

Letter to the representatives of the Supervisory Board of Daimler
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Re: Participation of Mercedes Benz Argentina in robbery of babies
from torture camps

Dear Mr. Owens,

I am writing to you in the case of the stolen babies during the military dictatorship in Argentina and the participation of Mercedes Benz Argentina in this. I have already informed the representatives of the employees in the Supervisory Board (Aufsichtsrat) of Daimler AG and asked them to assist in the investigation of the crimes. Mr. Erich Klemm, in his role as Vice Chairman of the Supervisory Board, has requested Mr. Zetsche to create an investigation on the mentioned issue. But unfortunately, the management of Daimler AG once again answered in a cynical email, which I attach herein. Apparently Mr. Zetsche does not understand the importance of the issue of stolen children in the Argentine and international public opinion.

I would like to explain the facts. Details can be found in German and Spanish on my homepage:
http://www.gabyweber.com/dwnld/artikel/die_geraubten_babys/geraubten_babys_MB.pdf, and I can give any further information you require.

I would like to indicate that the phrase used by the Management "forced adoptions" can not be used in this context. Forced adoptions were known as adoptions of children during GDR times of so-called "Republic refugees". The babies stolen from Argentine torture centers are another matter completely.

During the dictatorship (1976 to 83), pregnant prisoners were put in the military barracks Campo de Mayo. There, their abdomens were ripped and their babies brought into the world. Please forgive my choice of words. I have the testimony of the nuns, who worked at that time in Campo de Mayo. What they did to these pregnant women has nothing to do with a "Caesarean". According to these statements, mostly pretty, preferably blond, women were selected and brought to Campo de Mayo. After birth, the women were tortured and murdered. Their babies were distributed by the military like trophies.

Approximately 500 babies were robbed, according to the "grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo." Less than 100 cases have been solved.

The company Mercedes Benz Argentina AG was connected to the baby-robbery for the first time, when it became known that their security chief, Ruben Lavallen had stolen the daughter of a prisoner who was incarcerated in the police station where he was in charge. He registered the baby with this own name. The prisoner (mother) is still considered "disappeared". Mr. Lavallen was convicted for the child robbery, he spent two years in prison.

Former Legal Director of Mercedes Benz, Ruben Cueva, said in a public hearing under oath that he, on behalf of the company, donated incubators to the military hospital of the barracks of Campo de Mayo.

Then I received the information that, in the family of the former production chief of Mercedes Benz, Tasselkraut, three stolen children from the torture centers are living. I have found these birth certificates and given them to the judiciary. The children are registered as born naturally to Mr. Tasselkraut; all midwives involved in these faked certificates are involved in other human rights cases. One of them worked as a midwife at Campo de Mayo.

The last case concerns the former Mercedes Manager B. as responsible for the sale of Unimogs, who adopted a baby (a supposed foundling). There is an open investigation in Argentina in this case. These crimes are not statute-barred yet, because the falsification of the identity of the child (now a young man or woman) still persists.

I would like to point out that the crime of baby-robbery not only constitutes an individual wrongdoing by employees, but also the employer, Daimler AG, must be held responsible. The Supreme Court of Argentina has ruled that the child stealing was an organized and systematic crime, not individual misconduct. The fact that the car maker Daimler supplied incubators to a military hospital is not really its traditional task - even if Mr. Tomuschat, paid by Daimler AG, came to the conclusion that a supply of incubators was only to foster good relations with the Army.

I have repeatedly asked Daimler AG to give me the dates when Mr Tasselkraut enrolled the "birth" of "his" children in the personnel department of the company. Daimler refused to release this information, arguing that they want to protect the privacy of Mr. Tasselkraut. I know all the personal data of the children and have delivered the birth certificates to the judiciary. In this sense, there is no privacy to protect. What Daimler is

protecting by denying the requested information, are the perpetrators of crimes and maybe the own company.

In the Argentine public, the company Daimler is known to have been an accomplice in the affair of the stolen children. I was asked by Argentinean members of the Court to view the recently discovered adoption lists, where many of these stolen babies are included. I was asked to check the names, to see if there were employees of Mercedes staff on the lists. In one case, I found a name.

It would be useful that Daimler AG give me the list of all their employees who worked at that time in Argentina. If they refuse to give these lists out, then they must initiate themselves an inquiry to clarify what contribution their managers made to these crimes. If they do not do this, probably the public will blame the company for these crimes.

Allow me to make a statement. In the context with the robbed babies, people often argue that the "adopting" parents only wanted to save the lives of these babies. In my investigation, I learned that these appropriations only had one purpose: to demonstrate power. Obviously, it was not enough to humiliate, torture and murder the political enemy, in the end they took away the fruits of their bodies and raised them according to their own ideological criteria. The babies were defenceless, and until today they, society and the biological families do not know the identity of these human beings.

Both the current and the previous CEO of Daimler AG have treated this case during years in a way that I can only describe as "contemptuous of human rights". They do not react when they are blamed for torture, killings and systematic robbery of babies, they only look in the other direction, and obviously feel too powerful to be blamed. Nevertheless, the human rights violations of Mercedes Benz Argentina are known worldwide, and legal proceedings are pending. Mr. Schrempp and Mr. Zetsche, through their arrogant refusal to cooperate to bring the truth out, are responsible for this bad image of Daimler AG in the world.

Please, as a member of the Supervisory Board of Directors of Daimler AG, you should request that Daimler CEO, Mr. Zetsche, initiate an investigation - as was just done by Mr. Klemm.

Yours sincerely

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Attachment:

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Thema Militärdiktatur in Argentinien

Sehr geehrter Herr Klemm,

aufgrund Ihres Schreibens an Herrn Dr. Zetsche und Herrn Fleig wegen der von Frau Weber geschilderten Vorgänge von Zwangsadoptionen haben wir die Fakten noch einmal intensiv geprüft. Auch diese Vorgänge sind - soweit möglich - im Tomuschat-Bericht aufgearbeitet. Darüber hinausgehende Erkenntnisse und Fakten liegen uns nicht vor bzw. können von uns auch nicht beschafft werden.

Selbstverständlich werden wir mit allen ermittelnden staatlichen Behörden ohne Einschränkung zusammenarbeiten, für eigenständige Ermittlungen gibt es derzeit allerdings keinerlei Anhaltspunkte.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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