



To whom it may concern

Ihr Zeichen, Ihre Nachricht vom

Unser Zeichen, unsere Nachricht vom:

3. August 2013

Sakdrissi-Gold mine: The world oldest gold mining site endangered

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I am writing you to ask your help!

As you perhaps know Sakdrissi Gold mine is in great danger to be exploited and destroyed in near future. Then one of the most important prehistoric mining sites will be destroyed forever. Georgia will lose one of its most important cultural heritage sites while archaeology and science will have never access again to this outstanding document.

The situation has developed dramatically during the last months: Due to the selling of the mining license to RMG Gold Ltd a big opencast mining area shall be realized in near future (from end of September 2013!). Especially the gold reserves are such rewarding to include also the site of Kachagiani, the Sakdrissi prehistoric gold mine, to this opencast.

Since 2006 the site was protected by Georgian Heritage laws; after the change to a new government the economic pressure on the ministry of culture increased. A commission that was assembled at the beginning of June 2013 concluded to eradicate the heritage status of Sakdrissi. The commissions' report which I attach to this document did not regard the recent scientific results nor did they ask the scientific team to add their analytical and scientific documents. As you easily will see on the document (in Georgian original and in English translation with blue marked comments) it was a decision that did not regard the rules of good scientific practice although archaeologist and scientists were part of it. Some of these scientists even seem to be corrupted by a conflict of interests between their commercial relation to the economic lobbies being related to the mining industry and their professional scientific quest. These people even never been at the excavation site.

As this commission results is a shame for any good scientific practice and as we hope to restore the Heritage Status of Sakdrissi we beg you to write letters on the behalf of Sakdrissi to the Ministry of Culture and Economy to force the Georgian authorities to install a professional international commission that can certify the importance of the site.

This will provide us with time to develop either a complete preservation or at least carry out sufficient investigation of the site.

We would beg you to sign the Sakdrissi petition at the face-book site <http://www.petitions24.com/sakdrisi> and send letters to the ministries in order to demand the re-instalment of the immobile heritage status of Sakdrissi on the basis of an international commission that should make recommendations on that issue. Georgia has signed the Valetta convention: Publicity will draw attention to this case and perhaps prevent the destruction of Sakdrissi.

I enclose some documents: the decisions of decree №03/08. 2013.28.05 that took away the Heritage status of Sakdrissi plus some additional documents. An addendum informs you about some results of our scientific work, especially on topics which were question-marked or disregarded in the above mentioned decree №03/08. 2013.28.05.

With my best regards



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