

**From:** Rustam Davletkhan [mailto:[rustam@unicon-international.com](mailto:rustam@unicon-international.com)]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 2, 2019 5:07 PM

**To:** 'H. E. Governor Sediq'

**Subject:** Request for assistance in corruption case

Dear Excellency Governor,

We do not accuse anyone in extortion/corruption, unless we have evidences against such individuals.

Enclosed is a two-page outline of extortion case with evidences in attachments. These people were not even afraid to put their demands in writing. Whilst Unicon did not want to address this to you for long time, since last year, as we believed that we will succeed extortion and blackmail against Unicon, it seems to us now that the people involved in this, due to our non-cooperation in payments, now decided to pursue termination of our contract as a way of punishment. In doing so, they are misleading the Management of DAB. As a matter of fact, as evidences attached indicate, they have been misleading the Management of DAB for many months artificially portraying Unicon in negative colours.

We address this to you, Your Excellency, for fair judgement. We believe you should be aware of what is going on and we apologise for not informing you of this earlier, as we hoped we could solve it without disturbing you.

With kind regards,

Rustam

**Rustam Davletkhan**

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2 June 2019

To: H.E. Khalil Sediq  
Governor  
Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB)

Re: Consulting Services for Capacity Strengthening Program for Financial Supervision Department

Dear Your Excellency,

Since late 2018, Unicon Ltd fell victim of blackmail, corruption, and extortion by some of the DAB representatives and, with sorrow, we need to report this to you, as last resort, as we failed to solve the problem on our own.

In Attachments to this letter, you will find evidences in support of each of the allegations made, including requests for money payments, bank account details, and other material information in regard to this. Up until the last moment, we hoped to solve this ourselves as we believed that blackmail and extortion will not succeed in the environment of good performance, since deliverables are of highest quality. However, what we observe in the latest weeks is a deliberate attempt to falsify facts and a specific goal to destroy the project, claiming Unicon Ltd to be at fault. Accusations being made against Unicon are all falsified and we will respond to this separately in accordance with deadline set for us, i.e. 3 June 2019.

Our investigation has revealed a conspiracy between FSD and Procurement departments to obtain illegal wealth by certain individuals. The following people are involved in corrupt practice and extortion:

- Abaseen Mal
- Mustafa Sameh
- Abbas Saameh

The process started with FSD representatives (Mustafa Sameh and Abbas Saameh) presenting Your Excellency a falsified Memo that outlined Unicon's performance and became grounds for our meeting on 26 September 2018. We obtained copy of the Memo through Mustafa Sameh himself as he, assumingly by mistake, sent it to us by WhatsApp. We did not say anything during meeting but could not understand why the Memo was prepared to demonise Unicon and turn all good things into bad ensuring that Unicon is portrayed in the most terrible way to Your Excellency.

We understood the reasons for this later, in November 2018, when Mr Abaseen Mal approached me and claimed that *"he controls the project and can kill it at any moment."* He went further to say that *"difficult environment was created for Unicon to teach us a lesson and what can happen to us if we don't pay."* At this stage, we clearly understood that this is extortion and that individuals at both departments are in conspiracy to obtain money from Unicon, each acting from their angle.

In Attachment 1, you will find communication with Mr Mal through mobile where he demands money to be paid either in cash or to a bank account that he provided. He goes further to imply that if we do not pay, then we are enemies. These screenshots are also recorded on video and authenticated.

In Attachment 2, you will find a Memo that was prepared by FSD and submitted to Your Excellency with indication of false statements in each claim they made. They artificially created a negative image of Unicon to ensure that all parties see Unicon only in a negative way.

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Blackwhite



# UNICON

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Unicon does not tolerate corruption and does not pay bribes.

As we have not tolerated demands of above-mentioned individuals, they started a process of ensuring that Unicon's working environment becomes impossible to bear. You have probably noticed that, all of a sudden, starting from end-November 2018 (12 months after project started), FSD is undertaking all possible steps to discredit Unicon and create an environment hard to manage. They submit thousands of comments, vast majority of which lack any meaning. Even the head of FSD, Mr Salim Sallah, acknowledged during our meeting with H.E. First Deputy Governor that indeed *commenting process* undertaken by FSD is not constructive.

Then, Mr Mustafa Sameh started requesting deliverables that are not part of the contract with an aim to present our disagreement to the list as "another negative picture of Unicon." He started with the list of 400 documents requested on 18 February 2019, preparation of which will take 10 years of several people working full-time. After several months, he decreased it to 40 items, 30 of which are not part of our contract and undertaking which will damage the firm financially. These three individuals are pursuing dual goals – (1) either damage Unicon financially so Unicon regrets taking this contract by exploiting it to deliverables that are not part of the contract; or (2) making an artificial negative image of Unicon as a starting point for contract termination.

Your Excellency probably have noticed a "strange" e-mail communication of latest weeks, whereby Unicon is openly accepting all the terms of the contract and full adherence to the contract, while the Procurement Department is responding in a way that artificially indicates Unicon's non-compliance.

We observe now that both departments are eager to ensure that the project is closed for false reasons as a *punishment* to Unicon. Before our contract is terminated, we wanted to let the Management of DAB know the facts of why certain individuals are pursuing the initiative of cancellation and that this has nothing to do with our performance, but rather our unwillingness to tolerate corruption.

If all artificial negative image is removed, you will see a company that has prudently been working on this assignment, producing thousands of pages of professional documents in the hardest possible environment. We are keen to continue in the same way and produce even more outcome for the DAB. However, it seems that those in pursuit of project termination have now entered into the final stages of contract termination idea by misleading the Management of DAB.

Having said the above, I would like to note that we have no information if Mr Salim Sallah could have been part of this scheme. No evidences and no information exists in our possession in this regard, even though he is the Head of FSD. Just like ourselves, he might also have been a "victim" of actions of other people. We do not know. This letter and evidences relate only to three particular individuals named above.

We sincerely apologise bringing this news and we are sorry that our performance could not outbid ill-motivated individuals. We bring this to your fair judgement.

Kind regards,

Rustam Davletkhan  
Director

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Asilgul Totakheel  
Comptroller General  
Da Afghanistan Bank  
Ibn-E-Sina Watt  
Kabul  
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

(By email only to: [asilgul.totakheel@dab.gov.af](mailto:asilgul.totakheel@dab.gov.af))

London, Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Mr Totakheel,

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Subject: **YOUR INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION ON THE WORLD BANK GROUP FINANCED FINANCIAL SECTOR RAPID RESPONSE PROJECT**

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1. Thank you for your concise email addressed to me of 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019, safe receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

2. I have brought the existence of your email to my Client's attention and I have duly taken instructions, and I am requested to inform you respectfully of the following:

2.1. UNICON is appreciative of your offer to keep confidential any documents that it might choose to disclose to you, as part of its anticipated co-operation with your office. However, before agreeing to co-operate and act as a witness in an investigation, which, it is noted, you have delegated to an unidentified member of your department, my Client does still require answers to the legitimate and reasonable questions that I posed, for and on its behalf, in my letter to your Mr Raofy of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019; a copy of which is attached, for your convenience; and

2.2. It must be said that Mr Raofy's introductory email to my Client of 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019 unsettled it and caused some consternation on its part, for the email was alarmingly informal, sparse in terms of detail and distributed far too widely for an email sent from an investigative office. In short, it was not the type of communication that inspired in my client any form of confidence in the integrity of the investigative process and its confidentiality. Quite to the contrary, Mr Raofy's email demonstrated to UNICON the need to know far more detail about DAB's investigative policy, processes and procedures, and what safeguards the Bank has in place to protect witnesses who allege corruption on the part of officials who are employed or engaged by it. In common with most, if not all central banks, my client has no doubt that you have ensured, as DAB's Comptroller, that the Bank has in place detailed and functioning investigative policies

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and practices, as an integral part of its counter-corruption measures, and my Client looks forward to receiving them from you shortly, as well as the answers and clarifications requested in my letter of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

3. My client also wishes you to be aware and hereby puts you on formal notice that it was contacted from Afghanistan by telephone on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 by a DAB representative and that this unsolicited call led to a telephone conversation the following evening. I am informed that the call on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 amounted to no more than a monologue delivered succinctly by the DAB representative and clearly upon the instructions of a high ranking and well-placed DAB official, and which was, in my Client's reasonable submission, intended only to convey a thinly veiled threat. The telephone call, which was entirely inappropriate and which should never have been initiated by DAB, occurred two days after my letter to your Mr Raofy and on the day of your email to me, and this coincidence has understandably heightened my Client's well-placed concerns in respect of (1) the risks of co-operating with you and your office; and (2) the effectiveness of your good-faith assurances of confidentiality. My client would now like to know what steps you intend to take to inquire into the disturbing events of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

4. I look forward to hearing from you again in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**L G Marler**  
Barrister & BWL Lead Counsel,  
for UNICON Ltd

Attachment

- 1. Letter to Mr Jamal Naser Raofy, Acting and Deputy Comptroller General dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

Copies

- 1. Mr Jamal Naser Raofy, Acting and Deputy Comptroller General; and
- 2. Mr Rustam Davletkhan, Director and Board member, UNICON.