

## OPEN LETTER

To: **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia** – [contact@mecc.gov.mn](mailto:contact@mecc.gov.mn)  
**The Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia** – [office@nea.gov.mn](mailto:office@nea.gov.mn)  
**The National Police Services of Mongolia** – [info@police.gov.mn](mailto:info@police.gov.mn)  
**and everyone who may be concerned**

Cc.: **Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention**  
**Michel Forst**

E-mail: [aarhus-envdefenders@un.org](mailto:aarhus-envdefenders@un.org)

Conc: **URGENT – Position of the physicist and environmentalist Andrey Ozharovskii**

Amsterdam / Paris, 21 August 2025

Whoever this may concern,

We have been informed that a few days ago, the physicist and environmentalist Andrey Ozharovskii was arrested in Mongolia while using his personal dosimeter to measure radiation related to legacy uranium mining activities and current uranium leaching activities of the French firm Orano. He was told without further explanation he would be deported to his home-country of Russia and today released in Ulan Bator, however without receiving back his passport.

Mr. Ozharovskii is a member of Nuclear Transparency Watch, a reliable scientist serving local NGOs and victims of radiation contamination incidents throughout Europe and beyond.

Nuclear Transparency Watch is a French registered NGO with wide European membership involved in the implementation of transparency in the nuclear sector, especially the principles of the Aarhus Convention.<sup>1</sup>

Nuclear Transparency Watch kindly asks you to take all necessary steps to secure the safety of Mr. Ozharovskii, enable his freedom of movement by returning his passport, and support him in his efforts to help Mongolia and Mongolians understand potential impacts, risks and safety of uranium mining activities.

Development of nuclear industries, including uranium mining, is not without risks. A transparent and open cooperation between civil society, relevant authorities and involved companies helps

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1 The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, as signed in Aarhus, Denmark in 1998. <https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/aarhus-convention/text>  
The Mongolian version of the Convention can be downloaded here:  
[https://unece.org/DAM/env/pp/documents/Aarhus\\_Convention\\_in\\_Mongolian.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/pp/documents/Aarhus_Convention_in_Mongolian.pdf)

reducing those risks, and enables authorities to become in an early stage aware of possible infringements on licensing conditions and potential impacts on the population and environment. For that reason, Nuclear Transparency Watch has supported so-called citizens science projects all over Europe, in which citizens and NGOs themselves were given access to the necessary equipment to measure radiation. We have cooperated with the SafeCast project, which supports citizens world-wide for this purpose. In France, we are over our member organisation ANCCLI in cooperation with the French nuclear regulator ASN in a citizens radiation measurement project that was started by the former technical support organisation (TSO) IRSN.<sup>2</sup> Nuclear Transparency Watch helped bringing this project also to the UK. It furthermore supported citizens initiatives in the Netherlands, together with the Dutch TSO RIVM. We cooperate intensively with citizen's laboratories that carry out expert radiation analysis, like CRIIRAD and our member ACRO in France, the ÖkoInstitut and our member Umweltinstitut in Germany, and our member the Österreichisches Ökologieinstitut in Austria.

We therefore can vouch for the fact that Mr. Ozharovskii during his touristic visit to Mongolia did nothing out of the ordinary, but supported local citizens and NGOs to gain knowledge about the safety and risks of uranium mining in your country. Of course, he used a dosimeter to be able to illustrate the theory.

We would strongly recommend to use this incident as an opportunity, whereby the Nuclear Energy Committee as nuclear regulator and/or the Ministry of Environment could go with Mr. Ozharovskii to the sites he was measuring to see whether his measurements were indeed accurate.

It is of paramount importance for nuclear safety that citizens can undertake these kind of actions. They are the eyes and ears in the field of independent authorities – even if this sometimes can lead to temporary confrontations, the overall benefit of public participation in observing environmental impacts has been proven beyond doubt. Information about the environment, including information about radiation, should never be confidential to the public that could be impacted. And authorities should take full benefit from measurements and viewpoints from the public to exercise their vital functions. Indeed, this forms the basis of the Aarhus Convention. We are aware that Mongolia is considering to access this important treaty, and are convinced that you will do everything to hold its principles high.

We want to point out to you, that under the Aarhus Convention art. 3(8), “Each Party shall ensure that persons exercising their rights in conformity with the provisions of this Convention shall not be penalized, persecuted or harassed in any way for their involvement.” We are convinced that the activities from Mr. Ozharovskii fall within the rights he normally would have in signatory states of the Convention. If he has broken any rule in Mongolian law, he will not have done so on purpose or with ill intent. Once more: his intentions were to support Mongolia and Mongolian citizens in awareness of radiation safety and risks.

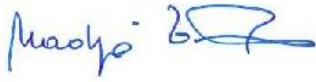
Because we were quite shocked about Mr. Ozharovskii's initial arrest, we have informed the Special Rapporteur under the Aarhus Convention on Environmental Defenders, Mr. Michel Forst, of this incident. We are convinced that, if necessary with his guidance, Mongolia will find a way to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

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2 <https://www.openradiation.org/en/about-us>

We would like to be informed about your steps and results.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nadja Železnik' followed by a stylized flourish.

Nadja Železnik (Slovenia) – Chair

Jan Haverkamp (the Netherlands) – Member of the Board

Niels-Henrik Høge (Denmark) – Member of the Board

Johan Swahn (Sweden) – former Member of the Board

Luke Haywood (Belgium) – Member of the Board, European Environmental Bureau

Albena Simeonova (Bulgaria) – Member of the Board

Malcolm de Butler (France) – Secretariat

Our contact: [nucleartransparencywatch@gmail.com](mailto:nucleartransparencywatch@gmail.com)