Ah, hebben we een copy van die audit in Sofia?

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: woensdag 17 juni 2020 11:32
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: CIJA

Hi 10.2.e ,

DMM heeft in juli 2019 een uitgebreide ORIA (Organizational Risk and Integrity Assessment) opgesteld. Maar ik controleer bij 10.2.e of er daarvoor nog een COCA heeft plaatsgevonden, kon het niet zo snel vinden. Ik laat het weten. 11

Verder ter info: CIJA heeft 30 september 2019 een audit rapport ingediend. Deze is op 3 december geaccordeerd en op 16 december naar CIJA gestuurd.

Groeten,
 10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Sent: woensdag 17 juni 2020 10:28
To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl>
Subject: CIJA

Vrijdag spreek ik de journalist over CIJA. Kunnen jullie even voor mij nagaan of we een COCA hebben gedaan indertijd of niet? Dat zou wel nuttig zijn om te weten. 10.2.e weet jij dat nog?

Dank,

10.2.e

From: MALVERSATIES
 To: 10.2.e
 Cc: 10.2.e; 10.2.e; MALVERSATIES
 Subject: RE: CIA statement to donors
 Date: donderdag 18 juni 2020 09:19:22

Goedemorgen 10.2.e
 Voor het Nederlands (financiële) aandeel en betrokkenheid in een mogelijke malversatie zien wij geen risico gelet op de onderstaande inhoud (dit is onveranderd?). Wij registreren deze melding dan ook niet in onze database omdat de looptijd verschilt tusschen van het onderzoek en de aard van de door ons gefinancierde activiteit.
 Advies blijft nog wel om R passief te informeren 10.2.g en 11
 Groet 10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Sent: woensdag 17 juni 2020 19:07
 To: MALVERSATIES <malversaties-sancties@minbuza.nl> 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Cc: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Subject: RE: CIA statement to donors

Beste 10.2.e

Is er nog verdere toelichting nodig in deze zaak? Wij krijgen verdere vragen van de journalist van Trouw en willen graag zeggen dat hiernaar gekeken wordt maar dat er dusverre geen reden is om te stoppen met financiering van CIA.

Dank

10.2.e

From: MALVERSATIES <malversaties-sancties@minbuza.nl>
 Sent: vrijdag 5 juni 2020 15:00
 To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Cc: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Subject: RE: CIA statement to donors

Hi 10.2.e
 Ah oké, thanks voor de informatie. 11
 Maar lijkt mij (gezien de publiciteit en betrokkenheid van NL entiteit) wel handig om R te informeren via een bulletin. Dan laat je ook zien dat we scherp zijn en blijven ongeacht geringe betrokkenheid van NL financiële middelen. Zou jij vanmiddag (15.30) nog even kunnen FaceTime/MS teams met ons? We hebben iets meer toelichting nodig o.a. wat betreft looptijd project. Ook zag ik in het bemo contract waarde van ruim 4 ton. In jouw mail staat 40k?
 Groet 10.2.e

From: MALVERSATIES <malversaties-sancties@minbuza.nl>
 Sent: vrijdag 5 juni 2020 14:10
 To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Cc: MALVERSATIES <malversaties-sancties@minbuza.nl>
 Subject: RE: CIA statement to donors

Hi 10.2.e
 Vanuit OLAF is geen contact geweest met 11
 Wil jij dat wij nog iets verifiëren bij OLAF? En zo ja, wat dan? Dan doen we dat graag.
 In het mailwisseling lees ik dat 10.2.e nooit heeft bijgedragen aan projecten van CIA die zagen op Syrië en ook de voorganger van CIA (SCJA) niet heeft gefinancierd. De kwestie heeft dus geen directe link met NL se financiering. Dit is 100% zeker?
 Groet 10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Sent: vrijdag 22 mei 2020 15:14
 To: MALVERSATIES <malversaties-sancties@minbuza.nl>
 Subject: FW: CIA statement to donors

Dag 10.2.e

Onderstaand een link naar een Trouw artikel. Het gaat om een door OLAF in de publicatie gebracht onderzoek naar Europees geld en voor zover we kunnen nagaan niet door ons is gefinancierd. 10.2.g
 Zien jullie in het OLAF-onderzoek reden voor ons om de Kamer te informeren?
 Is er vanuit OLAF contact met jullie geweest aangaande dit onderzoek en evt raakvlakken met NL financiering?

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Sent: vrijdag 22 mei 2020 14:49
 To: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl; 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Cc: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl
 Subject: FW: CIA statement to donors

Hi 10.2.e

Jullie hebben vorige week als het goed is de bulletin over CIA gezien. Inmiddels is dit artikel vandaag in Trouw gepubliceerd- zie link hieronder. Nogmaals: dit gaat niet over NL se financiering maar over financiering in 2012-2013 aan de voorganger van CIA (SJA) een organisatie die we nu wel financieren. 10.2.e weet jij of er een plicht is om dit te melden aan de Tweede Kamer?

Dank

10.2.e

From: 10.2.e @minbuza.nl

Sent: vrijdag 22 mei 2020 12:38

To: 10.2.e [redacted] @minbuza.nl
Cc: 10.2.e [redacted] @minbuza.nl; 10.2.e [redacted] @minbuza.nl
Subject: RE: CIA statement to donors

Artikel is vandaag in Trouw gepubliceerd zie bij [deze](#) de link. **!** de journalist beschrijft alle info waar we zelf inmiddels zelf ook achter zijn gekomen en geeft tevens aan dat OLAF onderzoek onduidelijk blijft. Ik probeer nog steeds het rapport te achterhalen is gedeeld met ons functioneel parket maar die geven aan dat ze het niet kunnen delen met ons en verwijzen ons weer naar OLAF **!**

CJA had ook ¹¹ 10.2.a

Laat weten als je verdere vragen hebt.

Groet
10.2.e

From: 102.e
Sent: vrijdag 15 mei 2020 16:42
To: 102.e <@minbuza.nl>
Cc: 102.e <@minbuza.nl>; 102.e <@minbuza.nl>
Subject: RE: CIJA statement to donors

Nee nog geen artikel.

Heb nog even proberen te achterhalen waar het OLAF onderzoek nou precies over gaat maar nog geen succes.

Onderstaand bulletin stuur ik nu zo uit!

Groet
10.2.e

- BZ heeft afgelopen week vragen ontvangen van een journalist van Trouw die vroeg naar de Nederlandse steun aan CUA (Commission for International Justice and Accountability).
- **10.2.g en 11**
Achtergrond van de vragen is waarschijnlijk een onderzoek van OLAF, het Europees bureau voor fraudebestrijding. OLAF heeft een persbericht uitgedaan waarin wordt beschreven dat een niet nader genoemde organisatie, met kantoren in het VK, NL en België, is onderzocht en fraude is vastgesteld ten aanzien van EU fondsen voor een 'rule of law' project in Syrië. Het vermoeden is dat dit onderzoek over een partnerorganisatie (10.2.g) of de voorganger van CUA gaat. Het is niet duidelijk waarom de organisatie niet wordt genoemd.
- **10.2.g en 11**
- **10.2.g en 11**
- **10.2.g en 11**
- DMM steunt CUA vanuit het mensenrechtenfonds en DSH uit het Veiligheid en Rechtsorde budget (maar niet voor werk in Syrië). Totale steun (2017 – 2021) bedraagt EUR 2.848.937. BZ heeft de journalist tevens beantwoord dat NL niet in de Steering Committee van CUA zit. BZ heeft nooit bijgedragen aan projecten van CUA die zagen op Syrië en heeft ook de voorganger van CUA (SCJA) niet gefinancierd. De kwestie heeft dus geen directe link met NL se financiering.

From: 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]
Sent: vrijdag 15 mei 2020 12:50
To: 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]
Cc: 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]; 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]
Subject: RE: CIJA statement to donors

Thanks 10.2e !

Bulletin klinkt inderdaad als een goed plan en zie hem graag tegemoet.

[Nog geen artikel in Trouw toch?](#)

Groet 10.2.e

From: 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]
Sent: donderdag 14 mei 2020 19:20
To: 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]
Cc: 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]; 10.2.e [mailto:10.2.e@minbuza.nl]
Subject: FW: CUA statement to donors

Ha 10.2.e

Korte update over CUA. CUA heeft inmiddels een statement opgesteld dat ze publiekelijk wouden maken. Dat hebben ze ook gedaan maar vervolgens binnen 30 seconden weer verwijderd na reactie van een van de donoren. Zie onderstaand. Het statement is al wat korter dan het vorige maar **11**

CJIA geeft ook aan dat ze verwachten dat het artikel morgen of dit weekend in Trouw verschijnt en ¹¹. Onze afspraak met CJIA met onze verdere vragen staat pas voor morgen gepland maar geleet op het feit dat het artikel wellicht morgenochtend al gepubliceerd wordt zullen we even een kort bulletin op stellen om iedereen te informeren met de info die we tot nu toe hebben zodat in ieder geval niemand verrast wordt als het een groot en zeer negatief verhaal is.

Groet
10.2.e

[illegible]

Dear 10.2e,

Thank you for timely response. I removed the statement 30 seconds after posting it - i.e. immediately upon receipt of your email.

We are aware of only one journalist that is working on a story at the moment - journalist from Trouw newspaper of The Netherlands

While Trouw newspaper does not have global reach I am confident the article will be widely distributed in -¹¹ - google translate version around the community of international justice activists and NGOs and I expect this distribution will take place on twitter or offline. This, and the fact that the Belgian article is falsely being circulated offline as if it is about CIIA, is the reason we wanted to come out with a statement ahead of Trouw. We are also being encourage by our friends in international criminal justice community to say something about all these rumours.

