

The Federal Bureau of  
Investigation  
Director Robert S. Mueller  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C., 20535-001  
United States of America

Basel / San Francisco, 22 August 2011

**Re: The FBI's relationship with the family of Malaysian potentate  
Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak**

Dear Director Mueller:

We are writing to you to express our concern over the FBI's relationship with the family of Malaysian potentate Abdul Taib Mahmud („Taib“), who owns the Abraham Lincoln building in Seattle, the seat of the FBI's Seattle Division Headquarters.

For twenty years, the Bruno Manser Fund and The Borneo Project have worked with indigenous communities in Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, in order to preserve the rainforests of Borneo, one of the world's most precious natural environments. In order to address the underlying causes of tropical deforestation, we are currently running a campaign against corruption and its consequences for the people and the natural environment of Sarawak.<sup>1</sup>

In Sarawak, corruption is particularly rampant, even by South East Asian standards. The state, which for long used to be the world's leading exporter of tropical timbers, has for three decades been politically and economically controlled by one person, Abdul Taib Mahmud. Since 1981, Taib has simultaneously held the offices of Chief Minister, Finance Minister and State Planning and Resources Minister and, as such, has had almost absolute power over the state's timber and land resources without any functioning checks and balances. Taib's immediate family members control the state's largest private corporation, Cahya Mata Sarawak, and his brother Onn Mahmud holds a monopoly on the state's timber exports.

Taib has abused his office in a spectacular way and most observers agree that he has acquired assets worth hundreds of millions, if not billions, of US dollars, thanks to corruption and abuse of power. All this while, Taib's personal enrichment has been funded by the destructive logging of the Sarawak rainforest, which has recently been described by former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown as „probably the biggest environmental crime of our times“.<sup>2</sup> In June 2011, the Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission, MACC, announced that Taib is under investigation for corruption.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See the Bruno Manser Fund's campaign page: [www.stop-timber-corruption.org](http://www.stop-timber-corruption.org)

<sup>2</sup> Gordon Brown: Fight for the Borneo rainforest, The Independent, 10 March 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Bernama (Malaysian National News Agency): MACC investigates Taib Mahmud over timber corruption allegations, 9 June 2011.

We are very concerned that the Taib family might have laundered and reinvested significant corruption proceeds in the United States, namely through Taib's son, Sulaiman Abdul Rahman Taib ("Rahman Taib" or "Sulaiman Taib"), Member of the Malaysian Parliament and former Malaysian Deputy Minister of Tourism.

For a number of years, Rahman Taib has been chairing several US corporations, which are today administered by Sakto, an Ottawa-based property developer directed by Taib's daughter, Jamilah Taib Murray, and her Canadian husband, Sean Patrick Murray:

- Wallysons Inc., a Washington corporation (UBI Nr. 601338627)
- W.A. Boylston Inc., a California corporation (Nr. C1800699)
- W.A. Everett Inc., a California corporation (Nr. C1800700)
- Sakti International Corporation Inc., a California corporation (Nr. C1195976)
- Sakti International Holdings Inc., a California corporation (Nr. C1867577)

Wallysons Inc. is the proprietor of the Abraham Lincoln Building in Seattle at 1110 3rd Avenue, of which the FBI is the sole tenant. This information was disclosed by Ross Boyert, a former Taib aide who died last year under worrying circumstances.<sup>4</sup>

Given the United States government's strong stand against public corruption, we think it is highly inappropriate for the FBI to rent office space from the son of a Malaysian potentate who is systematically abusing his political power for personal gains. We believe that the FBI's business relationship with the family of a Malaysian potentate is seriously damaging the FBI's reputation and integrity as a law-enforcement agency, all the more that one of the Seattle Division's criminal top priorities is to "combat public corruption at all levels".

We are wondering why the Taib family's ownership of the Abraham Lincoln Building was not properly addressed as part of due diligence when the FBI moved into these premises? We have contacted the FBI's Seattle Leadership, Special Agent Laura M. Laughlin, on 2 March 2011 over these issues, but our letter was left unanswered. Today, we are asking you, Director Mueller, to suspend the FBI's rental contract with the Taibs, to investigate whether the Taib family's ventures in the United States are in accordance with the United States' anti-corruption and anti-money laundering legislation, and to freeze all Taib family assets in the United States for restitution to the people of Sarawak.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Lukas Straumann  
Executive Director  
Bruno Manser Fund, Basel / Switzerland

Brihannala Morgan  
Executive Director  
The Borneo Project, San Francisco

---

<sup>4</sup> Boyert directed the above-mentioned Taib family corporations from 1994 to 2006. After his dismissal, he lodged a civil case against Wallysons Inc. and Sakti International Holdings Inc. at a San Francisco court. He claims his family was harrassed ever since he lodged the court case. In autumn 2010, he was found dead at a Los Angeles hotel. [www.sarawakreport.org/2010/10/taibs-former-us-aid-found-dead](http://www.sarawakreport.org/2010/10/taibs-former-us-aid-found-dead)

**CC:**

- Eric Holder, Attorney General
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
- Timothy Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury
- James H. Freis, Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network
- Douglas Shulman, Commissioner of Internal Revenue
- Congressman Lamar S. Smith, Chairman House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary
- Congressman John Conyers, Ranking Member House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary
- Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman Senate Committee on the Judiciary
- Senator Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member Senate Committee on the Judiciary
- The Hon. James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, Canada
- William J.S. Elliott, Commissioner of The Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Prof. Huguette Labelle, Transparency International, Berlin/Ottawa