

To: Renato Maroli General Director Karachaganak Petroleum Operating B.V., John Watson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Chevron, Andrew Gould, Chairman, BG Group Alessandro Profumo, Director, ENI, Vagit Alekperov, CEO, Lukoil, Sauat Mynbayev, Chair, Kazmunaigaz

June-July, 2016

We, the undersigned, are writing to request that Karachaganak Petroleum Operating B.V. and the member companies of the consortium (BG Group, ENI, Chevron, Lukoil and Kazmunaigaz) provide financial support for medical analysis and treatment of children from the village of Berezovka in Burlin District in Western Kazakhstan Oblast (WKO) in the Republic of Kazakhstan. We are a group of parents of sick children and representatives of global civil society concerned with the current deteriorating health of Berezovka's children. We believe that the children's illness is directly related to serious toxic emissions from the Karachaganak Oil and Gas Condensate Field, which occurred during on the 27th of November, 2014. These emissions were felt in the village of Berezovka and the villagers complained about them.

On November 28, 2014, 25 children in the village of Berezovka were simultaneously stricken ill during morning classes at the village school. They suffered symptoms such as convulsions, seizures, nosebleeds, headaches, dizziness, nausea, pain in their arms and legs, and difficulty breathing. Over the course of the past year and a half, these symptoms have continued to harm those who fell sick that day, and additional children have also become ill with the same symptoms. Even children who have left the village and relocated to Aksai continue to suffer the same health problems.

On November 29, 2014, Manshuk Aymurzieva, Deputy Head of the Department of Health of WKO, confirmed the fact that Berezovka's children were impacted by unknown toxic substances, which affected the central nervous system.¹

Serik Karamanov, Prosecutor of Western Kazakhstan Oblast, told the media that due to an accident at the reinjection compressor at the Karachaganak Field, hydrogen sulfide was released at the gas processing plant GP-3 on the eve of the mass poisoning of Berezovka's children.² The release lasted for two minutes. The prosecutor also stated that emissions from the field occurred on November 17, 18 and 25, in addition to the 27th. In each of these incidents, the maximum permissible concentration for toxins was exceeded.³ Earlier, this fact was denied by Karachaganak Petroleum Operating managers.

¹ <http://mgorod.kz/nitem/komissiya-zko-priznala-cto-na-detej-s-berezovki-bylo-vozdejstvie-toksicheskix-veshhestv/>

² <http://www.uralskweek.kz/2014/12/03/pered-massovym-otravleniem-detej-v-berezovke-na-karachaganake-proizoshel-vybros-serovodoroda-prokuror-zko-serik-karamanov/>

³ <http://mgorod.kz/nitem/komissiya-zko-priznala-cto-na-detej-s-berezovki-bylo-vozdejstvie-toksicheskix-veshhestv/>

Furthermore, on July 28, 2015, *Uralsk Weekly* reported that KPO, B.V. was fined 7.2 billion tenge (USD 21.5 million at the current exchange rate) for polluting the environment.⁴ In December 2014 the environmental department of Western Kazakhstan Oblast conducted an audit of KPO's operations and found that the company had conducted unplanned emissions from the stacks at the field. As a result the company was fined not only the 7.2 billion tenge, but also an additional 2.2 billion tenge administrative fine for exceeding emissions at the field.⁵

The parents of the children who were poisoned have received no compensation from KPO, B.V. or from the local government for their children's pain and suffering. They have also not received satisfactory diagnoses from local medical professionals. Those few parents who have been able to take their children further away to see medical experts have been told their children are suffering from toxic exposure, including from toxic encephalopathy. They have also been told that their children require long-term treatment in order to ensure that they do not suffer permanent damage from the toxic exposure they experienced. However, those parents who do not have the financial resources to travel abroad with their children have been unable to obtain satisfactory medical care—or even a credible diagnosis—for their children.

We believe that KPO, B.V. has an obligation to provide the parents of Berezovka's sick children with the financial resources necessary to obtain serious, independent medical treatment to obtain a diagnosis and then treatment for the harm done to the children of the village. The members of the consortium have made public statements on their websites about their commitment to protecting children particularly, and health more generally.

In addition, Article 24 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child states, "Every child has the right to the best possible health."⁶ Kazakhstan and the companies operating inside the country have an obligation to care for the children in their communities, particularly when there is the possibility that their operations have contributed to the health problems the children are suffering.

In addition, the UN's principles on business and human rights state the following: "...enterprises should respect the human rights of individuals belonging to specific groups or populations that require particular attention, where they may have adverse human rights impacts on them. In this connection, United Nations instruments have elaborated further on the rights of indigenous peoples; women; national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; CHILDREN; persons with disabilities; and migrant workers and their families."⁷

We appeal to you to assist the children of Berezovka by promptly providing financial assistance to the parents of the sick children so that they can seek the proper medical treatment.

⁴ <http://www.uralskweek.kz/2015/07/28/kpo-nakazali-za-sbros-otxodov-v-neustanovlennye-mesta/>, 28.07.2015

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

⁷ http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf, page 14.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely

Signatures of parents:

Svetlana Voskoboi, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Tatyana Martynova, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Tlek Temirgaliev, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Kazbek Irmikbaev, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Aiman Zhumagazieva, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Zulfiya Kusmangalieva, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Aliya Mukhangalieva, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Olga Mergalieva, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Elvira Musieva, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Tatyana Scherbinina, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Oxana Nazbaeva, Aksay, Kazakhstan

Signatures of NGO leaders and activists:

Kate Watters, Crude Accountability, Alexandria, USA

Victoria Kopeykina, Coalition “Children or Oil?”, Moscow, Russia

Vadim Ni, Ecoforum of NGOs of Kazakhstan, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Rauf Sabitov, NGO Mountain club Zhabagly Manas, Kazakhstan

Tamara Sabitova, NGO Center for Social Adaptation of Orphanages and Orphanage Graduates “Miracle”, Kazakhstan

Aidar Kapasov, NGO Institute of Human Health, Kazakhstan

Yevgeniy Zhovtis, Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Kazakhstan

Tolekan Ismailova, Human Rights Movement "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan", Kyrgyzstan

Anara Ibrayeva, Public Association "Dignity", Kazakhstan

Ivar Dale, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Norway

Brigitte Dufour, International Partnership for Human Rights, Belgium

Pepijn Gerrits, The Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Netherlands

Nikolay Sobolev, Permanent Nature Preservation Commission of the Russian Geographical Society, Moscow, Russia

Svyatoslav Zabelin, International Socio-Ecological Union, Moscow, Russia

Ibragim Domuladjanov, Association for Ecologically Clean Fergana, Fergana, Uzbekistan

Sergey Mukhachev, Tatarstan branch of International Socio-Ecological Union, Kazan, Russia

Alexey Zimenko, Biodiversity Conservation Center, Moscow, Russia

Zinaida Altukhova, Public Ecological Center, Sakha, Russia

Askhat Kayumov, Ecological Center Dront, Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia

Vitaly Servetnik, Russian Socio-Ecological union / Friends of the Earth Russia, Murmansk, Russia

Alexey Tokhtomysh, Russian Socio-Ecological Union, Simferopol, Russia

Valentina Cherevatenko, Union "Women of Don", Novochoerkassk, Russia

Benjamin Goldenberg, DWP – International Development Programs, Kiriya –Ata, Israel

Ludmila Petrova, NGO "Angel", Atbasar, Kazakhstan

Olga Speranskaya, The International POPs Elimination Network, Berkeley, USA

Olga Ponizova, Eco-Accord, Moscow, Russia

Pamela Miller, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Anchorage, USA

Dr. Eng. Naji KODEIH, IndyACT- Policy Adviser, Climate change and Water, SDG, & Toxic Campaigner, Beirut, Lebanon

Ziyad Al-Alawneh, Land and Human to Advocate Progress, Amman, Jordan

Ilya Trombitsky, Eco-TIRAS Intl. Env. Assn. of Dniester River Keepers, Chisinau
Moldova

Anatoliy Sumbaev, Socio-ecological Society “Green Dubna”, Dubna, Russia

Tatyana Lysenko, Adygeya Branch of All-Russian society for nature conservation,
Maikop, Russia

Dmitriy Rybakov, Association of Greens of Karelia, Petrozavodsk, Russia

Sergey Shaparenko, Ecological Group “Pechnegi”, Kharkiv, Ukraine

Firuz Illarionova, Nature Conservation Guard, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Svetlana Mogilyuk, NGO “EKOM”, Pavlodar, Kazakhstan

Eugeniy Lobanov, Center of Environmental Solutions, Minsk, Belarus

Gilbert KUEPOUO, Ph.D., Research and Education Center for Development (Centre de
Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement), Madagascar and Cameroon

Dr Rye Senjen and Dr Kirstie Murdoch, Environmental and Human Health Aotearoa
Dunedin, New Zealand

Zuleica Nycz, TOXISPHERA Environmental Health Association, APROMAC Environment
Protection Association, Brazil

Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith PhD (Law), National Toxics Network Inc.,
Bangalow, Australia

María Elena Rozas, RAP-Chile, Pesticide Action Network /Chile, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Fernando Bejarano G., Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y Alternativas en México (RAPAM),
Mexico

Sascha Gabizon, Women of Europe for the Common Future, Utrecht, Netherlands

Penchom Saetang, Ecological Alert and Recovery - Thailand (EARTH), Nonthaburi, Thailand

Ram Charitra Sah, Center for Public Health and Environmental Development, Kathmandu,
Nepal

Olga Krivoruchko, Ecological Union of Transnistria, Rybnitsa, Moldova

Valery Menshikov, International Socio-Ecological Union, Moscow, Russia

Oleg Dashevskiy, independent journalist, Chisinau, Moldova

Shamil Movsumov, Center “Energy, Ecology, Economy”, Baku, Azerbaijan

Yusup Kamalov, Union for the Defense of Aral Sea and Amu Darya, Nukus, Uzbekistan

Grant Sargsyan, Ecoclub Tapan, Yerevan, Armenia

Phyllis Omido, Center for Justice Governance and Environmental Action, Kenya, 2015 Goldman Award Recipient - Africa

Melissa Sargent, Jeff Gearhart, and Gillan Miller Ecology Center, Ann Arbor, USA

Michael Musenga, National Lead Elimination Chairman, Children's Environmental Health Foundation, Livingstone, Zambia

Marieta Mima, ECAT Tirana (Environmental Center for Administration and Technology) and National Director Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Programme, Tirana, Albania

Alexandra Caterbow, Health and Environment Justice Support, Dachau, Germany

Yuyun Ismawati, BaliFokus Foundation, Indonesian Toxics-Free Network, Bali, Indonesia

Sergey Kuratov, Green Salvation, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Svetlana Spatar, Green Salvation, Almaty, Kazakhstan