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Glenn Geller
President
CBS Entertainment
7800 Beverly Blvd.
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On behalf of the Latvian-American community in the United States, which numbers over 100,000, we express our great dissatisfaction with the portrayal of Latvia in your recent episode of MacGyver, aired on CBS on November 18, 2016, which also happened to be Latvia's 98th Independence day. The program was so objectionable that we request that you deem it unfit for re-broadcast or syndication.

The episode depicts Americans fighting against a terrorist cell claimed to reside in Latvia. The program shows an active terrorist assault on the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia, evidently alluding to similar terrorist attacks like the one in Benghazi. The program suggests that such groups roam free and unimpeded by law enforcement in Riga.

The show's portrayal of Latvia demonstrates a shocking lack of knowledge of the country. Latvia is a member of NATO and the European Union. It is a mature democracy with a free market economy and is peaceful, safe, and relatively crime-free. If you or the show's writers visited Riga, you would discover it is similar to many other European cities such as Stockholm or Prague. There have been no terrorist attacks in Latvia and it is not a haven for terrorist cells.

It is troubling that your writers would have even conceived of the idea that Latvia could be the site of such an attack, and it makes one wonder what is the source of the concept. As you may know, Latvia and the rest of Eastern Europe is uneasy about neighboring Russia's imperialistic ambitions in Ukraine and Russian President Putin's program of using propaganda and disinformation to destabilize Eastern Europe. Given this history, one has to wonder if CBS and the producers and writers at MacGyver were duped by Putin.

Words and images matter. And the image you have created of Latvia, a loyal ally of the United States, is greatly inaccurate and disconcerting. We would appreciate it if your network would spend an equal amount of airtime providing an accurate image of the Latvia and its people and cease to broadcast the episode that originally aired on November 18.

Sincerely,

Peteris Blumbergs
President

cc: Peter M. Lenkov, Executive Producer, MacGyver