

Security Authorities Surveillance Committee
The Parliament of Estonia, Riigikogu
Lossi plats 1a, Tallinn 15165, Estonia

CC: Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium

CC: The Security Police Board
Toompuiestee 3, Tallinn 10142, Estonia

June 12, 2006

Distinguished members of the Committee

As members of the environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) belonging to international NGO network Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE), we want to raise our deep concern over the fact that Estonian Security Police Board is considering our meeting held in Estonia as a potential threat to Estonia's constitutional order or territorial integrity. Prior to our regular annual meeting (held in Tartu, June 9-13, 2006) the Security Police Board contacted our Estonian member group, Estonian Green Movement-FoE to ask questions about upcoming FoEE annual meeting. As Estonian Green Movement-FoE (ERL) representative learned, the Security Police Board had obtained information about the meeting by secretly tracing e-mail communication of ERL. In addition, the Security Police Board requested information about participants of our meeting from administration of the hotel accommodating delegates of the meeting, respected environmental experts from all over Europe. Such action caused suspicions and mistrust towards ERL by the hotel administration, leading to damage of the reputation of the organization as a professional and credible partner. Big part of funding for FoEE activities comes from different programs of the European Commission and it is regular and respected partner of EU institutions.

We find it quite outrageous that an international NGO network such as Friends of the Earth Europe is considered by Republic of Estonia as threat to its constitutional order or territorial integrity as is illustrated by the strong interest of the Estonian Security Police Board towards our ordinary meeting. Using Estonian taxpayers' money on surveillance of such peaceful international meeting of environmental experts is completely unacceptable. In case the Estonian Security Police Board is truly interested in global environmental issues posing direct security concerns to Estonia we are happy to assist them with such information.

Following the information provided above, we have a question: is the Security Police Board monitoring activities of all foreigners in Estonia?

- (1) if yes then based on which legal act is such surveillance (which very much reminds operational practice of KGB few decades ago) taking place?
- (2) if not, then based on which criteria has the decision had been taken to keep close eye on regular annual meeting of environmental network Friends of the Earth Europe?

Please send your reply to our questions to:

Eesti Roheline Liikumine
Postkast 318
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Yours,

Fouad Hamdan	Friends of the Earth Europe
Silva Herrmann	Global 2000, Austria
Pol D'huyvetter	Voor Moeder Aarde , Belgium
Toni Vidan	Zelena Akcija, Croatia
Daphnis Panagides	Friends of the Earth, Cyprus
Vojtech Kotecký	Hnutí Duha, Czech Republic
Bente Andersen	NOAH, Denmark
Peep Mardiste	Eesti Roheline Liikumine, Estonia
Riitta Savikko	Maan Ystävät Ry, Finland
Anne Bringault	Les Amis de la Terre, France
Giorgi Maghradze	Sakhartvelos Mtsvaneta Modzraoba, Georgia
Markus Steigenberger	BUND, Germany
Istvan Farkas	Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége, Hungary
Mark Dearey	Friends of the Earth, Ireland
Laura Radiconcini	Amici della Terra, Italy
Janis Ulme	Zemes Draugi, Latvia
Renata Perlibaite	Lietuvos Zaliuju Judėjimas, Lithuania
Martin Galea De Giovanni	Moviment għall-Ambjent, Malta
Evert Hassink	Vereniging Milieudefensie, Netherlands
Jon Haugen	Norges Naturvernforbund, Norway
Marcin Harembski	Polski Klub Ekologiczny, Poland
Clare Symonds	Friends of the Earth Scotland, Scotland
Roman Havlicek	Priatel'ia Zeme - Slovensko, Slovakia
Lilian Spendeler	Amigos de la Tierra, Spain
Ellie Cijvat	Miljöförbundet Jordens Vänner, Sweden
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Mike Childs	Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom