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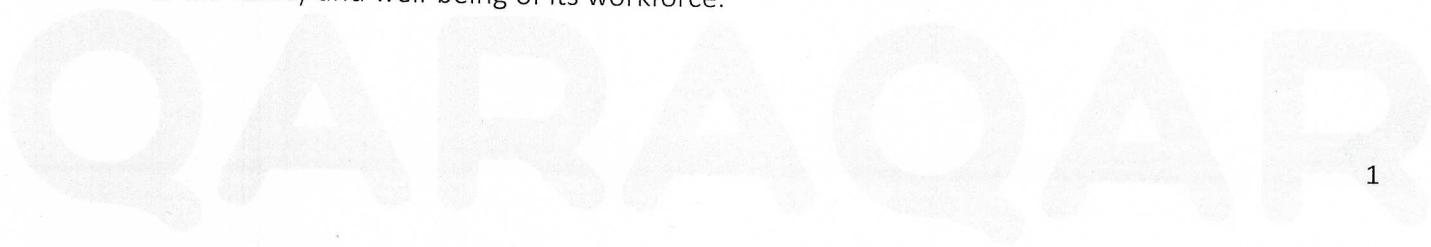
Subject: **ArcelorMittal's wrongdoings in Kazakhstan**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, QaraQar/Black Snow, a foundation registered in Kazakhstan to represent people suffering from the wrongdoings of ArcelorMittal's subsidiary in Kazakhstan. We are writing to bring to your attention a matter of grave concern involving the operations of ArcelorMittal in Kazakhstan, and we implore you to shed light on this issue through your esteemed news outlet.

On August 17, at 10:05 a.m., a fire erupted at the Kazakhstanskaya mine, a part of ArcelorMittal Temirtau JSC. The incident occurred when a conveyor belt caught fire in the coal slope D6 at a depth of 170 meters. The fire led to 13 miners being hospitalized and five tragically losing their lives. This incident is unfortunately not an isolated one - ArcelorMittal's mining operations in Kazakhstan have witnessed around 13 significant accidents since its establishment in 1995, resulting in over 140 fatalities and numerous severe injuries. By way of a short example, on 20.09.2006, 41 workers of the mine "named after V.I.Lenin" died because of a gas explosion in the worked-out space (<https://eurasianet.org/kazakhstan-mine-safety-back-in-spotlight-after-fatal-accident>); on 11.01.2008, 30 workers of the Abayskaya mine died due to an explosion of methane-air mixture (<https://www.industriall-union.org/archive/icem/methane-blast-kills-at-least-23-at-arcelormittal-coal-mine-in-kazakhstan>). There were unfortunately many more (https://www.inform.kz/en/miners-die-in-arcelor-mittal-coalmine-accident_a3997215) (<https://www.steelorbis.com/steel-news/latest-news/methane-outburst-at-arcelormittal-temirtaus-tentekskaya-coalmine-478810.htm>) accidents.

The underlying causes of these accidents, primarily outbreaks of methane gas and sudden gas emissions, have been attributed to insufficient safety measures. It is disheartening to note that these incidents have persisted over the years, casting a shadow over ArcelorMittal's commitment to the safety and well-being of its workforce.



It is quite frequent that the victims of fatal accidents do not obtain fair compensation. Our foundation also represents the victims of the accident that happened on 3 November 2022 (led to the death of 5 employees and severely injured 4 others) and the accident dated 7 November 2021 (6 employees died and 2 severely injured). They still complain and are dissatisfied because they were not duly compensated.

ArcelorMittal is not only accountable for its workers' safety but also for the environmental impact of its operations. The company is a top polluter in Kazakhstan. The pollution caused by ArcelorMittal's plants has been linked to various ecological problems, including black snowfall recorded in Temirtau in 2018 (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-42653738>). This event revealed alarming excesses of harmful substances like ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide in the city, further exacerbating concerns about the company's environmental practices.

Apart from the exceeded emissions, the problem is exacerbated by the close proximity of the plant location. As per Kazakh law, the plant must be located no closer than 1 km to the residential area. In fact the closest house to ArcelorMittal plant's fence is in 500 meters of proximity.

On 6 November 2019, the Chief Sanitary Doctor of Temirtau town allowed ArcelorMittal Temirtau JSC to have 912 meters in one direction. This is unacceptable and it is contrary to the Kazakh law. In our pursuit of justice, we compelled local state authorities to reevaluate this decision, resulting in the recognition of procedural errors in the permit issuance. The permit was subsequently invalidated.

It is disheartening to note that ArcelorMittal operates ArcelorMittal Temirtau JSC in flagrant disregard of EU emissions limits, while its European plants adhere to these standards. Such discrimination is unacceptable. For instance, aligning the boilers at ArcelorMittal Temirtau JSC with EU limits would lead to a staggering 92% reduction in particulate matter emissions. Shockingly, the plant emitted over 210 thousand tons of pollutants in 2022 – over 575 tons of emissions daily.

Moreover, ArcelorMittal's operations in other less developed than European countries paint a similarly grim picture:

- (a) in South Africa (<https://cer.org.za/news/the-minister-of-forestry-fisheries-and-the-environment-and-national-air-quality-officer-face-legal-action-over-alleged-permitting-of-excessive-hydrogen-sulfide-pollution-by-arcelor-mittal-south-afric>),
- (b) Mexico (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/dofasco-fine-pollution-1.6039684>),
- (c) Liberia (<https://www.afrik21.africa/en/liberia-global-steel-giant-arcelormittal-fined-for-pollution/>),
- (d) Czechia (<https://arnika.org/en/hotspots/czech-republic/ostrava-city-with-most-polluted-air-in-the-czech-republic>),
- (e) Italy (<https://today.rtl.lu/news/business-and-tech/a/1388286.html>),
- (f) Brazil (<https://www.steelorbis.com/steel-news/latest-news/brazilian-court-maintains-105-million-in-fines-imposed-on-arcelormittal-brazil-991463.htm>), and
- (g) Ukraine (<https://archive.kyivpost.com/business/arcelormittal-kryvyi-rih-fined-17-million-for-illegal-waste-disposal.html>).

Whereas ArcelorMittal breaches mostly only environmental laws in the above-listed countries – in Kazakhstan it violates not only the environmental standards, but it also egregiously neglects worker safety, resulting in over 140 fatalities since their entrance to Kazakhstan. While some news outlets have covered the recent fire incident (<https://www.reuters.com/article/arcelormittal-kazakhstan-mine-fire-idAFKBN2ZU07N>), we kindly urge you to consider expanding your research and coverage to encompass the broader context of ArcelorMittal's operations not only in Kazakhstan but also across countries where company operates – India, Mexico, Italy, France, South Africa, Czech Republic, Spain, US and others. By researching and analyzing the history of accidents, the ecological challenges, and the company's environmental impact, you will detect ArcelorMittal's bad business conduct – “Profits at the expense of people's lives, health and the planets environment”. This is a very serious matter which affects lives not of a hundred thousand, but perhaps, of “million people”.

It is our sincere hope that your news outlet, renowned for its commitment to uncovering important truths, will take up this cause and ensure that the voices of the affected workers and communities are heard. Your coverage can play a pivotal role in holding ArcelorMittal accountable for its actions and in fostering a safer and more sustainable future for both the workforce and the environment on the planet.

We are ready to provide you with any documentation or sources that might be helpful. Moreover, we extend an invitation for you to witness the human rights violations firsthand by visiting Kazakhstan.

Also, we are writing to you not only as the concerned individuals but also on behalf of the grieved people - the relatives of the workers who have been impacted by these unfortunate incidents. Their voices deserve to be heard, and your coverage has the potential to shed light on their stories and concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We eagerly await your response and your potential coverage of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Founder of QaraQar/Black Snow Foundation

Serik Akylbay



4 September 2023