



Australian Government
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency



President Rustam Minnikhanov
Kazan, Tartarstan
Russia

September 1, 2017

Re: The Hazards of Chrysotile Asbestos

Dear President Minnikhanov,

The undersigned associations, groups and communities are leading campaigners in the struggle to end a deadly epidemic caused by the mining, processing and use of chrysotile (white) asbestos around the world.

We are writing to you as the President of Tartarstan to congratulate you on the stand you took in recent discussions with a representative of Orenburg Minerals JSC, a major producer and exporter of chrysotile asbestos fiber.

From a translation obtained of a Russian language online article¹ we understand that you confronted Mr Andrey Holm, the head of the Orenburg Minerals JSC, at a meeting in August 2017 to discuss the construction of roads in the city of Kazan. After Holm had made his presentation, you asked about the poisonous nature of chrysotile asbestos. As is common with representatives of the asbestos industry, he dismissed your concerns and provided misinformation to discourage further enquiries.

The statement by Holm that roads in the Alps and Pyrenees, regions which like your own experience great changes of temperatures, are built with chrysotile asbestos was untrue. The use of this material is banned throughout all 28 European Union countries and in Switzerland.

You were right to be concerned about the effects of human asbestos exposures – all the international agencies tasked with protecting public and occupational health agree that the best way to protect human beings from the asbestos hazard is to ban asbestos.² There is a vast wealth of information and evidence documenting the deadly effects of asbestos use and all of the undersigned would be delighted to provide you with relevant documentation. A Russian language leaflet by the IndustriALL Global Union and the Building and Woodworkers International entitled АСБЕСТ – УБИЙЦА [Asbestos Kills] is also available online.³

¹ Минниханов — минтранс: «Г...е дороги делаете!» [Minnikhanov vs Ministry of Transport] August 28, 2017.

<https://inkazan.ru/news/economy/28-08-2017/minnikhanov-mintransu-g-e-dorogi-delaete>

² Asbestos Policies of Major International Agencies.

http://ibasecretariat.org/lka_asb_polic_maj_int_agencies.php

³ АСБЕСТ – УБИЙЦА [Asbestos Kills]. 2014

http://www.industriall-union.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Asbestos/a4_asbestos_8pp_ru_web.pdf

We look forward to hearing from you and to working with you to protect the citizens of Kazan and the rest of Tartarstan from exposures to deadly asbestos.

Sincerely yours,

Laurie Kazan-Allen, International Ban Asbestos Secretariat
[corresponding author: lka@btinternet.com]

Sugio Furuya, Asian Ban Asbestos Network

Omana George, Asia Monitor Resource Centre, Hong Kong

Fernanda Giannasi, Associação Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto [Brazilian Association of the Asbestos-Exposed]

President Robert Vojakovic, The Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia Inc. and the Asbestos Diseases Advisory Services of Australia Inc.

Peter Tighe, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Australia

Kate Lee, Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, Australia

Graham Dring, Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK