

PRESS RELEASE, 6th of March 2009

YOUTUBE REMOVES FROM ITALY THE VIDEO CONTESTED BY INTERSOS

After the Guardian also YouTube, has removed the access to the video contested by INTERSOS from its italian branch. It is a further confirmation of the inconsistency of the allegations of the video: “*Where are Afghanistan's missing millions? Clancy Chassay hears charges of corruption levelled against the UN and aid agencies after millions earmarked for a Kabul hospital disappear*”. where it was called into question the transparency and the correct use of funds for the reconstruction of a Hospital in Kabul.

(For detail www.intersos.org).

PRESS RELEASE, 26th of February 2009

AFGHANISTAN, THE GUARDIAN REMOVES THE VIDEO CONTESTED BY INTERSOS

After INTERSOS warning, the Guardian has immediately removed from its web site the indicted video “*Where are Afghanistan's missing millions? Clancy Chassay hears charges of corruption levelled against the UN and aid agencies after millions earmarked for a Kabul hospital disappear*”, where it was called into question the transparency and the correct use of funds for the reconstruction of a Hospital in Kabul. (For detail www.intersos.org). Considered the serious image damage, INTERSOS decided to proceed anyway with legal.

PRESS RELEASE, 24th of February 2009

Intersos warns and undertakes legal action against The Guardian and whoever publishes false and misleading news

In the last few days, the Guardian has broadcasted a video titled “*Where are Afghanistan's missing millions? Clancy Chassay hears charges of corruption levelled against the UN and aid agencies after millions earmarked for a Kabul hospital disappear*”. From this video it comes out that Intersos, well in with the United Nations, has taken 1 million dollars out of the project.

The video concerns the rehabilitation and refurbishment of the Khair Khana Hospital in Kabul, realized with the greatest commitment by Intersos, the United Nations and the Italian Cooperation in 2002-2003. At the time of the rehabilitation, as the hospital already existed and worked, it was assumed that the local Administration would have been able to guarantee its functioning. Unfortunately an over estimation was committed. Severe mismanagement, lack of maintenance and unauthorized modifications to the original project soon led to the decline of the hospital. Intersos attempted to highlight the problem, but the necessary commitment from the Afghan Ministry of Public Health's side has always been absent.

The video contains absurd and utterly false messages and, furthermore, the journalist's way to report the news is incorrect and malicious. He had all the information, costs and details at hand as he was given fully detailed accounts and everything was already available on the web-site, www.intersos.org . One can just wonder why he ignored all that. He edited a video that only apparently reports events, statements and opinions, always with a partial approach; in practice - in a way even more subtle and malicious - he sends the message that Intersos has taken one million dollars at the hospital's cost. This message is completely false.

The video is absolutely harmful for Intersos' reputation, an humanitarian organization committed to solidarity in extremely dangerous areas that relies upon the credibility it fosters.

Intersos hereby states that a warning has been sent to The Guardian and that a legal action has been undertaken, seeking compensations for the damages caused by the journalist, the newspaper and whoever publishes false and misleading news that might harm Intersos' reputation.

Those who want to know the facts as they were can find all the information on the web-site (www.intersos.org). And for those from the press who would like to better understand the events, Intersos remains fully available in digging the truth.