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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Human Rights Council

51st session (12 September-7 October 2022)

Item 3 : Interactive Dialogue with Special

Rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes

Oral statement

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Mr. President,

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of his report on the gold mining issue.

We are glad to realize that the report address the case of the Yanomami peoples. In fact, we have been carefully monitoring and working with Yanomami representatives to engage with the Special Rapporteur and denounce the human rights violations committed by the so-called garimpeiros. We call upon the Brazilian government to implement all the necessary measures to put an end to illegal gold mining and protect the rights of the Yanomami peoples.

We take the opportunity of this debate to call the attention of this Council about another representative case : the dismantling of the NAe São Paulo ship, transporting toxic wastes, which was travelling from Brazil to Aliaga shipyard, in Turkey.

Local social movements were concerned about that ship leaving Brazilian territorial waters despite the interim injunction issued by the federal court. For months the Turkish government tried to convince the public opinion that the ship presents no hazard for public health in general or dock workers specifically.

Moreover, the people of Izmir, more than 50 trade unions, Turkish and Brazilian confederations, professional and grassroot organizations, as well as ecology movements organized daily protests against the arrival of that ship in Aliğa – Turkey. Alerts delivered by the Association of asbestos experts (ASUD) in Turkey were simply ignored. However, the Turkish government finally cancelled the import approval due in no small part to the largely supported «We will stop the death ship» campaign.

CETIM voicing the concerns expressed by the aforementioned campaign¹, which transformed their activity into a sustainable working group for ecology and workplace health, call upon the Special Rapporteur and UN member States to closely monitor cases of stray vessels with hazardous wastes and materials, as a safety measure, in order to safeguard shipyards workers' health.

Mr. President, I thank you for your attention

Geneva, the 20th september 2022

1 Campaign to Stop Death Ships in Eastern Mediterranean, Limter-is Docks, Naval construction and dismantling shipyards workers Union, Polen kollektive for Ecology, Children of Nature, Enerji-sen, Energy sector workers union, BIH United Workers Mouvement, People's Houses, Purple Solidarity Peoples' Council for Democracy - Izmir metropolitan Assembly, Peoples' Council for Democracy - Izmir council for Ecology, Forum for New Phocaea, Association for non-accompanied minors, Bread and Honour Workers Associations, Yamanlar Art and Life Cultural center, Association of asbestos experts ASUD, Agriculture Forest public servants union, Public Service Workers, Confederation Council for Ecology, Association for Green Future, Retired Workers Union-Izmir Branch, Egean generation 78 Art and Culture Group, Health sector public employees Trade Union HQ, Communication sector Public Employee Union, Women Strong Together – Izmir, Energy Mining Public Service Union, Construction & Road Building Public Union, Religious Affairs and Foundation Union, HQ Municipality public employees Union, United Transportation Workers Union, Union for Culture & Arts and Tourism, Emirdag Valleys Nature Platform, Defense of Valibag wood, Office Workers Union, Forest Agriculture Workers Union, Earth ecology Collective, United metal workers Union, Life not profit, Solidarity Fenerbahce and Kalamisia, Association for Life of Khamsun, Friends of environment of Sinopia, Fatsa Ecologic Life, FeminArt Intenational female Artists, Chambers of Physicians HQ, Consumers Rights Association, Izmir Musicians Ligue, Izmir Guzelbahce Cultural and ecological Association, BlackSea Herakhlia Platform for ecology, Dikili Platform for ecology, Ayvalik Platform for Nature, Mugla Platform for ecology, Sosyal-is trade Union, Private security employees Trade Union.