

***Greenpeace letter regarding Rainbow Warrior***

**June 2009**

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Commissioner

Dr Bill Hogarth  
Chair  
International Whaling Commission  
Madeira  
Portugal

24 June, 2009

**Dear Dr Hogarth**


Today during the Safety at Sea agenda item at IWC-61, the delegate for the Republic of Korea made a statement concerning the Rainbow Warrior. In doing so, he failed to correctly describe the events and some delegates may have been left with the mistaken impression of the events surrounding the sinking of the Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior on July 10, 1985.

Far from being an example of consequences of peaceful protest, this is an example of an act of terrorism against peaceful protesters.

The Rainbow Warrior was in fact sunk by explosive devices, placed by officers from the French Secret Service, the DGSE. One Greenpeace crewman, Fernando Pereira, a Portuguese national, was killed. New Zealand arrested two agents, who later pleaded guilty to charges of manslaughter, and who spent some time in jail who were later repatriated to France. France paid reparations to New Zealand. Greenpeace separately launched legal proceedings against France and was awarded USD 8.25 million dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the record.

Yours sincerely



Sara Holden  
Head of Delegation  
Greenpeace International