

Research requisition from World Bank's inspection panel

Subject: Request of a detailed case study on World Bank funded project at Mes Aynak

To the respected inspection panel!

My name is [REDACTED]. I am a resident of Mes Aynak area of Logar. I am concerned about a project which is funded by World Bank in Mes Aynak area of Logar, Afghanistan. The said project may not only cause much damage to me but to all the residents of the area who could be affected. I wish the World Bank's inspection panel would reassess the project from the very beginning. It is important to keep my name in secret, because it is a sensitive issue and I am afraid if the officials know my identity, they might put me in trouble. It is because perhaps they might not give preference to the public problems.

Ever since this project started, I and other residents of the area have been very worried about its deep impacts on our present and future lives. In addition, it is almost impossible for us to obtain the basic and important information regarding the implementation of this project. We have been completely kept in dark. The relevant and necessary information has never been shared with us. We have been trying our best to get whatever information we can about the project for a long time, but in vain. However, last summer we were told about an important meeting in Kabul planned by the World Bank regarding this project. We were quite optimistic that we would be able to have firsthand information regarding this project. But we still do not know whether the planned meeting has been cancelled or that we were not invited to attend it. Some of our locals were in contact with the World Bank branch in Kabul. So far, no result has been seen from these contacts. That is why I am contacting you directly.

I am very worried about this project. It will possibly cause heavy losses to me, to my villagers, to my province people, as well as to my family members. Moreover, our culture and history will face huge and irreversible destruction due to its aftermath. How do they extract the minerals? Would they explode the parts where minerals are expected? Would poisonous chemicals be used there? Is it possible that these (poisonous) chemicals would get mixed into the bottom of underground water reservoirs? What if it is harmful for the people's lives and health in the surrounding localities? I am very much worried that if the necessary measures are not taken, it could put the lives and health of our children, villagers and other human beings of the area at risk. I am concerned because no such security measures have been taken by the government so far. It is a matter of great concern. Is it true that this project requires a great amount of water, so much so that later on the resources of water could have been exhausted for the local population. They will be unable to find drinking water or to provide water to their animals and agricultural needs? Mohammad Agha area of Logar is considered an important land for agricultural and livestock. The availability of water is a must to keep such activities functional and alive. Would you be able to tell us that underground water resources, streams and wells would not be consequently dried out? And the most important question is how the area will look like after the project is completed? Will its natural beauty remain the same or not? At present, Mohammad Agha area of Logar is entirely green. It has a lot of fruit trees. Will such produce not be affected after the mines start to be produce harmful materials? What is the deadline for this project? A number of people have already been evacuated from the surroundings of mines and are still homeless. The rest of the population in neighborhood is even unable to find space for the burial

of the dead bodies of their relatives, and they are requesting others to let their dead relatives be buried on their property. This in itself is a serious social problem, and we believe that if the project gets started without proper planning, such waste from mines in the future will result in difficulties for the locals rather than bring them prosperity. It is not yet known when and how many villages and people will be displaced. Even after two years have been passed, the area reserved by the government for such settlements is yet to be developed. The development process has been stopped altogether. We don't see any chance of further work on it in future. Every family is being given 400 square meters of land so that they will build their homes at their own expenses. This assumption that the families have enough resources that they can build their homes is not just right. Nobody cares about it. And the targeted land had been measured to be utilized only for 512 families. In fact, the number of affected people is much more than the estimated number. On the top of that, some of those refugees based in Iran and Pakistan who belong to Aynak area are not listed in it, and also those residing in other parts of Afghanistan might not be able to get listed. This could be another difficulty that only 512 families have been compensated, while the remaining population will have no land at all. This could bring a kind of conflict and unrest among the local population. The people could become homeless and will be pushed to live on streets. The declared land for 512 families is in the As-haab Baba city. It is an area for cultivation. The land allotted to these 512 families is also claimed by the Stanakzai tribe. They have warned the residents of Aynak area not to enter their land or else they will face the consequences. This is the reason why the people of Aynak will not wish to settle there even if they are forced to do so.

Another important thing I came to know through the electronic and online media is that there are ruins of the ancient and historical city of Aynak. According to that, thousands of years ago, copper had been extracted from this part, as a result of which a civilized city came into being. The ruins of the city still exist under the ground. The remains of the said heritage could be dug up by geologists so that the tourists could be attracted to this place. This tourism will benefit Afghanistan in terms of revenue. This historical city is very important from an archeological standpoint as it can give us deep insight (information) about thousands of years-old Afghan history. The related world is very interested in the subject, and I am also aware about the petition which was signed by thousands of people demanding the historical ancient city of Aynak be preserved for future generations. I also have heard about a godown which has been used for the storing statues found during excavation of these historical sites. I wonder and feel sorry how such a historical city could be preserved in a godown. Keeping some statues and ancient remains in the museum is not enough. The whole city cannot be preserved like that. It is almost impossible to transfer and place all the ruins somewhere else.

We already have lost Buddha statues of Bamiyan and this destruction was condemned throughout the world, and now the approximately 5,000-year-old city of Aynak, which is much more significant than the Bamiyan statues, is being ignored. The world is silent as nobody cares about its excavation and preservation.

We the locals of the area who have colleagues and relatives residing across the world are in regular contact with them, and in the meantime we are also in contact with the organization called ARCH International. This organization has employed those Afghans who possess U.S citizenship as well as the citizenship of European countries. I have read the conference reports of

ARCH International. These documents were sent to the inspection panel. I fully support the documented report of ARCH International that completely reflects my views.

With Regards,

██████, a resident of Aynak area
December 3, 2012