

August 10, 2012

Re: IX Sullivan Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Dear Sir/Madam,

We understand that you have been invited by the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation (Sullivan Foundation) to participate in its IX Sullivan Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from August 20-24, in collaboration with President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

The selection of President Obiang as the host of the upcoming summit is controversial, particularly given the Sullivan Foundation's mission of empowering underprivileged people and the event's intended focus on economic and social development in Africa. We hope that you will inform yourself about President Obiang's governance record to have a more complete understanding of the context in which the summit will take place. Beyond the luxury conference hall and hotels that will stage the summit are harsh repression and widespread poverty that contrasts sharply with Equatorial Guinea's enormous oil wealth.

You may be aware that the most recent United States State Department country report on human rights practices in Equatorial Guinea, covering 2011, describes numerous serious concerns while acknowledging that there were some areas of relative progress. The State Department report notes that President Obiang's lopsided re-election victory in 2009 "raised suspicions of systematic vote fraud" and that "[m]ajor human rights abuses reported during the year included a disregard for the rule of law and due process, denial of basic political rights including freedom of speech and press, and widespread official corruption." It adds that "the president and members of his inner circle continued to amass personal fortunes from the revenues associated with oil exports."

These issues are described further in the enclosed briefing, which also addresses the difficult daily conditions under which most Equatoguineans live. In addition, we have provided information on President Obiang's ongoing efforts to use events such as the IX Sullivan Summit to enhance his dismal reputation, both at home and abroad. There is every indication that the Obiang government will use the summit as a propaganda opportunity.

Should you decide to participate in the event, we ask that you do so with a full understanding of the difficult reality faced by ordinary Equatoguineans, and that you make a concerted effort to bear witness to and ask serious questions about the daily struggles they face in their effort to secure a better quality of life while living under a repressive and corrupt government.

We also urge you to decline any honorarium or other payment for your participation, as has reportedly been offered to some invitees, if the payment is financed directly or indirectly by the

government of Equatorial Guinea.

Finally, we hope that you will seek to encourage the many reforms that are needed in Equatorial Guinea to achieve the Sullivan Foundation's worthy aim of "a just and fair society for all." We believe that doing so would be a fitting tribute to the ideals of the late Reverend Leon H. Sullivan.

Sincerely,

1. Africa Action (United States)
2. Africa Focus Bulletin (United States)
3. African Solutions to African Problems (South Africa)
4. Afro-Egyptian Human Rights Organization (Egypt)
5. Association of Evangelicals in Africa (Pan-African)
6. Caux Round Table (International)
7. Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (Malawi)
8. Center for Research and Development (Zimbabwe)
9. Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
10. Centre for Law and Democracy (Canada)
11. Corruption Watch (United Kingdom)
12. EG Justice (United States)
13. Egyptians Against Corruption (Egypt)
14. Eritrean Global Solidarity for Justice, Human Rights, & Democracy (United States)
15. The Concern for Development Initiatives in Africa (Eastern and Southern Africa)
16. Foreign Policy In Focus (United States)
17. Free West Papua Campaign (United Kingdom)
18. Global Witness (International)
19. Gram Bharati Samiti (India)
20. Human Rights Foundation (United States)
21. Human Rights Institute of South Africa (South Africa)
22. Human Rights Watch (International)

23. IBIS Ghana (Ghana)
24. Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (Kenya)
25. Publish What You Pay U.S. (United States)
26. Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (United States)
27. The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (Pan-African)
28. Transparency International Ireland (Ireland)
29. United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (United States)
30. Women Peace Initiatives (Cameroon)
31. Zero Corruption Coalition (Nigeria)

Please note: Additional signatories were added to this letter on August 13, 2012.

Cc: Hope Masters, CEO of the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation and President of the IX Sullivan Summit
John Kufuor, former president of Ghana and Chair of the IX Sullivan Summit

Enclosure: Briefing for IX Sullivan Summit Invitees