

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Thursday, 1 December 2022 4:01 PM
To: s 47E(c) s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Media: Are Belgrade and Serbia quietly dying: Are mass blockades and protests possible again because of Rio Tinto and lithium? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Source: Danas

Date: 1 December 2022

Press statement: Are Belgrade and Serbia quietly dying: Are mass blockades and protests possible again because of Rio Tinto and lithium?

Translation:

Two completely different pictures from the lithium mining protests in just one year - from mass roadblocks across Serbia in 2021, to the blockade in front of the Government of Serbia in 2022, where there were barely 500 people.

This significantly smaller number of citizens poses the question whether it is possible for the topic of lithium mining to once again produce the scenes we witnessed a year ago, considering the claims of the organizers of the protest held on Sunday in front of the Government building - the 'Union of Environmental Organizations of Serbia - SEOS' as well as our interlocutor that the government is trying to "close the door" on the Jadar project, but also because of the interest of other companies to exploit this ore in different parts of Serbia, such as Rekovac.

A year ago, citizens took to roads and bridges across Serbia at the invitation of several organizations, and as the main ones, which often seemed to be in opposition as to who was the main organizer, two stood out - the Ecological Uprising of Aleksandar Jovanovic Cuta and Kreni-Promeni, whose director is Savo Manojlovic.

In the meantime, SEOS, which gathers local residents from the parts of Serbia where mining is planned, from initial cooperation with Kreni-Promeni, began to cooperate with the Ecological Uprising, and then Manojlović's organization and SEOS began to fight together again - after fulfilling the requirements regarding the Law on referendum and the people's initiative and the Law on Expropriation, the focus shifted to collecting signatures and adopting the people's initiative on the permanent ban on the exploitation and exploration of lithium in Serbia. SEOS activist Ljiljana Bralovic was also affected by the poor turnout of Belgraders, who during her speech asked the crowd to "let Belgrade die quietly", "quietly, without whistles".

Unlike Manojlovic, who did not respond to our calls, MP Jovanovic Cuta, co-chairman of the Zajedno party, indicated that the protests on Sunday were badly organised, and that this was the reason for the poor response from the people of Belgrade to the protest on Sunday. He says that the protests against Rio Tinto were started by the organization he founded on 11 September last year, after which the Branko Bridge blockade began, and that they ended when the focus shifted to the demands made by Kreni-Promeni, and when they were fulfilled, says Jovanovic, Manojlovic invited the citizens to withdraw from the streets.

"Vucic then withdrew the decree and as far as Rio Tinto is concerned, it is formally and legally the end, the decree was terminated and the Jadar Project was withdrawn from the Spatial Plan of Loznica. Now there is

an attempt to restore that project and the team from SEOS decided to organize a protest on Sunday", says Jovanovic. This MP believes that the SEOS protest, apart from being poorly coordinated, was not organized at the right time because, he says, there is no energy for mass protests, but that every protest and every gathering "keeps the fire of future protests going if Rio Tinto reappears in the Jadar valley".

"It would not be bad if next time the people who organize the protests better coordinate their plans. We can drive Rio Tinto away only when united, this MP states. This activist, who himself said that 'Gazelle' [highway, next to Sava Center] will happen again, i.e. the blockade of traffic roads and bridges in Belgrade, and with better organization and promotion, scenes of mass protests are possible again, but that now Minister Djedovic and President Vucic are at work.

"Why did you succumb to the pressure of a 'handful of people' and lose the 'job of the century'? The ball is in their court. Allow Rio Tinto back in the game and you'll see massive protests again. In the meantime, the entire focus must be on the initiative for lithium and borates mining and apply pressure on the President of the Assembly (Orlic) to put the Law on Lithium Exploitation on the agenda, Jovanović Čuta states.

Nova S journalist Jasmina Dobrilovic, who follows the issue of lithium mining in Serbia, tells our paper that she believes in principle that not only the people of Belgrade, but the citizens of Serbia, see no reason to take to the streets now because of the Jadar Project, but certainly if someone from the government passed laws that would benefit Rio Tinto or some other company, citizens would protest and take to the streets. "There is a fear, however, because we do not see specifically the citizens of Belgrade even when it comes to air, little by little we are the second, third most polluted city in the world. They can hardly think about something that is geographically distant from them. But surely if that story is reactivated, people would have come out again, says Dobrilovic. Our interlocutor also believes that part of the responsibility falls on the organizers themselves and on earlier complaints, she adds that protests should not be held in front of the government building on Sundays because there is no one to turn to, but she notes that the problem is also in the demands that were not realistic to fulfill, such as resignations of the President and Prime Minister, and the dissolution of the newly formed Government and Assembly.

However, she says that SEOS activists are not used to organizing protests, calling people and communicating with the media, and that no one can blame them for that, because "they are desperate and trying to explain to people what will happen to them if the government tries to do something, behind closed doors, because that would be a problem for the whole country". "I think that they should do it smarter, more organized and that now is not the time, but only when they have some arguments and facts then they should invite people to protest, says Dobrilovic. She recalls that a year ago there were blockades from Saturday to Saturday due to two controversial laws and that, she says, this is the first time that the government that has been ruling for a decade backed down, got scared and gave up on its idea of the Jadar Project and fulfilled the demands, as well as that the land in Gornje Nedeljice was reinstated: from construction to agricultural land. "Now the impression is that they are trying to allow the Jadar Project to continue via the back door. I don't say Rio Tinto on purpose because we don't know if it will be that company [that will exploit the resource], but it seems like they are trying to revive the Jadar Project. I am sure that they are waiting for a favourable and suitable timing to carry it out because they themselves are sure that they will have a large number of citizens on the streets again, says Dobrilovic.

MP Dejan Bulatovic, vice-president of the Freedom and Justice Party, who was in front of the Government of Serbia, points out that Belgrade should not be underestimated, and that the organizers themselves should ask themselves questions about the organization of the gathering. The people of Belgrade were not well informed about the meeting itself, there was not enough public announcements. On the other hand, there is also a kind of saturation because there were a lot of protests on this topic. The organizers should stop and think how to better animate the citizens not only of Belgrade, but also of the whole of Serbia, he says.

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The president of the citizens' association 'Pokret Oslobodjenje', Mladjan Djordjevic, who has been critical of the organizers of last year's blockades from the beginning, calls the protests held on Sunday "sad and poorly attended", and accuses Ljiljana Bralovic of a "scandalous statement".

"The scandalous statement of Ljiljana Bralovic, who wished a quiet death to the citizens of Belgrade, speaks of the motives of the organizers, which have nothing to do with the real problem and situation surrounding lithium mining, but are part of a political campaign and unsuccessful self-promotion as leaders. The people saw through the dishonourable intentions of the organizers and ignored their gatherings. The protests (held on Sunday, 27 November 2022) benefited Vucic which served to draw attention away from his betrayal regarding license plates for Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. The people are disappointed and do not want to give support to the eco-vultures for the realization of their personal and party interests, as well as for diverting attention from the burning problems due to Vucic, which are the betrayal of Kosovo and Metohija, theft, crime, corruption, huge inflation, poverty, enormous borrowing and the gifting of natural resources and riches of Serbia", believes Djordjevic.

Miroslav Parovic, the president of the People's Freedom Movement, has a more moderate viewpoint than Djordjevic, who says that the opposition needs unity. "The situation in the opposition is generally very bad and we do not need any new rifts. In particular, we should not fuel stereotypes about Belgrade and the rest of Serbia as some kind of opposing sides. Every inch of the country is equally threatened, and that's why we need a broad opposition political front in which different ideas and different attitudes will be found. The system of crime and corruption headed by Vucic is the source of all betrayals, price increases and pollution in the country, and accordingly it is a topic that can bring us all together in one place, and when citizens see the seriousness and determination of us who publicly advocate opposition politics, then they will also engage en masse. That's why I would recommend that everyone from the opposition, starting with myself, to take a mirror and look at ourselves first, says Parovic.

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 6 December 2022 10:51 AM
To: s 47E(c) ;s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Media: Why has the environmental bubble deflated? [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Source: PolitikaDate: 6 December 2022Article: Why has the environmental bubble deflated?Translation:

For serious reasons for dissatisfaction, rage and anger, there must be a belief that it can be changed and the main actors must have the trust of the people to lead them, says Professor Zoran Stojiljkovic.

Environmental protection is no longer in trend in Serbia. This could be concluded based on the recent protest of environmental activists in front of the Government of Serbia, when only a few dozen people gathered. The "People's Event" in Belgrade was held on the anniversary of the great protests, when in November 2021, according to some estimates, there were over ten thousand people on the streets and bridges. Why has the number of 'green' protestors seriously thinned out and environmental fervour subsided, and has the environmental bubble deflated? Is it just the World Cup, the cold and the uncertainty of what the future holds due to the war in Eastern Europe? Or did the citizens show that environmental leaders did not justify their trust?

The problems in Nedeljice have (not) been solved, even though the then and current Prime Minister Ana Brnabic put an end to the Jadar Project back in January of this year. Some activists (and opposition parties) claim that Rio Tinto has not left and are trying to artificially light the fire of the protest, but without success. SEOS president Ljiljana Bralovic, who organized a protest in front of the Serbian government against Rio Tinto, criticized the people of Belgrade for not coming to support the rally, which was held on the anniversary of the first blockade against lithium mining.

"Who dares can, who knows no fear goes forward', those are the words of Vojvoda Zivojin Mistic. I come from Suvoborska Greda, where Mistic won the first great victory in the First World War, because he did not know fear. I don't know about fear either. Along with all of us, 1,300 corporals are coming here, all the heroes from Cer, Kolubara, Suvoborska Greda are coming, the whole Iron Regiment is here among us, and Belgrade is sleeping. Please be quiet, people, don't blow the whistle, let Belgrade die quietly, let it not know that it has been cooked like a frog in a pot, don't tell them, so let them, let them die in delusion, let them listen to Vucic, who tells them that we are Balkan tigers, let them, let them not go out", Bralovic told the crowd and added that they "are not sold for a handful of silver coins".

Commenting on this gathering, the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, said that the government did not make any decision, but that he decided everything himself, and that he did not understand why they protested in Nemanjina. "When they protest, they should protest in front of the Presidency, and I will address them and tell them nicely - people, you are destroying the country." The price today is EUS 82,500 per ton of lithium, with these reserves it is worth USD 100 billion, do you understand what you are doing to Jadar, Osecina, Valjevo and the whole of Podrinje", said Vucic. He stated that he cannot forgive himself for allowing irresponsible types, who received huge money from overseas, to weaken and destroy Serbia, and all the ignorant people of this world about dirty technology joined in. He was even harsher when asked

about the request to introduce a permanent ban on lithium mining. "Those people should be put into straitjackets because we would give up on USD 100 billion, give up on western Serbia, and because that region will disappear [economically and demographically].

And why was the protest poorly attended this year? Professor of the Faculty of Political Sciences Zoran Stojiljkovic says that the matter is quite complicated and for our newspaper he states that there is a big difference between anger, dissatisfaction and the existence of reasons for protest, their organization and relatively massive participation in them. He adds that some additional reasons are always being sought for a serious protest to take place at all. "First, people should be aware of the importance of it and there should be a clear awareness of who we are who are affected and who are the ones who caused it, and are the reason for the protest. Second, the motives for the protest must be strong and important, and there must be widespread awareness that some project is endangering healthy air, water and land. Those earlier protests from the nineties of the last century or those from 2015 to 2017 were massive because it was clear to people that that they were losing to right to choice and freedom of expression.

It is obvious that there is no clear awareness of the culprits, that the government removed itself from that position relatively successfully by partially giving in. We will see what will happen now in relation to those laws, but also what next steps and everything else related to Rio Tinto will be. "For serious reasons for dissatisfaction, anger and anger, one must add the belief that it can be changed and the main actors must have the trust of the people to lead them." When it comes to environmental protests, the situation is now a little relaxed. They were trusted, people went to those protests. There is a hypothesis that for serious protests, it is necessary for three and a half percent of the population to take to the streets, and when that happens, then the matter is critical. For Serbia, that is about 180,000 people, and it is noticeable that as soon as a protest gathers at least 10,000 supporters, the government immediately gives in.

Bringing together so many people means that they are aware of the urgency of the problem", says Stojiljkovic. When asked if perhaps the citizens lost trust in the leaders of environmental protests or if the environmental bubble was blown when environmentalists entered the Serbian Parliament, Stojiljkovic states that people have lost trust in political actors for mass protests. "When it comes to the organizers of environmental protests, I would say that they are aware that something has been gained and that there is no reason to cause waves again until it is seen that it has been lost." No one can organize protests at any time, if people do not see it as a big problem at that moment and do not have a strong reason, some type of blow to the head is required to force them to take to the streets en masse because of it", says Zoran Stojiljkovic.

And environmental activist Aleksandar Jovanovic Cuta, one of the organizers of the protests a year ago, and now a member of parliament of the green-left coalition 'Moramo', says that it is a big mistake by the authorities if they believe that their protests are over. For our paper, he says that if they believe in it, just let them drive heavy machinery towards Nedeljice and they will see if they are finished. "The protests are not over, but they haven't even started seriously." The protests in front of the Government of Serbia were organized by SEOS, but it is a mistake to look at it through the fact that a small number of people gathered that evening. There are no small or large protests. The fire of dissatisfaction is smouldering and we will wait for those who want to pollute our environment everywhere, as we waited for them on Stara planina, Rakita, Topli Dol", says Jovanovic.

He adds that in the media "every day the authorities are hitting us on the head", they should know that every Rio Tinto has failed them and that every euro they have invested in exploration has failed. He announced that there will be bigger protests if this company takes action again and states that it has never occurred to anyone in history to expel the landowner who feeds us all. "Speaking of which, whose lithium is it that is underground?" It's all of ours, and no one can encroach on other people's land and expel farmers from their fields. If the authorities think that we are not interested, then they are seriously mistaken. If

about the request to introduce a permanent ban on lithium mining. "Those people should be put into straitjackets because we would give up on USD 100 billion, give up on western Serbia, and because that region will disappear [economically and demographically].

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He adds that in the media "every day the authorities are hitting us on the head", they should know that every Rio Tinto has failed them and that every euro they have invested in exploration has failed. He announced that there will be bigger protests if this company takes action again and states that it has never occurred to anyone in history to expel the landowner who feeds us all. "Speaking of which, whose lithium is it that is underground?" It's all of ours, and no one can encroach on other people's land and expel farmers from their fields. If the authorities think that we are not interested, then they are seriously mistaken. If

heavy machinery starts work in Nedeljice, 'Gazela' will once again be the only functioning institution in the country", says Aleksandar Jovanovic.

Institutional attempts to legally ban lithium mining have reached an impasse. The initiative 'Go – Change' allegedly collected around 40,000 signatures from citizens and sent them to the National Assembly as a people's initiative. Although the initiative obliges MPs to declare the citizens' request to introduce a law that would prohibit the exploitation of lithium and borates, they have not yet done so. Savo Manojlovic, campaign director of the 'Go – Change' movement, filed a constitutional complaint because of this, hoping that the Constitutional Court will force the deputies to respect the laws they adopted themselves.

Savo Manojlovic says that 'Go – Change' did not organize the gathering last weekend. In an SMS to Politika, he states "that the people won a victory at the magnificent blockades and saved Serbia from the destruction that threatened it". "Protests always succeed when they are well organized, have a clear plan and good and realistic demands." It was organized by the locals and they were provoked by the government together with Rio Tinto all the time, their anger is justified. Lithium mining in Jadar was stopped by the cancellation of the spatial plan, which is what we requested. At the same time, however, psychological pressure is exerted on the people. They are being driven from the land, and Rio Tinto is still buying up the land. People push themselves to the point of breaking and their mistreatment honestly hurts me personally. My family was expelled from Kosovo and Metohija three times. He adds that serious untruths are deliberately presented, one of them being that lithium is mined in Germany, which is untrue. "It is not mined, and lithium is also found in underground water in Germany, not in the mineral jadarite, which cannot be processed without destroying the natural assets of half of Serbia," concludes Savo Manojlovic.

Nebojsa Krstic: It is difficult to deceive citizens twice

Marketing expert Krstic says that groups that claim to be 'ecological' started to appear suddenly and overnight, some months ago, as if by command, at the moment when a large European country announced that it was starting to mine lithium. He says for 'Politika' that the well-informed say that this is where the donations to the local fake environmentalists are coming from, who have the task of preventing Serbia from being a competitor in the production of lithium-ion batteries.

"How else to explain the fact that someone wakes up one Tuesday, realizes that he is an 'environmentalist' and starts to block the bridge, without ever having been bothered by air pollution or any mine before?" And now we have these false ecological, and in fact luddite sponsored movements that threaten new road blockades, therefore, new violence and mistreatment of citizens, and the only thing they lack is mass, which reminds us of Sasa Jankovic's regret that he only lacks the mass of protests in the Pionirski Park to become prime minister. This time, the 'ecologists' are blaming Vucic, who heated the apartments, so citizens of Belgrade hate loitering on the cold streets. That's why 'environmentalists' curse the "lazy and spoiled" citizens who prevent fake environmentalists from earning their daily wages. Rather, it would seem that it's difficult to deceive those citizens a second time", concludes Nebojsa Krstic.

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From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, 13 December 2022 10:51 AM
To: s 47E(c) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Media: The Government of Serbia has never made a decision to ban lithium mining which would refer to Rio Tinto [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Source: NINDate: 8 December 2022Article: **The Government of Serbia has never made a decision to ban lithium mining which would refer to Rio Tinto [author: Colin Mackey – Rio Tinto]**Translation:

In the article 'The pyrrhic victory of citizens, Rio Tinto is coming back through the back door', authored by Igor Radosevic, published by NIN on 10 November 2022, a number of untruths were presented about the Jadar Project, the multinational company Rio Tinto, and its daughter company Rio Sava Exploration Belgrade.

In the article it is stated that Rio Tinto operates in the Republic of Serbia despite the decision of the Government of Serbia 'forbidding' the mining of lithium, which is confirmed by the fact that the company continues to announce advertisements for new jobs. First, the Government Serbia has never made a decision banning lithium mining which would refer to the company Rio Tinto, that is, the company Rio Sava, which operates in Serbia. The company Rio Sava was not involved in this phase of the project, nor was a ban on mining the subject of any decisions made by Government of Serbia.

Additionally, the article, in a biased way, failed to point out that the advertised job positions were for four positions named: Travel Administrator, Information Centre Communication Analyst, HR Administrator/Analyst, and Senior Advisor Brand & Digital Communication, which considering the overall operations of the multinational Rio Tinto, have nothing to do with the current status of the Jadar Project, nor are any permits a prerequisite for establishing these positions, or any other persons who would be found in certain workplaces within the company Rio Sava.

Further, the company Rio Tinto and its daughter company Rio Sava, conduct their operations in Serbia in accordance with all applicable laws other relevant regulations of this country, and they do not perform any activities for which they do not have permits or approvals.

In the article, in several places, it suggests that Rio Tinto is 'transporting' heavy machinery [to the mine site] and that this is additional proof for the statements in the text. We hereby emphasize that the company operates fully in accordance with regulations and decisions of the Government of Serbia, and that no activities are being carried out that would contradict the current status of the Project, including the 'transporting' of heavy machinery [to the mine site] which could possibly be used further for mining ore.

The article further states that Rio Tinto pollutes water, agricultural assets, and the local environment, which is why the company didn't get approval for processing of lithium ore in the EU. Such allegations are not true.

Contrary to general statements that are presented in the article, the company Rio Tinto conducts no lithium ore extraction in the Republic of Serbia, nor does it pollute the environment, but has carried out significant research into the impact of lithium mining ore on the environment and was ready to adhere to all requirements that would be set by the Government of Serbia in order to protect and reduce negative impacts on the environment. Precisely for these reasons, the company Rio Tinto has previously hired the best experts from the fields of agriculture, energy and environmental protection available in Serbia in order to meet environmental standards.

Additionally, the Rio Tinto company never received any type of ban relating to a mine on the territory of the EU, that is, that is to say, the claim in the text of the article that "the company is not allowed to open a mine on EU territory" is not true. Rio Tinto does not have a project that is in the phase of mine operation on the territory of the EU, for which we have not received permission to open a mine, as claimed in the article .

The article illegally defames the greatest experts from faculties and institutes linking them to corruption just because they don't share the author's opinion or persons who are not professional enough to be speaking publicly about certain topics. Rio Tinto has never bribed any experts, universities, institutes, nor state-owned enterprises, in order to shape a positive public opinion for our study and Project. That's why the article maliciously undermines the reputation of not only Rio Tinto but also the reputation of the esteemed Institute 'Jaroslav Cerni' and the Faculty of Biology.

The claim that Rio would Tinto will use 15,000 tankers of cyanide for the Jadar plant is incorrect, nor is it clear where the author of the article obtained this information. Lacking facts, the author of the text resorts to sensationalism, fabricating information that has no basis in reality. Namely, the use of cyanide was never an option for the Jadar Project, and the company has never carried out its operations to the detriment local communities and the environment.

The author of the text also claims that Rio Tinto is responsible for the outbreak of war in some countries in which 10,000 people lost their lives. The above statements do not correspond to the truth, and are aimed at instigating fear and loathing amongst the citizens of Serbia in regard to Rio Tinto. The civil war to which the author of the text alludes is a sad consequence of numerous economic, social and political circumstances that afflicted Papua New Guinea.

The article advocates for the closure of the Rio Tinto office, ban on its work, and warned that employees will be held accountable for being complicit in endangering the environment, and that professors will have their academic degrees revoked due to false positive studies they produced, while citizens are encouraged to protest by blocking bridges - which must not be permitted, especially keeping in mind that the Republic of Serbia is a democratic state that allows for a legally regulated way for freedom to disagree, including mechanisms to investigate the legality of any company's operations in Serbia.

In the text, the author additionally emphasizes incorrect statements that employees and experts hired by Rio Tinto work to destroy the environment, and additionally, contrary to the provisions of the Law on the Protection of Personal Data, the author insists that the names of employees or scientific associates engaged by Rio Tinto be publicly revealed, even though such an act would violate their privacy and is contrary to the laws of the Republic of Serbia, with the aim of exposing them and condemning them to lynching by the uninformed public, which has neither evidence nor knowledge to disprove scientific studies based on facts, years of education, and professional experience.

Moreover, the text is wrong in that it states that lithium batteries at this moment have a replacement, and the author suggests the alternative for lithium batteries is sodium or aluminium-based batteries, which is not based on science, nor applicable in practice.

Contrary to general statements that are presented in the article, the company Rio Tinto conducts no lithium ore extraction in the Republic of Serbia, nor does it pollute the environment, but has carried out significant research into the impact of lithium mining ore on the environment and was ready to adhere to all requirements that would be set by the Government of Serbia in order to protect and reduce negative impacts on the environment. Precisely for these reasons, the company Rio Tinto has previously hired the best experts from the fields of agriculture, energy and environmental protection available in Serbia in order to meet environmental standards.

Additionally, the Rio Tinto company never received any type of ban relating to a mine on the territory of the EU, that is, that is to say, the claim in the text of the article that "the company is not allowed to open a mine on EU territory" is not true. Rio Tinto does not have a project that is in the phase of mine operation on the territory of the EU, for which we have not received permission to open a mine, as claimed in the article .

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Despite this text and similar unfounded allegations by some media, the company Rio Tinto and Rio Sava remain committed to their business policy objectives which benefits the well-being of all citizens, proclaiming healthy energy and the protection of the environment.

*Colin Mackey
Legal representative of Rio Sava Exploration*

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 47E(c)

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