THE CURSE OF COAL

Our coal consumption causes diseases, pollution, and poverty in Colombia.



A report by Danwatch | May 2010

| This report has been produced by DanWatch with support from Danida.

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Introduction

This report is published by DanWatch - a Danish corporate watchdog that investigates and monitors companies' impact on humans and the environment globally.

In January 2010 DanWatch published a Danish version of this report called "Kullets Forbandelse". Focus of the report is the Danish import of coal from the Cerrejón mine in Colombia. The report mentions the two importers of Cerrejón coal to Denmark – Danish DONG Energy and Swedish Vattenfall.

But the Cerrejón mine not only exports coal to Denmark. According to Cerrejón, 56 percent of the total export of coal in 2009 was shipped to Europe, including the Mediterranean. Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain are among the biggest recipients of Colombias coal. Therefore, DanWatch decided to publish an English version of the report to inform a broader international public about the issues concerning Cerrejón.

DanWatch has asked Cerrejón to comment on the key issues in the report. Cerrejón's answer consisted of forwarding the draft of their Fourth Progress Report containing key information on resettlements and other social themes, published in April, **2010**.



SUMMARY & RESULTS

A large amount of the coal we consume in Denmark comes from one mine in Colombia, where the extraction of coal causes disease, pollution and poverty. Coal is used today in the production of nearly 40 percent of the world's electricity.

It is commonly known that coal is one of the energy sources that strains the climate the most; but it is an overlooked fact that the extraction of coal itself also has severe negative consequences on the environment and the people who live close by.

Denmark has a yearly consumption of more than 7 million tons of coal, and Colombia is the second largest supplier of coal to Denmark. In 2008 Colombia covered 27 percent of the total Danish coal consumption corresponding to 2 million tons. Our coal purchase in Colombia comes from one mine – The Cerrejón Mine. Through decades, according to all the sources and information available to DanWatch, the mine has caused the local population to be forcefully dislocated and left in poverty, without compensation for deprived land, livelihood and possessions.

At the same time, the extraction of coal pollutes the local environment so much that the local population becomes ill and the soil barren. Many of the workers in The Cerrejón Mine are tormented by diseases and at the same time experience poor safety and bad working conditions. Both the labour union and the neighbours to the mine have experienced deaths, which they put down to the pollution from the mine.

DONG and Vattenfall are the only two producers of coal based power in Denmark and are responsible for the combined Danish purchase of coal. Both have policies for social responsibility which state, that they have a share in the responsibility of the ethical behaviour of their suppliers. Still, they both buy coal from The Cerrejón Mine.

Vattenfall did a study on the conditions of the mine during a visit in 2007 and rated the mine to be "world class". DONG has never done a similar study.



METHOD

This report is drawn up against numerous different sources. The main part of the documentation in the report has been collected partly through desk research and partly through a field study in La Guajira, Colombia, in the fall of 2009.

The documentation from the field study in La Guajira consists of interviews with people who are affected

by the coal production of The Cerrejón Mine, among them the Wayüu Indians, the Afro Colombians, the coal mine workers and local experts in health and human rights.

Add to this interviews with the CSR responsible persons of DONG and Vattenfall together with information from DONG and Vattenfall on their coal purchase.



olombia has a population of around 43 million people, and of these about 1 million are indigenous. Many of the in-

digenous peoples in Colombia have lived or live in rural areas rich in natural resources such as wood, oil and coal; but 40 years of struggle between government forces and guerilla movements about the access to these resourceful areas have driven many of the indigenous peoples away from their original territories. Around 41.000 of Colombia's 1 million indigenous peoples today live as internally displaced people.

All in all there are 2 to 3 million internally displaced people in Colombia, which places Colombia in second place when it comes to countries in the world with the most internally displaced people, second to Sudan₂.

One of the factors that helps place Colombia that high on the list is the forced dislocation of indigenous peoples in connection with the extraction of natural resources. Since 2003 the private companies in agreement with public authorities got the right to certain activities such as the extraction, sale, and export of coal.

This is why international companies often are in charge of the extraction which usually takes place in areas with a high concentration of farmers and indigenous people_a.

There are examples of indigenous peoples from the communities of Media Luna and Espinal who have been forcefully dislocated from their original territories in order to give the mining companies access to the resources of the land. And the people of the community Tamaquito are now subject to involuntary resettlement,

The extraction of natural resources is as such a severe threat to the survival of the indigenous peoples of Colombia, and with the growing presence of international mining companies, the survival of the indigenous people is related to the global extraction industry, and among these the Danish companies that buy their coal in Colombia.

Forceful relocation has occured even though Colombian law states that the indigenous peoples have an eternal right to their hereditary land/reservations, which represent about 30 percent, corresponding to about 3.75 million acres₅, of the total territory of the country₆. Indigenous peoples are as a starting point covered by all the human rights, that are recognized by international law, but recognizing that the protection of the existence and well-being of indigenous people is closely connected to the perseverance of their culture and traditions and especially the right to their land, territories and resources, the UN has crafted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

In April 2009 Colombia adopted the declaration which ratifies that indigenous peoples must not be forcefully relocated from their land or territories.

Article 10 of the declaration states: " No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous

peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return".

The fact that Colombia has ratified the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples means that the principles of the declaration have been made part of the existing law in Colombia,.

Furthermore, environmental assessments and archaeological excavations must be undertaken and a preceding hearing must be inducted in order for the local inhabitants to get the opportunity to voice their opinions prior to the establishment of new mines and the expansion of existing mines. The Ministry of Mining has however determined that it is not necessary to let the local people be heard in cases where already existing mines are expanding_e.

According to Andres Idárraga from CENSAT, The National Center for Health, Environment and Labour in Colombia, the mining companies' lack of preceding hearings are in direct conflict with Colombian law and the ILO convention 169, article 15_{0} .

The convention recognizes the wish of the indigenous peoples to exercise control over their own institutions, way of life and economic development and to sustain and develop their identity, language and religion within the framework of the states they live in. That is why: 1.The rights of the peoples concerned sto the natural resources pertaining to their lands shall be specially safeguarded. These rights include the right of these peoples to participate in the use, management and conservation of these resources.

2. In cases in which the state retains the ownership of mineral or sub-surface resources or rights to other resources pertaining to lands. governments shall establish or maintain procedures through which they shall consult these peoples, with a view to ascertaining whether and to what degree their interests would be prejudiced, before undertaking or permitting any programs for the exploration or exploitation of such resources pertaining to their lands. The peoples concerned shall wherever possible participate in the benefits of such activities, and shall receive fair compensation for any damages which they may sustain as a result of such activities₁₀.

However, the indigenous peoples not only experience that their territorial right is set aside in the international companies' hunt for natural resources. The extraction also has huge environmental consequences, which the peoples who live in the vicinity of the mine suffer under. The Danish consumers contribute to these violations of human rights, as Denmark consumes more than 7 million tons of coal annually per year, and Colombia covered 27 percent of the Danish coal consumption in 2008_{11} .

Cerrejón, the worlds largest "open pit" coal mine lies in the Guajira province in the north-eastern part of Colombia and stretches over at least 36 square kilometres within a mine area of 150 square kilometres₁₂. The mine is the sole supplier of Colombian coal to Denmark.

The Danish coal consumption has thus been contributing to the Wayüu-indians and other local peoples being driven out, forcefully relocated, losing access to land, water, hunting grounds, schooling, infrastructure and have been living with heavily polluted air and water.

In addition, the work in the mine makes the workers sick, without the mining company acknowledging that fact.

FACTS

Cerrejón was established in 1983 as a partnership between Carbocol (Carbones de Colombia S.A.) and Intercor (International resources Incorporated), which is subsidary of Exxon. In October 1999, Carbocoal sold its share of the company to a consortium comprising Anglo American, BHP Billiton, and Glencore as part of the IMF's financial adjustment programmes. Later in 2002, Exxon sold its share to the consortium, which resulted in 100 per cent ownership. In 2006, Glencore sold its share to Xstrata. Cerrejón produces over 30 million tons of coal annually₁₃.

Energy (NESA and Elsam) have previously made contracts with the American company Drummond, until Drummond in 2006 was accused of being behind the murders of three trade union leaders at coal mines in Colombia. Subsequently, DONG Energy has entered into contracts with Cerrejón, that also supplies coal to Vattenfall₁₄. The UN proposes that indigenous peoples be defined on basis of five fundamental elements:

- 1. That they are subject to discrimination and/or marginalisation.
- 2. That they have a special relationship with the land of their ancestors.
- **3**. That they live geographically in these territories.
- **4.** That they have their own unique cultural expressions.
- **5.** That they have their own language₁₅.

The indigenous peoples of Colombia comprise approximately 90 different groups. According to the Constitutional Court of Columbia, about 27 of these groups are in danger of disappearing. According to Colombia's national association for indigenous people (ONIC), 18 of these are acutely threatened by extinction₁₈.

The indigenous Wayüus' presence can be dated back 3.000 years back. Today, more than 150,000 live in La Guajira in northern Colombia. This makes them the largest group of indigenous peoples in Colombia₁₆. In total, the indigenous people constitute roughly 3.4 per cent of the country's population. The survival of indigenous peoples depends of the access to their original territories in order to preserve their indigenous culture, identity, traditions ,and social and political structures. The driving away of the indigenous peoples has destroyed their society and traditions, and many of those driven away are therefore fighting an unfair fight to preserve their identity and culture in foreign urban areas. With no experience with living in cities, many of them become victims of traficking, drugs, and prostitution. Colombia's Constitutional Court says that up to one-third of the country's indigenous peoples are threatened by extinction today₁₇.



Tabaco

"Police, military, armed civilians, anti-rebellion forces arrived with big machines – at least 500 men came to remove us. Never in my life have I seen the like. Even our then mayor had sent people to get us away. I yelled: "How can you tear down my house? Everything I own is inside it." 15 police officers answered by hitting me unconscious with their clubs₁₉."

That is how Emilio Ramón Peréz Díaz describes that day in 2001, when the inhabitants of Tabaco were forcibly removed in connection with the expansion of Cerrejón₂₀.

Like Emilio Ramón Peréz Díaz, the majority of Tabaco's 1,100 Afro-Colombian inhabitants, of which many descend from the original founders of the village, were forcibly removed from their homes because they did not leave the village voluntarily. The inhabitants of Tabaco, the majority of whom are farmers, is not considered Afro-Colombians. According to Colombian law and international norms, this means that they lose the right to use their own land. This does not mean, however, that this group of people can be removed without compensation, which it was also offered before the bulldozers tore down the village $_{24}$. Those who accepted the offer, received compensation, while those families that

had not accepted the mine's offer before the demolition, either received no compensation or little compensation subsequently.

To this day, many of Tabaco's 350 families still live as internally displaced people. Some of them have traveled to Colombia's larger cities, while others have moved to neighbouring societies. The latter group, which counts 23 families, is eager to fight the expansion of the mine while also applying for compensation to build a new society in the local area₂₅, which has turned out to be a long-winded process.

In May 2002, The Supreme Court in Bogotá established that the mayor of Hatonuevo – the municipality in which Tabaco was located – should find a solution. "Within 48 hours" it should be planned how the former residents were to be allotted a new area, where their society could be rebuilt. Seven years after the Supreme Court's decision, Cerrejón still has not bought a new piece of land – despite the fact that a new deal on rehousing was made in December 2008_{26} .

Apart from living with the scars from the brutal assaults of the police, Cerrejón's inadequate compensations have also had serious economic consequences for Emilio Ramón Peréz Diáz. Before the clearing of Tabaco, he had a lucrative farm, which was so prosperous that he was able to send his children to university. After the expropriations, his means of subsistence have been taken away from him all at once. Gone are his farm, animals, and possessions, and he can no longer afford to have his children go to university. Today, Emilio Ramón Peréz Díaz lives in poverty and with health problems that he ascribes to the coal dust from the mine_a.

Facts

According to several witness statements, the military is assisting in the relocations, just like several government officials have been identified. Furthermore, it has been reported that the so-called unarmed paramilitary forces are contributing to the removals and that these forces are often the ones behind the violence, threats and the killings₂₈.

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care, etc. ₂₃



Pictures from a documentary about the forced relocation of Tabaco

Tamaquito

Four kilometers from the mine lies the community of Tamaquito. Tamaquito's prospects for the future have slowly been suffocated by Cerrejón- activities and by the mine's expansion to the neighboring communities₂₀.

Jairo Fuentes Epiayu, governor in Tamaquito, says that the city used to be surrounded by farms where the inhabitants were working, but today Tamaguito is an isolated 'island' surrounded by mines. As Cerrejón has bought the surrounding land, the people have to walk two kilometers on impassable roads to work at the nearest farms or they have to commute to Venezuela₃₀. Earlier the inhabitants of Tamaquito had access to 12.500 acres, but Cerrejón's systematic buying of the surrounding land has reduced the area to 25,5 acres₃₁. Besides the fact that the latitude of the inhabitants has been reduced considerably, the soil has become barren because of the pollution, and the expansion of the mine has cut the inhabitants off from schools, health clinics and neighbors. If they go hunting or fishing they are arrested by security guards, the water is polluted and the health of animals, people and nature has been badly compromised.

The inhabitants of Tamaquito neither receive help from Cerrejón nor the municipality, which can probably be explained by the fact, that the local government of La Guajira does not acknowledge the inhabitants as indigenous Wayüu. Instead they are looked upon as farmers or labourers, and for that reason they are not entitled to receive help from the local government or Cerrejón.

This, however, is contradicted by anthropologist Weildler Guerra, who the Colombian Ministry of the Interior in 2000 hired to examine the conditions of the indigenous Wayüu in Tamaquito. He concluded that the inhabitants of Tamaquito are indigenous, which did not please the ministry. Weildler Guerra therefore had to change his conclusion or forget about getting paid. That was the definite instruction from the ministry. In the end he chose to keep the original conclusion₂₂.

In his report, Guerra recommends that the inhabitants of Tamaquito are relocated. Even though Cerrejón is not interested in the land around Tamaquito, Weildler Guerra believes, that it is up to Cerrejón to relocate the indigenous Wayüu of Tamaquito to a new territory, that is not affected by the mine. At the same time, the new area has to be larger than the one they posses now, as the inhabitants, according to Weildler Guerra, cannot uphold a viable mode of life with 80 people living on 22,5 acres of land₃₃.

Since Weildler's studies the conditions have only become worse. The population has risen to 185 and the inhabitants wish that Cerrejón would rehouse them on a larger and better piece of land.

The mining company has thus far put forward a schedule for rehousing, but in spite of the plans, the inhabitants of Tamaquito still live completely isolated almost ten years after the recommendations of Weildler.

"There are no jobs. We are kept prisoners on this piece of land. Earlier we could walk around, hold animals and go to the mountains. Now we have no place to grow our crops. It feels like a prison, "Alfonso says.



Puerto del Bolivar

In 1980, the area around the community of Media Luna was selected as the place to construct a new harbour. Plans were made to build an airport and a train terminal next to the port₃₅, in order for the coal to be transported from Cerrejón to the coast by way of a new established railroad.

In order to realize this project about 750 Wayüu had to be moved from the area. Cerrejón began negotiations with the inhabitants, but when a number of Wayüu-indians were threatened and scolded by employees from the mining company negotiations broke down₂₆. Consequently, the inhabitants were forcefully relocated to a nearby area₂₇. It quickly became clear though, that the conditions in the new area were far from optimal, as the air and the water was polluted by the coal-dust from the storage of coal on the port. Cerrejón therefore, for the second time, ordered the people to move, but not all did as they were told. 42 people from seven families refused yet another relocation.

The reaction from the company was this time not to relocate the people with force. In stead they put up a fence with padlock around the area, and had armed guards patrol the area.

To this day the inhabitants that opposed the mining company still live fenced in and feel harassed by Cerrejón. They are not allowed to build new houses $_{38}$, which is a breach of Colombian law, that dictates that the Wayüu have the right of disposal over their reservations, and that these areas can not be sold₂₀

In addition to the fencing, the inhabitants live with the environmental consequences of the mining....

"The Contamination from the port is awful[...] when it's really windy and you eat, your plate gets covered with coal dust,...

The vegetation is not as vigorous as earlier, the animals are all contaminated and the inhabitants experience a hefty reduction in their health;

"Women have suffered sterility, and the inhabitants have had eye problems and lung problems. Sometimes it feels like a rash or an itching. When the pores open, the dust enters and that causes an inner scratchy, stingy sensation. A lot of communities suffer that. Also there's like a a flu, a constant coughing, that comes from the dust₄₂."

It is not only the remaining inhabitants who are affected by the pollution. Those people who moved voluntarily, before Cerrejón put up the fence, were given a new piece of land nearby, but that is also polluted.

The Wayüu communities Espinal and Caracoli from the municipality of Barranca also have experienced that the quality of life has come under pressure by the pollution from Cerrejón.

In 1991 their case was put before the court in Riohacha, the regional capital of La Guajira, and after numerous appeals they were in 1992 with help from the lawyer Armando Perez, successful in getting the court to rule in favor of the community₄₃. The court determined that different steps had to be taken in order to secure the rights of the indigenous people, which resulted in the establishment of a reservation, that the inhabitants of Espinal and Caracoli could move.

Those who moved without causing problems were reworded with funds to build schools and other facilities, while those who resisted moving were forcefully relocated to barren land without access to water₄₄.

Facts

Forceful relocation of inhabitants is only allowed under certain limited circumstances and only for the sake of public purposes, for instance to promote national security, economic development, and to protect the health of the people. Forceful relocation can as such not be done out of concern for private development that has no public purpose.

When a relocation has taken place, the people who have been moved (willingly or unwillingly) must be offered an alternative residence of the same or higher standard, or be offered an adequate compensation, that makes them capable of buying a residence of the same or higher standard. The corporations must always make sure, that they are not involved in forceful relocations, that does not meet the above mentioned demands.

The UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) article 13, 17 and 25, The UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), article 12(1) and The ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (C169, 1989), article 15 (2), 16 and 17₃₄.



THE MINE IMPAIRS THE HEALTH OF THE INHABITANTS

In all of the communities that Dan-Watch has visited in La Guajira, pollution from the mining has resulted in polluted drinking water, headaches, rashes and lounge problems for the inhabitants, and when it rains it smells of sulphur. Earlier the inhabitants would use their traditional medicine plants to fight diseases, but in fear that the plants will make them even more ill, they have stopped using them.

The medics fail

There are several tales of doctors and hospitals, who do not inform on health related consequences of living in the area and simply dismiss the indigenous Wayüu, who live in communities near Cerrejón, when they say that the mine makes them sick.

Oscar Guariyú, the governor of the indigenous reserve Provinsial which border lies 300 meters from the mine, is a witness to the diseases that arise in the wake of Cerrejóns pollution:

"The woods are dried out because of the pollution, which grows year by year, and the same does the number of sick. We have had deaths here due to acthe pollution. And even though they have not been examined, we have no doubt that they are caused by the mine₄₅."

Oscar Guariyú links six deaths to pollution from Cerrejón. He indirectly accuses the hospitals of being in the pockets of Cerrejón, as they are not willing to pass on information about the cause of death to the relatives:

"When we ask at the hospital how they died, the doctors either won't tell us, or they say that it has nothing to do with the pollution. We had a 32-year-old woman who died in Riohacha Clinic. She had respiratory problems, which gave her the sensation of drowning, and a cough that made her throw up blood. The hospital refused to pass on any information on the disease to the family. They therefore consulted a series of private physicians, who performed tests which showed that she had suffered from a lounge disease that possibly was caused by dust," governor Oscar Guariyú says, who also says that the majority of the sick have the same symptoms: coughing, sensations of suffocating and drowning, which the doctors treat as they would the flu $_{46}$.

Stench

Fidel Pushaima, governor in San Fransisco, also experiences that new cases of illness have emerged.

"We have had 4-5 cases of people who were suffering from cramps, lost consciousness and were shivering. We have never seen that before. The inhabitants also have rashes, which we think are caused by the same thing as that penetrating strong smell that appears when it rains," the governor says and points out that they will never get Cerrejón to acknowledge that it is the source of the health issues₄₇."

Muzzle

DanWatch was able to get one of the doctors at a local hospital to talk. He says that after 2-3 hours of rain people are coming in with asthmatic attacks, which according to him are caused by the coal dust.

"The doctors, who should report this, does not do it because it is a matter of a multinational corporation, and no one wants problems with that company. But it has to be pointed out, that our people, to a large degree, are influenced by the aftereffects of the coal dust," he explains. The doctor wishes to remain anonymous in fear of the repercussions it will have for him if he stands speaks out in public₄₈.

Expensive studies

According to Dora Lucy, attorney at Corporación Collectivo de Abogados, Cerrejón not only refuses to

acknowledge the diseases as pollution related, it also fails to inform the Wayüucommunities about the level of pollution. That happens, even though the company has set up measuringstations in selected communities and thus is able to warn the inhabitants if the level of pollution reaches an alarming level₄₉.

Dora Lucy explains, that there doesn't exist any independent studies of Cerrejón's level of pollution around the mine, the railroad and the harbour, because no neutral body can afford to pay for them.

"The problem in Colombia is that this type of environmental study is very technical and very expensive.

That is why the studies are performed by the corporations themselves, or the government pays the corporations to perform them, which means that the studies are not very credible"₅₀, she explains.

Not good enough

According to Cerrejón the company daily sprays around 105 kilometers of road connected to the mine area's roads with 17000 cubic meters of water, which mainly comes from rainwater containers₅₁. The company pours the water on the ground to make the coal dust from settle, but Dora Lucy does not think that the method is durable, as it only limits the pollution briefly.

At the same time she points out, that Cerrejón are warned before the government conducts their measurements, which gives the company time to concentrate the spraying of the ground to the selected area of measurement.

In that way the study only gives an up-to-the-minute account of the amount of coal dust in the air, and in that way it does not reflect the

close to the harbour $_{53}$ ". Likewise, a study from October 2006 carried out among five communities near Cerrejón shows, that the occurrence of difficulties in breathing, is almost four times as high among children in close proximity to the mine than other places in the region₅₄.

According to the report, carried out by the regional ministries of health, the main cause of death in their



real level of pollution₂₀.

The dust affects

Even though it is hard for the communities to hold Cerrejón responsible, when no studies that document the actual level of pollution are available, a study by an engineer at the university in Bogota shows, that there is a clear influence from the mine on San Fransicsco, Provincial and Media Luna.

"The dust clearly affects the nearby communities such as Provincial and San Fracisco, which are in the direction of the wind. In Puerto Bolivar the dust affects the Wayüu-communities in Media Luna, which is very districts is acute lung infections, especially which hit children. Even though the pollution from the mine is not the sole cause of the diseases, it is highly probable, that it plays a significant role₅₅.

Studies confirm

The conclusion of studies of "open pit" coal mines in England and West Virginia, USA, are in agreement with the study done in La Guajira.

Michael Hendryx, Ph.D. at 'The Institute for Health Policy Research' at West Virginia University, has done a study concerning chronic diseases, that can be associ-

ated with pollution from coal mines. 16.400 persons, who live in close proximity of coal mines, were examined and the study showed, that the larger the coal production close to the community the greater the risk of developing chronic heart-, lung- or kidney diseases.

As an example the study shows, that people who live in communities close to coal mines, have a 64 percent bigger risk of developing obstructive pulmonary diseases (OPD) such as emphysema, which causes the lung tissues necessary to support the physical shape and function of the lung to be destroyed_{r6}.

MISERABLE WORKING CONDITIONS

Cerrejon praises itself of its high wages, a good working environment, sickness prevention and ISO and OHSAS certificates, but employees of subcontractors, which account for nearly half of the 10.434 men large workforce $_{57}$ experience a wage difference of up to 70 percent compared to employees of the mine. According to Sintracarbon, the union for the permanently employed Cerrejón workers some employees of subcontractors receive less than minimum wages, and the handed out safety equipment is faulty $_{\rm 58}$. If, for example, Cerrejón employees get three filters to their safety masks, the employees of the subcontractors get maybe one - and if they complain it could cost them their job, José Brito says, shop steward for Sintracarbon, the union for the permanently employed Cerrejón workers 59.

According to Sintracarbon, the mining company wishes to replace their own workers with workers from subcontractors. Workers employed by subcontractors are often engaged on shorter contracts and can quickly be let go. This makes it difficult for them to get organized₆₀. It is not only this group of workers who have poor conditions. According to José Brito more than 900 are sick from working in the mine $_{61}$. The diseased workers include:

- Persons, who have been invalidated as a result of working with large and heavy machinery, that cause vibrations are above the permitted limit.
- Persons, who have been poisoned by working with chemicals, which again are above the permitted limits.
- More that ten workers, who according to Sintracar bon have been demonstrated to have increased levels of led in their blood, and sixteen workers, who have hydrocarbon in their urin₆₀.

In addition to that, more than a few are suffering from severe lung diseases, which, according to Sintracarbon, have resulted in deaths₆₃. Common to several of the sick workers is, according to the

union, that Cerrejón refuses to acknowledge, that their diseases are caused by the work in the mine. For that reason Cerrejón is working actively to secure, that the diseases are not diagnosed as work-related, and the company does not acknowledge Sintracarbon's estimate of the number of work-related sicknesses.

Carlos Hernández

had to retire three years ago because of the injuries he had sustained after 27 years of working with the mine's excavation machines, tracktype tractors and leveling machines. His problems with his spine, hip, cervical vertebrae, shoulders, shoulder joints and knees are so severe that he has to use crotches. He has dead bone tissue and needs a new hip.

Carlos Hernández directs a massive critic at Cerrejón and the company's doctors. If they had done their job properly – had listened to reports of pain, had measured the vibration levels and maintained the machines better – the problems would not have grown to the degree, that today has made him completely disabled.

"It seems as if the doctors think, that I deliberately have placed this disease upon myself," he says.

According to Hernández, his injuries were to begin with acknowledged as being work related but was later rejected. The fact of the matter is, according to Hernández, that none of the information about pains, that he has given to Cerrejón's doctors

over the years, appears on his medical record₆₄.

According to Sitracabon, there are examples of Cerrejón hiding the results of health examinations and other material showing that people are sick, and that the limits for harmful substances have been exceeded. At the same time the union points out, that it knows of more than a few examples, of Cerrejón paying off people to leave the work-place because they are developing serious diseases₆₅.

According to the union, all this happens to keep the mine from becoming a high risk workplace. If that happens the company would have to pay a larger contribution to the state's pension fund₆₆, its international reputation would be damaged and the workers would earn the right to retire on a pension earlier, which according to the union would mean that around half the current workforce would be eligible for pension almost immediately₆₇. Everything indicates, that Cerrejón has knowledge of the health risks that the workers are exposed to. In October 2007 the company carried out a study of the chemical fu-



mes in the engine wash- and workshop area. The conclusions were:

"Benzene and dicloromethane exceed many times the maximum permitted concentration for each chemical (...). Given the elevated concentrations of Benzene and Dicloromethane there could be adverse effects on the health of the workers that work there"₆₈.

Furthermore it is noted that benzene can cause cancer in the lungs, lymph and bladder and ultimately lead to death.

In the workshop, where the work is carried out without the use of safety equipment, because the workers are not in direct contact with chemicals, the study states that the permitted limits for benzene have been exceeded. This is caused by the fumes from the washing area that ooze in to the workshop. In the study the company is recommended to switch the chemicals they use and to rearrange the area, so that the wind will ventilate the chemicals out instead of in to the workshop₆₀.

Consequently, Cerrejón switch to new chemicals in the engine-wash area in October 2009.

All of the new chemicals are known to have a critical affects on the health of the people who work with them₇₀. One of the chemicals can cause eczema, affect the central nervous system and the liver and, according to The Working Environment Authority, it can be cancer-producing.

Cerrejón currently has three cases of bad health due to exposure of the new chemicals_{r_1}.

Jose Luis Morales Vega has worked at the mine for 23

1/2 years.

He was diagnosed with lead poisoning in connection with a spot test preformed on 40 out of 180 workers in the washing area. He was far from the only one, who had been affected by the work. More than 50 percent of the workers that were tested had been poisoned – three had lead poisoning and eighteen had hydrocarbon poisoning.

Jose Luis Morales Vega's level of lead in the blood was three times higher that what is said to be healthy, and he suffers from insomnia, amnesia, headaches etc.₇₂. During the interview with DanWatch Morales cries, as he thinks of the consequences the working environment could have on his colleagues₇₃.



It is, however, not only the contact with chemicals that causes sickness among the workers at Cerrejón. According to Sintracarbon, around eight new cases of silicosis, Black Lung Disease, caused by coal dust from the mines appear every year. The problem with silicosis is, that the symptoms do not appear until many years later. At least six studies have shown that chronic silicosis can appear or develop after the work related exposure has ended.⁷⁵.

Jelix Enrique Torres Bolivar is the first registered case of silicosis at Cerrejón. He got sick in 1999, but was first definitively diagnosed in 2001. After nine medical examinations a doctor concluded that he had Black Lung Disease as a result of working in the mine. According to the union, three have died from work related lung diseases, the latest the 2nd of June 2009₈₀.

Eduardo Puche,

who for 22 years worked with heavy machinery at the mine is on Sintracarbon watch list from 2002_{76} because of incipient silicosis₇₇. The union doctor, Rafael Zuniga, states that his disease probably is work related₂₈.

The first five years Eduardo Puche worked completely without safety equipment and without the necessary ventilation.

He quit his job on October 6th because he always felt tired. Around August 2009 he experienced breathing difficulties and has since, at his own expense, consulted a number of specialists. It has so far cost him 2.100.000 pesos, which is slightly less than a months salary for a mine worker₇₉. He has just been diagnosed with lung cancer; but the doctor will – out of fear of the

consequences, Puche says – not determine whether it is a work related suffering or not. He now has to be examined by an oncologist – again at his own expense.

Eduardo Puche believes that the company has lied about his health condition. Through six years the mine's health department has performed annual tests on him, but every time he was told that he was healthy. As the disease develops over a period of many years Eduardo Puche believes, that the company has known of the disease but has neglected to inform him. That is why he now has applied for the right of access to documents in his Cerrejón record in an attempt to document, that he is right in his claims.

As he still has not been granted access to the documents, DanWatch has so far not been able to verify his statement.



FACTS

According to the ILO convention 120, articel 17, all workers shall be protected by appropriate and practicable measures against substances, processes and techniques which are obnoxious, unhealthy or toxic or for any reason harmful, including:

- Exposure to chemicals or bio logical processes
- Exposure that can cause un wanted physical, physiological or psychological changes
- Exposure to harmful noise
- Exposure to toxic fumes, leaks, smoke, different kinds of gas, smells or other forms of air pollution
- Exposure to vibrations₈₁

The Cerrejón mine has helped the economic growth in the area reach a level above the national average. Between 1985 and 2002 Cerrejón generated royalties of more than 240 million US dollars, which account for a significant part of the budget for the municipalities near the mine. As an example, royalties represent more than 50 percent of Barranca's budget.

Furthermore Cerrejón invested around three billion US dollars in infrastructure in the beginning of the 1980's and has throughout its years in Guajira attracted massive foreign investments, for instance in 2000, where Cerrejón attracted around 400 million US dollars, which accounted for one forth of the nations total foreign investments that year. Between 1982 and 2002 Cerrejón spent more than 770 million US dollars on domestic contracts and purchases. Around 250 of these million were spent in the Guajira region₈₂. In spite of that, the rural areas of La Guajira remains the place in all of Colombia where the most citizens do not have access to basic social benefits.

COMPANIES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

Human rights are at the center of the debate on corporate social responsibility, partly because globalisation means that companies increasingly engage in trade with countries where serious violations of human rights occur. Colombia is an example of this.

UN Global Compact

Although it is the nations who have the primary task of protecting, respecting and complying with the human rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that every institution in society should strive to promote the respect for human rights. According to the UN, this applies to companies as well. This was made clear in 2000, when the UN launched the initiative Global Compact, which urges companies to join ten principles on human rights, environmental protection, workers' rights and anti-corruption. The first two principles of Global Compact refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and state the following:

- 1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- 2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

According to Global Compact, these principles entail, amongst other things, that "companies need to be fully aware of potential human rights issues both upstream and downstream₈₃." Both DONG and Vattenfall have joined the UN Global

Both DONG and Vattenfall have joined the UN Global Compact.



Vattenfall & Cerrejón

In 2008, Vattenfall imported 1.1 million tons of coal from the Cerrejón mine in Colombia. In May 2009 DanWatch met with Jørgen Nielsen, Head of Strategy at Vattenfall. Jørgen Nielsen has been in Colombia himself to investigate the social and environmental conditions in the Cerrejón mine. "It is a very good supplier to us. They are world class in relation to Global Compact – also when compared to others. It is the best I have seen so far. And I have trouble imagining that it could be done much better," says Jørgen Nielsen.

For each shipment of coal, Vattenfall makes a contract that contains an ethical clause stating that the mining company must have a procedure on ethics and Global Compact. Furthermore, it has been written into the contract that Vattenfall is entitled to carry out audits, and the aim is to do these twice a year. So far, Vattenfall has carried out audits in Colombia and South Africa.

"This is not known practice in the coal industry," says Jørgen Nielsen, who has not heard of others doing the same.

In connection with Vattenfall's announced audits, the representatives of the energy company also talk with central authorities, but Vattenfall intentionally avoids dialogue with civil society organisations.

"If we say that we have contact with the civil society organisations, I doubt that we would be allowed access to the mine," explains Jørgen Nielsen, Head of Strategy at Vattenfall₈₄.



DONG & Cerrejón

In 2008, DONG purchased 21.8 percent of their coal from the Cerrejón mine in Columbia, which corresponds to approximately 967,050 tons of coal.

On August 16, 2006, Frank Aaen (The Danish Red-Green Alliance) asked a §20 question to the minister of finance, Thor Pedersen, about DONG's purchasing of coal from Colombia. Frank Aaen wanted to know what the minister had done after it was revealed that DONG Energy – a company where the majority of the shares is owned by the Danish state – buys coal from companies in Colombia that allegedly persecute trade union activists and that have been accused of murdering several union members?

On August 3, 2006, on the request of the minister of finance, DONG Energy A/S sent a statement on the company's coal purchases from suppliers in Colombia. The statement concerned the suppliers Drummond and CMC_{85} . At that time, Drummond was accused, under American law, of ordering the murders of three trade union people.

In the statement, DONG informed that they would wait for the outcome of the expected trial before entering into new contracts with Drummond. Drummond was acquitted at an American court, but the case has been appealed. In 2007, DONG broke off cooperation with Drummond. DONG Energy A/S stated other supplier, CMC, had been accused of ordering the removal of a village community and of being behind a massacre of 12 people in connection with the establishment of the mine El Cerrejón Zona Norte. No charges have been pressed against CMC.

DanWatch has gone through the answer which DONG sent to the minister and comments the energy company's claims below:

"CMC has informed DONG Energy that the accusations concern the removal of Tabaco in 2001 and that the removal was carried out by the previous owners, the company Exxon and the Colombian state." - It is possible that it was Exxon, and the Colombian state, that carried out the physical removal, but it was carried out on behalf of CMC. CMC owned half of Cerrejón Zona Norte when the clearing of Tabaco was initiated in August 2001. They have owned it since November 2000. The other half was bought by CMC from Exxon in February 2002 (just a month after the last part of Tabaco was cleared). This information can even be found on CMC's own website₈₆.

"CMC has informed that all legislation was observed in connection with the removal." - This is not correct. According to Armando Pérez Arujo, lawyer for the village of Tabaco, both violations of international and Colombian law took place. Legally, the removal was called expropriation of "a plot of land", and it was not mentioned that this "plot of land" was inhabited by 1100 people who had animals, a church and a school. As mentioned, the Supreme Court of Hatonuevo - the municipality where Tabaco is located - found in May 2002 that relocation be initiated within 48 hours₈₇.

"...and that all parties who are entitled to compensation have been compensated."

- In 2006, this was incorrect. Final compensation was not paid until December 2008. This is the case for Emilio Ramón Diaz, for instance, who was beaten unconscious with clubs during the relocation₈₈.

"that the company has good relations with the Colombian unions."

- This is not correct. The company violates human rights, labour rights and rights to social security benefits $_{80}$.

"and that the company is involved in health and educational work in Colombia."

- This is correct.

Vattenfall on their corporate social responsibility₉₀

Vattenfall's strategy for corporate social responsibility

"Vattenfall supports sustainable development in society by maintaining a balance between secure energy supply and environmental and social consequences in a responsible way."

Responsibility for suppliers

"Vattenfall wants all of its suppliers to accept and comply with the principles of the UN's Global Compact. Therefore, in 2008, Vattenfall has implemented a code of conduct for all suppliers to the corporation. Vattenfall requires that suppliers and sub-suppliers make sure that they live up to a number of minimum standards of ethics."

Human rights

"Vattenfall and the company's suppliers have a responsibility to support human rights, both in the workplace and, more broadly, within their area of influence."

"Vattenfall expects that the company's suppliers make sure that they in no way are complicit in human rights abuses."

Health in the workplace

"Vattenfall expects that(..) the company's suppliers provide a healthy and safe workplace or any other place in which production or labour takes place."

Environmental protection

"Vattenfall expects that the company's suppliers conduct their activities regarding environmental risks and effects by taking a cautious approach, thereby ensuring that unavoidable and, especially, that irreparable damage to the environment does not occur."

Indigenous peoples

Vattenfall has no general policy on indigenous peoples.

DONG on their corporate social responsibility

DONG's strategy for corporate social re-

sponsibility

"Responsibility forms a part of all aspects of energy production – from below the surface of the earth to the light switch_o."

Responsibility for suppliers

"As a business we have a joint responsibility for our suppliers' conduct. We work to promote good business conduct and fair environmental and social standards with those we do business with_{oo}."

Human rights

"It is important to us, however, that our suppliers' production is carried out by employees who are treated with respect for human and workers' rights and who work under the best possible conditions₉₃."

Health at the workplace

"We expect that the supplier provides healthy and safe working conditions and takes all the necessary safety precautions to protect the employees from work related dangers and expected dangerous situations at the workplace_{αa}."

Environmental protection

"It is our responsibility to minimize the effect of our activities on the environment as a whole₉₅."

"We expect that our suppliers comply with all relevant local and national laws and that they strive to minimize damaging effects on the environment..."

Indigenous peoples



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