

A spillover of cancerogenic six-valent chromium from Jugohrom plant in the area of Rasce (the primary source of water for Skopje) - who is responsible?

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What happened?

JUGOHROM

- Founded in 1950s - Government
- Location: 15 km from Tetovo and 30 km upstream from Skopje, within the village Jegunovce.
- Ferro-alloys. production stopped in December 2001
- Privatization- Jugohrom Ferolajs-DOO Jegunovce being the last one.
- Plant ceased to work.

ACTORS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

1. Jugohrom – a ‘hotspot’ with medium environmental risk. It manages the purifying station.
2. Government is the landfill's founder.
3. The Ministry operates the drainage system, financially assists in maintaining the purifying station. It is a waste holder.
4. Two municipalities Jegunovce and Skopje

POLLUTION IN 2021

1. Rights-holders
2. Stakeholders



Contribution or causation?

CONTRIBUTION

- Jugohrom failed to properly manage the purifying station contributing to the pollution of the river Varder and the groundwaters of the mountain Zeden with six-valent chromium.
- The state failed to act promptly and fulfil its obligation under national and international law to take steps to prevent, investigate, punish and redress human rights violations by Jugohrom.

CAUSATION

- If there was no original problem to start with, their negative impact would not occur.
- By not acting in due time to address the problems with the purifying station, the State organs are aggravating the scale of the company's impacts on the rights-holders and the environment.
- Jugohrom-demonstrated poor waste handling and insufficient safe storage care.

What should have been done?



- The **state inspectorate** could have made **constant inspections** of the plant by adding this task to its **annual work programme**.
- The **Ministry of Environment**: could have **taken necessary measures** to **prevent big hazardous** acts as it possessed information that Jugohrom Alzar, the operator, would not undertake such measures.
- The **government**: could have provided **adequate funding**, resources and capacity to ensure that relevant ministries and agencies do not circumvent international human rights and environmental commitments.
- **Jugohrom Alzar**: could have **partnered** with reliable stakeholders.

What should be done?



- **Government:** Annual report + Special fund + Smart mix of measures
- **The company Jugohrom Alzar:** HRDD + Grievance mechanism + Annual plan
- **The municipality Skopje:** Acting upon the annual recommendations given by the Sanitary inspection.
- **Collective action.** Multi stakeholder initiative.

HDDD process



- Human rights policy with affected stakeholders engagement
- HRDD – **assessing** actual and potential human rights impacts
- **Embedding** findings from the assessment
- **Monitoring + Reporting**
- **Company - based grievance mechanism (Speak up system)**

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Thank you

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