

**To the President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry A. Medvedev,
German Chancellor, Angela Merkel,
US President Barack Obama,
Secretary General of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano**

Appeal

We, the representatives of public organizations, are writing to you in connection with the decision to transfer 1000 spent nuclear fuel elements from the Center for Nuclear Research in Rossendorf (Germany) to Russia.

We consider this threat to the security of people and nature the Baltic region as well as all areas along the transportation route of these dangerous goods, and in particular, for residents and nature of the ultimate destination - the Chelyabinsk region, which is already the region most affected by radioactive contamination in the world.

We believe that this deal is irresponsible and not fair towards the residents of the Chelyabinsk Oblast, where the Mayak Nuclear Facility will reprocess the imported nuclear waste.

As a result of commercial nuclear waste reprocessing Russia has become a place of storage and burial of the radioactive waste of the global nuclear industry.

At the Mayak, during the past 65 years, several severe nuclear accidents took place, which led to the contamination of tens of thousands square kilometres of Russian land. The waste that is currently being reprocessed continues to dump into the lakes Karachay, Old Marsh, Tatysh, and reservoirs of the Techa cascade, and further to the river Ob and the Arctic Ocean.

The radiation has contaminated the food chain, as well as poisoned the local population. People living on the polluted land, and consuming polluted food and water have developed multiple illnesses and need expensive treatments. This in turn has forced all of those affected to live in poverty with low social status. Nevertheless, with no other choices, Russian citizens continue to live in these polluted areas around the reprocessing facility.

Among the four generations of people who suffered radiation poisoning in Chelyabinsk region, cancer cases have reached 387 casualties per 100,000 people. Children's cancer rates reached 14.1 per 100,000 people, resulting in a 64 % increased of cancer rates from 2007 to 2008. Among the newborn population the number of abnormalities reached 47.6 per 1000 children born in 2008.

We consider it perilous to transport spent nuclear fuel to Russia. The wastes produced from the storage and reprocessing are often dumped directly into the environment. We think that the agreement between the governments of Germany, Russia and the US with the support of the IAEA is immoral and it undermines the fundamental international principle of equality of environmental security among the countries.

We call for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, as well as other Governments with strong security regulation systems (environmental and anti-terrorism), to develop policy to prevent the exportation of their dangerous waste to other countries. It passes the responsibility for damage from nuclear waste to the other nations.

We believe that it is time for each country's Government to take responsibility for their own nuclear waste as is done in the Check Republic.

We call for positive change and evolution and implore you, President of the Russian Federation, Dmitry A. Medvedev, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, US President Barack Obama, and the Secretary General of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano, to ban the transfer of waste from the Centre of Nuclear Research in Rossendorf (Germany) to the Mayak facility in Chelyabinsk Oblast, Russia.

We demand that Germany be excluded from the Agreement between Russia and the United States and the IAEA (as a third party) that legalized the transportation of the spent nuclear fuel among countries. This agreement leads to negative socio-economic consequences for the nations where the final storage and reprocessing are located.

On behalf of Russia:

Natalia Mironova, «Movement for Nuclear Safety», Chelyabinsk

Andrey Talevlin, Fund «For Nature», Chelyabinsk

Aleksey Babin, «Legal Consciousness», Chelyabinsk,

Oleg Bodrov, «Green World», Sosnovy Bor, Leningrad Oblast

Tatiana Artemova, magazine “Posev”, Association of the Environmental Journalists, Saint-Petersburg

Albert Garapov, Anti-Nuclear Society of Tatarstan, Kazan

Aleksey Toropov, Sibiria Environmental Agency, Tomsk

Michael Piskunov, Center for Promotion of the Civic Initiatives, Dmitrovgrad

Yura Ivanov, the Kola Environmental Center, Murmansk Regional Public Organization,
Murmansk

Lars Haltbrekken, "Norges Naturvernforbund/Friends of the Earth Norway", Oslo Norway