

To the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman responsible for World Bank activities

From the villagers of Gndevaz, Vayots Dzor, RA

Complaint letter

Taking into consideration the negative dangers of gold manufacturing, especially open-pit mining manufacturing and the negative impact of the cyanide leaching method on the environment and the local population- the villagers of Gndevaz in Vayots Dzor province, Republic of Armenia, on behalf of the Gndevaz community, are submitting the following complaint to the CAO.

We, the villagers of Gndevaz have repeatedly recorded the negative effects of Amulsar prospecting activities already:

- our agricultural produce is selling with difficulty in the market
- the livestock is not eating the feed/fodder brought from zones affected by Amulsar
- the complaints against the exploitation of Amulsar are not being recorded during the public hearings in Gndevaz
- the cyanide leaching system which is being installed on a distance of 2 km according to the project, will have its destructive and lethal effect both on the environment and the population of Gndevaz.

We, the villagers of Gndevaz working at Amulsar, have already been negatively affected while working at the Amulsar mine by receiving neither appropriate medical examination nor care.

The Geoteam company is manipulating the villagers of Gndevaz by saying that the price of their lands will be estimated very high and the villagers will be able to purchase a flat in Yerevan and other areas of the republic and will be relocated.

The Geoteam company is employing any possible tool to deceive the population, including gathering the Ownership Certificates (land titles) of the villagers supposedly to do some land measurements. However, the latter is a lie and the purpose is yet unknown.

As a result of the explosions resulting from the exploitation of the Amulsar gold mine, the heavy metal dust will spread over the pastures, haylands and farmlands, as well as the residential area of the village. According to independent experts the radioactive levels with rise.

Our rights are being violated by the support of IFC and EBRD. Geoteam is resolving its issues illegally and those residents that do not wish to leave Gndevaz are forced to sell their lands are becoming the victims of this manipulation.

We, the undersigning residents of Gndevaz, are categorically against the exploitation of Amulsar and the installation of the cyanide leaching system on the neighboring lands of Gndevaz.

We require that IFC stops sponsoring this felonious operation, since it has destructive effects on the population of Gndevaz. We demand that our opinion be considered and our rights not be violated.

[NAMES/SIGNATURES REDACTED]