

Lydian strongly believes that human rights are about equal treatment, the rule of law and responsibility towards all stakeholders. This has always been the guiding principle for all of Lydian's activities. For years, unchallenged misinformation and defamation disseminated by different groups negatively impacted thousands of Project stakeholders, including communities, employees, contractors, and suppliers. Thousands of people have lost jobs, livelihoods, and the ability to be able to sustain their families in their own communities due to unprecedented illegality lasting for over 2 years. Over 500 people have had to out-migrate from affected communities since the start of the illegal blockades of the Amulsar Project in 2018.

Lydian has always been considerate towards any environmental or social concerns expressed by any stakeholder. For years any misinformation, or even defamation, expressed by groups opposed to the Amulsar Project has been addressed with science and patience. Lydian has made comprehensive and consistent information disclosure, participated in countless discussions and interviews, and commissioned multiple technical reports provided by world-class experts which were made available to all.

As a result of the illegal blockades of the Amulsar Project instigated and supported by these groups, thousands of people whose lives have been severely impacted by these illegal actions have called for justice, and Lydian's support in seeking it. Thousands of stakeholders have asked Lydian the same question over and over again: "Why don't you protect our rights, why don't you sue these people, if their statements are false?"

Lydian has been wrongly accused of corruption and other crimes by persons opposed to the Amulsar Project. Since it is impossible to respond to accusations of crimes and allegations of corruption with science, Lydian has been left with no other recourse than to seek the assistance of the courts to stop the defamation and falsehoods.

None of the defamation suits commenced by Lydian since 2018 to correct misstatements and reveal the truth of the circumstances have anything to do with "environmental concerns". Lydian believes that public statements made about it or the Amulsar Project in the nature of fair comment or opinion supported by credible evidence can stand on their own. As a result, Lydian has commenced very few defamation proceedings against a limited number of people whose comments clearly went well beyond fair comment or credible opinion. Those who have been called to account for their misstatements include Members of Parliament in Armenia, who continue to participate in public discussion regarding the Amulsar Project regardless of the defamation proceedings. Thus, claims Lydian is trying to "silence" those who may be concerned about the Amulsar Project are baseless.

In early June 2020, an Armenian court decided Nazeli Vardanyan's case in favor of Lydian. The Armenian court found that the offending statement made by Nazeli Vardanyan against Lydian had no factual basis, was defamatory in nature and significantly damaged Lydian's reputation. Furthermore, the Court concluded "... in case of an environmental expert the level of responsibility is higher, as the public speech must be additionally verified, well-founded, well-argued, balanced, conscientious and restrained". The Court ordered Nazeli Vardanyan to publicly retract the offending statement.

During the past year, representatives of the Government of Armenia at the highest levels have stated on numerous occasions that rival business interests have been supporting the campaign against Lydian and the Amulsar Project. We believe it would be in your readers' interest to investigate those claims.

Moreover, we believe that your readers will benefit from knowing that many community members claim that it is the activists and illegal blockaders that have consistently tried to silence the voice of the communities in support of the Amulsar Project. Many community members supportive of the Amulsar Project report violations of their human rights, intimidation and even assaults by those opposed to the Project.

Attached here: [small proof](#) is an example of the voice of the communities having been silenced by these activists. The real human rights issue in these communities is that supportive voices have been suppressed and not heard, and the rights of supporters of the Amulsar Project have not been considered and protected.