

Press statement Jonathan Taylor dated 6 October 2015 re SBM corruption scandal

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I, Jonathan Taylor, worked as a lawyer at SBM until June 2012. I was part of the internal investigation team that revealed that SBM is responsible for one of the biggest worldwide corporate bribery and corruption scandals, with more than \$250m of bribes and other malpractices spanning many years. SBM wanted to contain this enormous scandal and I wanted it to be reported to the authorities. I had no other choice than to leave, and I became the whistle-blower. I cooperated with the criminal investigation in the Netherlands, and since February 2015, the authorities in Brazil, the US and the UK, and I provided witness testimony, many documents and other relevant information to these authorities.

In November 2014, SBM agreed to pay \$240m to the Dutch public prosecutor to settle the Dutch criminal investigation out-of-court. It related to widespread corruption in Brazil, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. This is by far the largest settlement ever in the Netherlands to escape further prosecution, and by far the largest corruption case ever for a Dutch company to be involved in. The terms of the settlement are not made public. SBM was not obliged to admit guilt.

In February 2015, my whistle-blower story was covered by the Dutch media. The story received further coverage in April and June. In July, I received a writ of summons under which SBM commenced proceedings in a Rotterdam court in a civil defamation action against me. SBM claims I have made false or misleading statements about the magnitude of the corruption at SBM and the fact that it attempted to cover it up rather than report it to the relevant authorities and the market.

SBM is seeking damages of Euros 500,000 plus costs from me. SBM requests the Rotterdam court to order me to remain silent forever on SBM's corruption and the role of the SBM management, on pain of a financial penalty. SBM is thus trying to silence the whistle-blower by means of an intimidating court case. Furthermore, SBM wants me to publish a rectification in the Financial Times stating that my accusations are inaccurate and misleading. It is thus trying to whitewash its criminal activities through this civil court case against me.

SBM is not suing any of the publishers or TV or radio stations which broadcast my story. This adds to the suggestion that SBM is abusing these civil defamation proceedings to intimidate me. I am, however, not intimidated. All my statements about SBM's corruption scandal are true and I will prove this to the Rotterdam court.

SBM is also trying to frame my whistle-blowing as 'blackmail'. Defaming my good name is part of SBM's intimidation tactics. Again, I am not intimidated. I have a legitimate claim against SBM regarding the termination of my employment agreement, for which SBM has not yet properly compensated me.

So far, no SBM employee has been prosecuted for the crimes that took place. But this may soon change. SBM is currently being investigated in Brazil. Recently, Brazilian public prosecutor Leonardo Cardoso de Freitas indicated that individual SBM directors may be subject to criminal investigations there. The key person in the bribery of the Brazilian oil company Petrobras, ex-SBM lobbyist Mr. Julio Faerman, is now cooperating with the Brazilian prosecution in exchange for leniency. With his help, details of the SBM corruption scheme should be available for the prosecution of SBM officials. One of the key employees of Petrobras, Mr. Renato Duque, was recently sentenced to 21 years for his role in this corruption scandal. Duque was a key contact of SBM. It is therefore very possible that all current and former SBM board members responsible for this corruption scandal and the attempted cover-up will be prosecuted as well.

Tomorrow 7 October, the case will be formally introduced to the Rotterdam court. I will be represented by Otto Volgenant of Boekx Advocaten, one of the most well-known and respected Dutch media lawyers. These are proceedings to the merits of the case and a judgment is to be expected towards the end of 2016. The subsequent procedural step is that we will submit a written Statement of Defence in November. In due course, I shall provide further information on the case, including detailed evidence documenting the SBM corruption scandal.

Thank you for your time.



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(Media enquiries: James Exelby: jexelby@hotmail.com, mobile: +44 (0) 7548 952 556)