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From: **Geneva, JTI Press office** <JTI.press.office@jti.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 12, 2011 at 6:29 PM

Subject: RE: Smuggling in the Middle East and the Balkans

To: john Holland <jd holland.cin@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Holland,

Thank you for contacting us.

We will decline your invitation. Our company does not wish to comment on the unfounded allegations raised in the various e-mails you sent us. All have been brought to our attention before; a former employee of the company shared them, in the course of last year, with various news organizations.

Therefore, it would be irresponsible for JTI to ignore the context in which the allegations brought to your attention today have been raised previously with others. Specifically with regard to allegations of firing personnel raised in your October 12 email, JTI always has very serious reasons to proceed with termination and, as a strict rule, never comments publicly on employment matters.

Moreover, we will not risk jeopardizing the work and possibly the safety of our employees in the field as well as those of our partners, in government and elsewhere, all involved in the fight against illicit trade.

Finally, you must understand, as you continue your current project, that JTI will, as always, be alert in responding to anything that is published about the company and its employees which is untrue or defamatory.

I wish you best of luck with your report.

Regards,

Guy Côté

Media Relations Vice-President

JT International S.A.