



Gérard Mestrallet. CEO

WANTED: SUEZ

(A CORPORATE CONGLOMERATE THAT INCLUDES UNITED WATER, ONDEO, TRACTABEL, ELECTRABEL, DEGREMONT, AND MORE...)

FOR REPEATED VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER!

THE REAL FACTS ABOUT SUEZ:

- **SUEZ IS NUMBER 79 ON THE FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 AND IS THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST WATER COMPANY WITH ENERGY, WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATIONS IN 130 COUNTRIES.**
- **UNITED WATER IS THE U.S. SUEZ SUBSIDIARY. UNITED WATER HAS APPROXIMATELY 75 WATER AND WASTEWATER CONTRACTS IN THE U.S.**
- **SUEZ IS WELL-KNOWN IN FRANCE FOR A MAJOR CORRUPTION SCANDAL IN GRENOBLE WHERE A SENIOR EXECUTIVE OF THE COMPANY WAS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR BRIBERY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.**
- **IN THE 1990S, OFTEN SUPPORTED BY THE WORLD BANK, SUEZ WON LARGE SHOWCASE WATER PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, ARGENTINA, PUERTO RICO, BOLIVIA, INDONESIA AND ELSEWHERE.**
- **WHILE SUEZ REWARDS ITS SHAREHOLDERS HANDSOMELY (US\$1.6 BILLION IN DIVIDENDS IN 2005) THE COMPANY HAS REFUSED TO MAKE THE REQUIRED INVESTMENTS IN WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.**
- **TODAY, MOST OF THESE SHOWCASE PRIVATIZATION DEALS HAVE COLLAPSED OR ARE IN DISREPUTE LEAVING COUNTRIES IN DEEPER DEBT AND LEAVING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE WATER. (SEE PAGE 2)**
- **WHEN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TRIED TO RE-NEGOTIATE OR TERMINATE THEIR CONTRACTS, SUEZ FILED LEGAL CLAIMS IN THE SECRET WORLD BANK AFFILIATED INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES (ICSID). SUEZ HAS FILED US\$2.11 BILLION CLAIMS AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN ICSID. THE COST OF THESE SPURIOUS LEGAL CLAIMS CAN DEPRIVE COUNTRIES OF FUNDS FOR SOCIAL INVESTMENTS IN BASIC SERVICES SUCH AS EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND CLEAN WATER.**

SAMPLE SUEZ FAILURES:

BOLIVIA: After 7 years, the people of El Alto and La Paz organized massive pressure to force the government to terminate the contract with Aguas de Illimani (major shareholder SUEZ) in January 2005. The contract had guaranteed Aguas de Illimani a 13% rate of return while leaving 200,000 people in El Alto without access to water and leaving countless others unable to afford the US\$445 connection fees, almost 8 times the monthly minimum wage in Bolivia. Now SUEZ is threatening legal action and demanding indemnization payments before it will exit the country.

ARGENTINA: In Buenos Aires, Cordoba and the province of Santa Fe, the contracts of SUEZ companies caused a decade of social turmoil. In March 2006 Suez finally agreed to leave Argentina. In Buenos Aires citizen groups called for the termination of the contract because Aguas Argentinas (major shareholder SUEZ) refused to make the promised investment, while continuing to charge high consumer rates. Many residents experienced chronic problems with water cut-offs and low water pressure. Lack of needed investment also caused serious flooding and water contamination problems. In the cities of Santa Fe, Aguas Provinciales de Santa Fe (major shareholder Suez) refused to comply with the contracts denying many residents access to water and sanitation. Consumer groups assess that Aguas Provinciales owes residents 114.3 million pesos in undone maintenance work during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th years of the contract. During the eight years of the concession, Aguas Provinciales has never met the basic water quality parameters. When the Argentine government refused to permit massive rate hikes following the peso crisis, SUEZ threatened the government with million dollar lawsuits in the World Bank arbitration court.

THE PHILIPPINES: After 7 years of water privatization, studies show that more than a million people, mostly in the east and west zones of Manila, still lack water connections. The careless practices of Maynilad Water (major shareholder SUEZ) contributed to the cholera and gastroenteritis outbreaks which have killed six people and severely sickened 600 in Manila's Tondo district. City officials said the contamination, which caused the illness, resulted from the lack of chlorine in the water and from the failure to maintain adequate pressure in the system. Seven years of having Maynilad and Manila Water has resulted in 400% increase in water rates for West Zone consumers. Rising water costs, unmet service obligations, threats to existing community-owned-and-managed water systems, incentives for and bailouts of private corporations - these and more are the staggering result of the policy of privatizing Manila's water utilities.

THE PEOPLE IN THESE COMMUNITIES DEMAND THAT JUSTICE BE SERVED.

1. Suez should listen to citizen demands for public control of their water systems and end the practice of profiting from an essential natural resource.
2. Suez should immediately drop all cases in the World Bank's International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and refrain from filing such cases in the future.
3. Suez owes reparations to the millions of citizens around the world whose lives have been made more difficult due to water-borne illnesses, cut-offs, lack of access to potable water and unaffordable connection fees and water rates.

