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Subject:	CORRECTION / Clarification: Your Article "The coalition feeds Putin through Gunvor / Koalīcija caur "Gunvor" piebaro Putinu" (Neatkarīgā Rīta Avīze) & Gunvor Group
Date:	2021-02-03 13:33
From:	Bruderer WB-Communications < info@WB-Communications.com >
To:	" imants.viksne@nra.lv " < imants.viksne@nra.lv >

Dear Mr. Viksne,

I am writing to you with respect to your article "The coalition feeds Putin through Gunvor / Koalīcija caur "Gunvor" piebaro Putinu" of yesterday, which inaccurately references Gunvor Group, the energy trading firm of which I am an advisor here in Geneva, Switzerland, in particular in media relations matters.

Please note that the information in reference to Gunvor is false, inaccurate and/or highly defamatory.

We'd like to point out that **"President Putin does not and never has had any ownership, beneficial or otherwise in Gunvor. He is not a beneficiary of Gunvor or its activities. No evidence supporting claims about Mr. Putin has ever been produced by the U.S. government or anyone else.**

Furthermore, please note that in the numerous subsequent rounds of Russia-related sanctions by OFAC (The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury), our company Gunvor has never been sanctioned by the U.S. government or any other government."

Mr. Gennady Timchenko does not own Gunvor Group. He was a former shareholder. The shares of the company held by Mr. Gennady Timchenko were sold on March 19, 2014, from his personal holding vehicle to Mr. Torbjörn Törnqvist personally. As a result, Mr. Törnqvist, who is Swedish, has become the majority owner of Gunvor Group Ltd and Mr. Timchenko has fully divested his entire holdings in the company. Mr. Törnqvist maintains 100 percent control of the company. The remaining shares in Gunvor Group are held by senior employees - mostly traders, who are predominantly Swiss, French, Dutch, British and American. There are no outside shareholders.

Second, it is important to note that Mr. Timchenko never ran Gunvor Group. In the company's history, he was only ever a shareholder. Mr. Timchenko never held a management position and never was on the company's board of directors. Further, he neither had family members nor representatives in management or on the board.

For the sake of brevity, I will not detail all the numerous corrections and/or statements made by Gunvor in respect of this falsity, but they are included in such publications as the Financial Times, the Guardian and Reuters.

We would therefore be grateful if you could make the corrections accordingly. Please link our denial above with your original article (Latvian and English versions). There is a considerable amount of misinformation out there, and we ask only that accurate and balanced information be presented.

It goes without saying that we are available for any questions you may have about Gunvor and would appreciate being contacted if you are writing about the company.

We look forward to your reply and remain, in the meantime,

Yours sincerely,

Walter Bruderer

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The coalition feeds Putin through Gunvor

It has finally become clear why the coalition has been debating the issue of strategic fuel reserves for so long, and this clarity has been given by none other than the opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was arrested in Russia, in the film "Putin's palace. History of world's largest bribe". When paying for the pre-emptive right to purchase oil products from the company Gunvor, Latvia practically transfers money to the account of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

02.02.2021. Imants Vīksne



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The film is being watched with great enthusiasm around the world, and especially in recent days, because of the continuing unrest in Russia. Proponents of Navalny go on demonstrations, but the authorities put the demonstrators in prison. More than 5,000 political prisoners, including Navalny himself and his wife, were reported yesterday morning. Russia's Prosecutor General's Office said yesterday that it supports the Federal Penitentiary Service's request to change the suspended sentence of Navalny to a real prison sentence, and the court will hear the case today.

Why Navalny is in prison

Navalny was convicted in 2014 of embezzling from Yves Rocher and laundering money. The case was finalized in the Supreme Court in 2018, leaving the judgment in force - three and a

half years of suspended sentence. The term is coming to an end. However, in the opinion of the authorities, Navalny did not fulfill his court duties and did not allow himself to be supervised. So now he had to be put in jail for real.

It should be recalled that Navalny has been particularly active in campaigning against Putin in recent years and has been poisoned in between. He was healed in Germany, but on his return to Russia, he was immediately taken prisoner. It doesn't matter in this story if and what Navalny and his brother ever did to the beauty industry company Yves Rocher. The important thing is that Navalny is Putin's most serious competitor and is being persecuted in Russia.

This is political hypocrisy

Latvia's actions in condemning this persecution on the one hand, but providing company in Putin's pocket with regular orders on the other hand, are vile hypocrisy.

Last Friday, the Saeima's Foreign Affairs Committee issued a statement where it "**strongly condemns** the illegal and politically motivated detention of Aleksei Navalny upon his return to Russia, carried out by the Russian authorities in an attempt to silence the opposition and critics of the regime;

call for an immediate and unconditional release of Aleksei Navalny and an investigation into the poisoning;

recommend the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia to take an active stand on this matter and substantially intensify the EU response by establishing restrictive measures;

call on the Russian public authorities to immediately discontinue the persecution, intimidation and suppression, as well as other forms of violations of the human rights of their political opponents and social activists (including members of the Russian NGO Anti-Corruption Foundation)."

The Anti-Corruption Foundation is an organization founded by Navalny that produced the film Putin's Palace. And in connection with this film, the Latvian Saeima, the government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be ashamed, because in the film, Navalny himself explains what the Gunvor company is, to which Latvia transfers money from year to year for the storage of strategic oil reserves.

The SCCB must be strongly condemned

As strongly as it condemns the arrest of Navalny, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saeima should **strongly condemn** the State Construction Control Bureau, which concluded an agreement with Gunvor Petroleum Rotterdam B.V. at the end of last year for the storage of 120,000 tonnes of petrol in the Netherlands. The contract price is 1,843,200 euros without VAT. And the Ministry of Economics should also be **strongly condemned**, since it has allowed its institution to do so, as well as the Cabinet of Ministers, which has been accepting the purchase of a fuel reservation service for years, not even through a tender but through a negotiated procedure, from the Gunvor group.

Here's what Alexei Navalny says about Gunvor in the film. Gunvor is the cornerstone of Putin's wealth. Oil. If you have the time, you can watch the whole movie from start to finish. If not - the story of Putin's connection with Gunvor can be viewed from the 12:04 [here](#).

Taking a few minutes you can learn that the four largest Russian oil companies trade abroad exclusively through the Swiss-registered company Gunvor. The company's founder is Putin's friend Gennady Timchenko, and one of the shareholders, Peter Kolbin, is a holder of Putin's share. And ever since Putin was the deputy mayor of St. Petersburg, he has controlled all of Russia's oil exports and benefited from it personally. In Navalny's opinion - stolen and appropriated it. That is the foundation for that palace.

Latvia ignores the US example

Significantly, it is not only Navalny, who is Putin's political competitor and therefore will not say anything good about Putin, but also the United States that equate the words Gunvor and Putin. In 2014, when Russia invaded Ukraine, the United States imposed sanctions on a number of politicians and businessmen close to the Kremlin, including Gennady Timchenko.

The decision was explained in the press release as follows:

"Gennady Timchenko is one of the founders of Gunvor, one of the world's largest independent commodity trading companies involved in the oil and energy markets. Timchenko's activities in the energy sector have been directly linked to Putin. Putin has investments in Gunvor and may have access to Gunvor funds."

The press release can be read [here](#).

Perhaps members of the Latvian government have not yet watched a film by Russian oppositionist Alexei Navalny. Maybe they don't think it applies to them in any way. However, the coalition usually treats its overseas allies with the utmost respect and reverence - it regularly goes to the embassies to get new orders and invites overseas consultants to the Ministry of Finance. But this is the time when the example set by the United States really is worth trusting.

Given the tense geopolitical situation, Latvia should not finance the private business of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. And he should not receive EUR 1,843,200 without VAT this year too. Such a transfer endangers the security of the Latvian state.

<https://neatkariga.com/opinions/338011-the-coalition-feeds-putin-through-gunvor>

Koalīcija caur "Gunvor" piebaro Putinu

Beidzot kļuvis skaidrs, kāpēc koalīcija tik ilgi ņemas ar stratēģisko degvielas rezervju jautājumu, un šo skaidrību ir viesis neviens cits kā Krievijā arestētais opozīcijas līderis Aleksejs Navaļņijs filmā "Putina pils. Vislielākā kukuļa vēsture". Maksājot par pirmtiesībām iegādāties naftas produktus no uzņēmuma "Gunvor", Latvija faktiski ieskaita naudu Krievijas Federācijas prezidenta Vladimira Putina kontā.

02.02.2021. [Imants Vīksne](#)



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Filma ar lielu entuziasmu tiek skatīta visā pasaulē, un pēdējās dienās jo īpaši - tādēļ, ka Krievijā turpinās nemieri. Navaļņija atbalstītāji iet demonstrācijās, bet varas iestādes demonstrantus liek cietumā. Vakar no rīta tika ziņots par vairāk nekā 5000 politieslodzītajiem, pašu Navaļņiju un viņa sievu ieskaitot. Krievijas Ģenerālprokuratūra vakar paziņoja, ka atbalsta Federālā sodu izpildes dienesta prasību nomainīt Navaļņijam piespriesto nosacīto sodu pret reālu cietumsodu, un tiesa lietu skatīs šodien.

Kāpēc Navaļņijs cietumā

Navaļņiju notiesāja 2014. gadā par uzņēmuma "Yves Rocher" līdzekļu piesavināšanos un naudas atmazgāšanu. Augstākajā tiesā lietu pabeidza skatīt 2018. gadā, atstājot spēkā spriedumu - trīs ar pusi gadu nosacīti. Termins jau pie beigām. Taču varas iestāžu skatījumā Navaļņijs nav pildījis tiesas uzliktos pienākumus un nav ļāvies uzraudzīties. Tāpēc tagad liekams cietumā pa īstam.

Jāatgādina, Navaļņijs pēdējos gados īpaši aktīvi turpināja kampaņot pret Putinu un pa kampaņošanas starpu gandrīz tika noindēts. Izārstēts Vācijā, savukārt atgriežoties Krievijā, uzreiz paņemts ciet. Šai stāstā nav būtiski, vai un ko Navaļņijs kopā ar brāli kaut kad nodarīja skaistumzāres produktu uzņēmumam "Yves Rocher". Būtiski ir tas, ka Navaļņijs ir Putina nopietnākais konkurents un Krievijā tiek vajāts.

Šī ir politiska divkosība

Latvijas rīcība, no vienas puses, nosodot šo vajāšanu, bet no otras, nodrošinot ar regulāriem pasūtījumiem Putina kabatas kompāniju, ir nekrietna divkosība.

Pagājušajā piektdienā Saeimas Ārlietu komisija izplatīja paziņojumu, kurā **"stingri nosoda** Krievijas varas iestāžu veikto prettiesisko, politiski motivēto Alekseja Navaļņija aizturēšanu pēc viņa atgriešanās Krievijā, tādējādi cenšoties apklusināt opozīciju un valdošās iekārtas kritiķus;

pieprasa "nekavējoties un bez nosacījumiem atbrīvot Alekseju Navaļņiju, kā arī veikt izmeklēšanu sakarā ar viņa saindēšanu;

iesaka Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrijai aicināt starptautiskos partnerus ieņemt aktīvu nostāju šajā jautājumā un būtiski pastiprināt ES atbildes soļus, ieviešot ierobežojošus pasākumus;

aicina Krievijas valsts iestādes nekavējoties izbeigt politisko oponentu un sabiedrisko aktīvistu (tajā skaitā Krievijas nevalstiskās organizācijas "Fonds cīņai ar korupciju" locekļi) vajāšanu, iebiedēšanu un apspiešanu, kā arī citus viņu cilvēktiesību pārkāpumus".

"Fonds cīņai ar korupciju" ir Navaļņija dibinātā organizācija, kas producējusi filmu "Putina pils". Un saistībā ar šo filmu Latvijas Saeimai, valdībai un ārlietu resoram nāktos apkaunēties, jo filmā pats Navaļņijs paskaidro, kas ir uzņēmums "Gunvor", kam Latvija gadu no gadu pārskaita naudu par stratēģisko naftas rezervju uzglabāšanu.

Stingri jānosoda BVKB

Tikpat stingri, kā tiek nosodīta Navaļņija apcietināšana, Saeimas ārlietu komisijai būtu **stingri jānosoda** Būvniecības valsts kontroles birojs, kas pagājušā gada nogalē noslēdzis līgumu ar uzņēmumu "Gunvor Petroleum Rotterdam B.V." par 120 000 tonnu benzīna uzglabāšanu Nīderlandes teritorijā. Līguma cena 1 843 200 eiro bez PVN. Un **stingri nosodīt** būtu vērts arī Ekonomikas ministriju, kas savai iestādei to ļāvusi darīt, un arī Ministru kabinetu, kas jau gadiem akceptējis degvielas rezervēšanas pakalpojuma iepirkšanu, pat ne konkursa, bet sarunu procedūras kārtībā, no "Gunvor" grupas uzņēmumiem.

Lūk, ko par uzņēmumu "Gunvor" filmā pastāsta Aleksejs Navaļņijs. "Gunvor" ir Putina bagātības stūrakmens. Nafta. Ja ir pacietība, var skatīties visu filmu no sākuma līdz galam. Ja nav - stāsts par Putina saistību ar "Gunvor" skatāms no filmas 12. minūtes 4. sekundes [šeit](#) .

Veltot tam pāris minūtes, var uzzināt, ka četras lielākās Krievijas naftas kompānijas uz ārzemēm tirgojas tikai un vienīgi caur Šveicē reģistrēto uzņēmumu "Gunvor". Uzņēmuma dibinātājs ir Putina draugs Genādijs Timčenko, bet viens no akcionāriem Pjotrs Kolbins ir Putina daļas turētājs. Un, kopš laikiem, kad Putins bija Pēterburgas vicemērs, viņš ir kontrolējis visu Krievijas naftas eksportu un guvis no tā personīgu labumu. Navaļņija izpratnē - zadzis un piesavinājies. Tur arī tai pilij pamats.

Latvija ignorē ASV priekšzīmi

Zīmīgi, ka vienādības zīmi starp vārdiem "Gunvor" un Putins liek ne tikai Navaļnijs, kas ir Putina politiskais konkurents un tātad neko labu par Putinu neteiks, bet arī Amerikas Savienotās Valstis. 2014. gadā, kad Krievija iebruka Ukrainā, ASV ieviesa sankcijas pret virkni Kremlim pietuvinātu politiķu un uzņēmēju, tostarp arī pret Genādiju Timčenko.

Preses relīzē pieņemtais lēmums tika paskaidrots šādi:

"Genādijs Timčenko ir viens no "Gunvor" dibinātājiem. Tas ir viens no pasaulē lielākajiem neatkarīgajiem izejvielu tirdzniecības uzņēmumiem, kas darbojas naftas un enerģētikas tirgos. Timčenko darbība enerģētikas nozarē ir bijusi tieši saistīta ar Putinu. Putinam pieder investīcijas "Gunvor", un viņam var būt pieejami "Gunvor" fondi".

Preses relīze oriģinālvalodā apskatāma [šeit](#).

Varbūt Latvijas valdības locekļi vēl nav noskatījušies Krievijas opozicionāra Alekseja Navaļnija filmu. Varbūt neuzskata, ka tā uz viņiem kaut kā attiecas. Taču pret saviem aizokeāna sabiedrotajiem koalīcija parasti izturas ar vislielāko cieņu un pietāti - regulāri piestaigā uz vēstniecību pakaļ pavēlēm un aicina aizjūras konsultantus uz Finanšu ministriju. Bet šī nu ir tā reize, kad ASV rādītajai priekšzīmei tiešām būtu vērts uzticēties.

Ņemot vērā saspringto ģeopolitisko situāciju, Latvijai nevajadzētu finansēt Krievijas Federācijas prezidenta Vladimira Putina privāto biznesu. Tostarp nevajadzētu arī šogad viņam pārskaitīt 1 843 200 eiro bez PVN. Šāds pārskaitījums apdraud Latvijas valsts drošību.

https://neatkariga.nra.lv/izpete/337996-koalicija-caur-gunvor-piebaro-putinu?utm_source=nra.lv&utm_medium=site&utm_campaign=nralvLinks&utm_content=redirect