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Setting up the CRIIRAD Bandazhevsky research laboratory.

Report of September 20, 2005

Payment of Professor Bandazhevsky's fine.

From August 30th to September 2nd, 2005, a CRIIRAD representative went to Belarus in order to solve the problem raised by the fine of 35,483,819 roubles (13,806 euros) that Professor BANDAZHEVSKY had to pay to the Belarus Supreme Court, otherwise he would have been deprived from any exit of the national territory of Belarus and would have seen some of his future incomes seized by the authorities (because of the duration of his detention and seizures of 1999, he does not have indeed any financial reserve).

CRIIRAD paid the whole amount of the fine within the deadlines, that is to say by September 2nd; the good news finally arrived on September 14th : the money has been received by the legal authorities of Belarus. Professor Bandazhevsky is now in order with the justice of his country.

It was particularly important for Professor Bandazhevsky that CRIIRAD could proceed to this payment. Indeed:

1/ If he had paid this fine himself, this would have meant his recognition of charges that he always refuted despite any threat or promise of grace ;
2/ he was willing that the fine would be paid by an organization that would not request from him anything in return nor try to manipulate him. The close scientific and professional cooperation that now links Pr Bandazhevsky to CRIIRAD thankfully prevents any risk of this kind.

Now, our association relies on a broad movement of solidarity from Citizens and hopes to obtain at least a partial refunding for this payment. Any contribution, even very low, will be welcomed¹. Each euro sent will be considered as a strong message as it will allow Professor Yuri Bandazhevsky to pursue his independent studies on the medical effects on radioactive contaminations.

¹ More information (in French) can be found at : <http://www.criirad.com/> . (cf. **Rembourser l'amende**
- [Où en est le paiement de l'amende ?](#))

This first step achieved, we sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Belarus Republic the legal files for the creation of the laboratory.

Visit of Dr. Galina Bandazhevskaya in France.

In this aim, Doctor Galina Bandazhevskaya, the future director of the laboratory, came to France between September 2nd to September 9th, jointly invited by the organizers of the « foire de l'Albenc », the Group of the Green deputies of the European Parliament and CRIIRAD.

As Galina Bandazhevskaya and Danielle MITTERRAND were wishing to meet each other, as soon as she arrived in France, she went to « Fondation France Libertés » accompanied by a few CRIIRAD representatives. Mrs MITTERRAND (President of « Fondation France Libertés ») and the Director of the Foundation have warmly outlined that, in accordance to the friendship that connects both associations (« Fondation France Libertés » and CRIIRAD), CRIIRAD can count on the support and help of the Foundation in its initiative to build the new laboratory (cf. the report on the visit of Galina Bandazhevskaya on the web-site of « Fondation France Libertés » : <http://www.france-libertes.fr>).

Two days later, a long and noticeable ovation in honor of Galina Bandazhevskaya was done by the large audience of her invited conference at the « foire de l'Albenc ». In his speech the President of CRIIRAD, Roland DESBORDES, made a point to pay homage to this courageous woman, in particular by underlining her shining professional career. In summary :

Galina Bandazhevskaya was during 12 years Director of the cardiology paediatric service (60 beds) of Grodno Regional Hospital Center ; rector during 4 years of an university Chair at the State medical Institute of Gomel ; supervisor of several PhD thesis including 2 presented in Moscow ; author of 40 papers.

Galina Bandajevskaya thanked warmly in return all Human Rights Organizations that have supported her husband who has now recovered his freedom.

In particular, she read a letter written by Yuri Bandazhevsky in which he expresses large thanks to all personalities and organizations that have supported him, in particular : Solange and Michel FERNEX, Amnesty International and « Comité Bandajevsky ». In his letter, Professor Bandazhevsky asks the representatives of « Comité Bandajevsky » to leave off his name and he specifies that from now on all official informations about him would be found on the web-site of CRIIRAD. He adds that, having now the chance of being free, it seems to him much more important that the « Comité » supports now and onwards other persons put in jail due to their opinions.

The conference ended with a presentation of the CRIIRAD-Bandazhevsky laboratory and with a talk on the works that Prof. Bandazhevsky led at the Medical Institute of Gomel before his imprisonment.

On Monday September 5th, Dr. Bandazhevskaya and CRIIRAD representatives were received by representatives of the «Conseil Général de l'Isère » at Grenoble.

Then, while in Lyon, they met Mrs. Hélène BLANCHARD, Vice-President of the « **Conseil Régional Rhône-Alpes** » in charge of the environment and prevention of risks. Since last April, as she outlined at the CRIIRAD conference², Mrs BLANCHARD supports the project for the creation of the CRIIRAD Bandazhevsky laboratory in Belarus. During an official lunch, the « Conseil Régional Rhône-Alpes » have thus renewed and confirmed its proposal to support both CRIIRAD and the laboratory in Belarus.

A few hours later in Strasbourg, Dr. Galina Bandazhevskaya talked in front of the Green European Deputies during a plenary session of the **European Parliament**. Marie-Anne ISLER BEGUIN, organizer of this meeting, wished to outline that the group of the Green European Deputies supports actively the creation of the laboratory and plans to provide a financial help to achieve this aim. « The hope reappears for the Bandazhevsky. It is today that we must give to them all our supports, especially financial support, in order that Yuri can resume his research and make possible the creation of the independent laboratory with the French association CRIIRAD. » has specified Mrs ISLER-BEGUIN (see the press release on the web-site : <http://www.greens-efa.org/fr/press/detail.php?id=2674&lg=fr>).

The following day, Mrs Marie-Christine BLANDIN (senator of Nord-Pas de Calais - Green party) received Professor Bandazhevsky's wife and CRIIRAD representatives in the room of the socialist party at the **Senate of the French Republic** for a press conference where several journalists were present. During this conference, Galina Bandazhevskaya ensured that « no one knows the truth about Chernobyl and the consequences of the radiations ». She reminded us that « there does not exist any independent laboratory in Belarus for knowing the state of health of the populations ». Roland Desbordes has seriously criticized International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for minimizing the consequence of the Chernobyl disaster. A call was launched to all those who would be willing the truth on the consequences of this disaster to be known, asking them to support the creation of the CRIIRAD Bandazhevsky independent laboratory.

At this meeting, Mrs. Ginette VERBRUGGHE, Vice-President of the « **Région Nord-Pas de Calais** », has also confirmed that her « Région » supports the creation of the laboratory. She recalled that this « Région » was heavily acting on this topic by regularly receiving children from areas contaminated by the Chernobyl fallouts. « Links between Belarussian, CRIIRAD and 'Nord-Pas de Calais' scientists are necessary » she added. This proposal was received with enthusiasm by the CRIIRAD representatives, who share the idea that developing a network of collaborators is of primary importance for the achievements of such a project.

It is with the same motivations that Mrs Francine BAVAY (Vice-president) and Mr Marc LIPINSKI (Vice-president) received the delegation in the name of the « **Conseil**

²International Conference « Radioactive contaminations and protection of populations » (April 1-2, 2005) held at the Conseil Régional de Rhône-Alpes France, co-organised by CRIIRAD and Conseil Régional de Rhône-Alpes.

Régional d'Ile-de-France », proposing some concrete possibilities of partnerships with institutional researchers.

The following day, on Thursday September 8th, Dr. Bandazhevskaya and the representatives of CRIIRAD were received at the « **Mairie de Paris** » by Mrs. Anne HIDALGO and Mr. Yves CONTASSOT (respectively the first Assistant and the Adviser of the Mayor of Paris). Mrs HIDALGO ensured CRIIRAD of their support and proposed their assistance to rebuild the working tools of Professor Bandazhevsky to whom the City of Paris had decreed the title of Citizen of Honor.

In the afternoon, the delegation was received at the « **Assemblée Nationale Française** » by the deputies Martine BILLARD and Yves COCHET, who delivered an identical message (see : <http://martinebillard.org/>).. The following day, 4 representatives of the « **Mairie de Clermont-Ferrand** » met the delegation. The City of Clermont-Ferrand is twinned with the city of Gomel in Belarus ; this French city was the first to nominate Professor Bandazhevsky " Citizen of Honor ", therefore, quite naturally, the Assistants of the Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand envisaged to meet us later to decide together what kinds of actions could be taken to provide assistance to Professor Bandazhevsky.

After a visit to the French « **Ministère des Affaires Étrangères** », Mrs Bandazhevskaya ended her stay in France with a meeting with the office of Amnesty International France, in order to thank personally the support they provided throughout all these years to Professor Bandazhevsky.

Despite its own weakness, our association has decided to answer positively to the call for help that Professor Bandazhevsky sent us. The primary goal is to maintain independent sources of information in the country that has been the most severely wounded by the Chernobyl disaster ; such an objective lies straight in the heart of the statutory missions of CRIIRAD. However, CRIIRAD does not have the means of carrying alone such a project; thus contacts and helps of each of the representatives who have been met during the visit of Dr. Bandazhevskaya in France are infinitely valuable. The contributions of every one will render possible to end the sanctions that strike a scientist whose only fault was to publish results contrary to the official discourse. The development of an independent research on the health impact of the radioactive pollutions and disasters is a matter concerning us all.

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