



Suspicion of irregularities in relation to Rivonia Circle's activities in South Africa

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark provides support to Rivonia Circle, a research organisation with the aim of building sustainable coalition governments in South Africa. A total of DKK 800,000 has been granted for the period December 2023 – November 2024 of which DKK 477,018 has been disbursed so far.

The deadline for the audit for the first disbursement was not met. The Danish Embassy in Pretoria (the Embassy) has attempted to communicate directly with Rivonia Circle members over e-mail and telephone. After several reminders and request for the audit and narrative report, all communication from Rivonia Circle ceased. The amount under suspicion is DKK 477,018.

As a consequence, an embassy representative visited the physical office of Rivonia Circle, which was empty. The Embassy has enquired with external stakeholders such as the European Union delegation in South Africa, and a similar research organisation, to gain contact information for Rivonia Circle. The Embassy has also recently consulted the embassy lawyer for advice, who recommended seeking mediation through a third party. The Embassy intends to establish contact with Rivonia Circle through external stakeholders to initiate mediation. The Embassy will inform the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the current status of the grant agreement with Rivonia Circle.

A follow-up report will be forwarded when there are further developments in the case.