



## Why Amulsar gold mine should not be exploited?

### What is Amulsar project?

Amulsar is a mountain on the border of Vayots Dzor and Syunik regions and is just 10km away from one of Armenia's treasures hydrological wonder Jermuk. Gold reserves are said to be allegedly discovered in Amulsar, the exploitation of which Armenia's illegitimate government recklessly and illegally handed to an offshore company with unknown origins Lydian International. In August 2016 the construction of the mine infrastructure started, while Amulsar's exploitation will last 10 years, if we permit. **Annually 10 million tons of ore will be processed** and the gold will be extracted through extremely dangerous **sodium cyanide**. Annually it is planned to import and use **1000tons** of this substance.

### Who Implements this Project and Who Funds it?

The license to exploit Amulsar gold mine is given to Lydian Armenia (formerly Geoteam) - daughter company of offshore company Lydian International. Main shareholders of Lydian International are World Bank Group member International Finance Corporation (IFC), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as well as Orion Mine Finance and Resource Capital Funds private investment companies. IFC also provides a loan to this project despite many complaints of Armenia's citizens. The project has the support of Armenia's illegitimate government as a result of which courts rejected examining suits regarding the project's illegal aspects as in case of Teghout.

## Why Amulsar Mine should not be Exploited?

- During the exploitation of Amulsar gold mine **cyanide** will be used which is a **dangerous substance for human's health and the environment**. The cyanic platform is planned to be built just 1000meters away from Gndevaz community, where annually 1000 tons of sodium cyanide will be used. Cyanide will be transported by trucks from one end of Armenia to almost another passing through dozens of communities.
- The exploitation of this **mine risks to poison water resources of Armenia** such as strategically important Kechut and Spandaryan reservoirs, basins of Arpa and Vorotan rivers, Vorotan-Arpa-Sevan water tunnel and the main regional reserve of fresh water Sevan Lake. Waters from melting snow and rain will flow down the open mine filled with heavy metals and thus pollute the basins of these rivers, as it happens in other mine areas of Armenia, for example in deserted mine of Kavart ([goo.gl/99yaeo](http://goo.gl/99yaeo)).
- **Dust with heavy and dangerous metals will spread** dozens of kilometers polluting untouched meadows and high quality pasture lands of the area.
- **Unique flora and fauna will be endangered** as a result of erasure of their habitat and eco-migration corridor such as Artavazd, Tigran and Erato tops of the mountain.
- As a result of inflow of miners **price increase** in products and services (apartments and food) will negatively affect on economically vulnerable people; social inequality will increase; elderly people and women will be particularly affected.
- Jermuk's social fabric will be distorted, as its **female population will be deprived of their current jobs in agriculture, tourism and healthcare sectors and will be pushed into the market of sexual exploitation**.
- Besides mine infrastructure is just 7 km away from Jermuk town, where Armenia's most **famous mineral waters and health resorts** are located. The latter will thus be negatively impacted as a result of mine exploitation.
- Speaking of economic benefits is just ridiculous especially when we consider the taxing system of Armenia. Just imagine - **mine exploitation will result in 100 million tons of dangerous waste**, for which the company pays nothing to the state budget.
- If we also add to this the fact that Amulsar will be exploited for some 10 years, the question is what the community members will do after 10 years, when it will be impossible to develop agriculture in the nearby areas, while

Jermuk will have lost its reputation as a health resort since during the mine exploitation it will turn into miners town.

There are many expert analyses about the problems of this project with legislative violations and corrupt practices. You can read about them on [armecofront.net](http://armecofront.net) website.

## What can you do?

- Learn about all risks of exploitation of Amulsar gold mine through the websites of Pan-Armenian Environmental Front ([armecofront.net](http://armecofront.net)) and [ecolur.org](http://ecolur.org).
- Join the **online petition** against the mine exploitation (<http://chn.ge/2dnNKlr>) and encourage your friends to join.
- Be active in social networks, especially **Twitter**, where you can directly get in touch with World Bank ([@WorldBank](https://twitter.com/WorldBank)), IFC ([@IFC\\_org](https://twitter.com/IFC_org)), EBRD ([@EBRD](https://twitter.com/EBRD)) and demand more responsible approach from them. Also get in touch with the UN Human Rights Council ([@UNHumanRights](https://twitter.com/UNHumanRights)) and other organizations working in human rights and environmental issues demanding attention on this issue. Don't forget to use **#NoMininginAmulsar** hashtag.
- Follow **discussions** organized by activists on this issue and participate in the **activities** (also follow through PAEF's Facebook page). Take the initiative and offer solutions yourself.
- Get in touch with the community in Jermuk, support them and strengthen their activism, promote the importance and development of current economic opportunities (tourism, agriculture, healthcare).
- **Distribute** this leaflet in the internet, at your university, school, workplace, yard.

Let's be persistent in our demands and let's not allow another mining project threaten our ecology, economy and livelihood. We are all responsible for ourselves, for future generations and for nature.

Pan-Armenian Environmental Front (PAEF) Civil Initiative

Website: <http://www.armecofront.net/>

YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/armecofront>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/armecofront>

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/armecofront>