

Everything is black. This is how the Fortress Movement described the ecological disaster that struck the locals who live in the vicinity of Smederevo, where the Chinese factory Hesteel, the former Smederevo Ironworks, operates. A catastrophic accident occurred in Radinac, Vranovo and the surrounding villages of Smederevo, which has not been recorded so far, namely huge amounts of black dust emitted by the Smederevo ironworks, fell on the surroundings of Smederevo and covered houses and yards.

Vladimir Milić, a representative of the locals of Radinac and a member of the Fortress Movement, points out for Danas that they have been fighting for three years due to environmental pollution.

- The main problem is outdated technology, for which they do not have filters. We didn't go anywhere, we gave them deadlines the last time in Belgrade when we had a meeting, there were representatives of HIBS, and some lawyers - Milić points out. The "Fortress" states that they contacted the Ministry of Ecology and the Republic Inspection. The management of the ironworks told them that they were aware of the situation and that they would tell the citizens what had happened. As Milić explains, the Republic Inspector went out on the field and was amazed, because he had never seen anything like this before. He recorded everything and said he would answer back. Milić says that red dust was falling before that, but they have not seen this black one yet. It started falling three days ago, at midnight, while people were sleeping. In addition to red rain, ore of steel dust, this has now hit them, and in addition to everything, every night, the unpleasant smell of boiled eggs and sulfuric acid spreads.

Due to the new situation, as he says, an ordinary worker was sent to the field from the Ironworks, who took pictures and took a sample.

The newspaper Danas also sent questions to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, to which, no answers were received.

According to the words of the resident Zoran Stojanović, in the afternoon, after the departure of the inspector, black dust could have been seen from the factory again.

- In previous years it was red dust, now it is black. People can't breathe. The inspector went to people who have a baby and the man could not enter, because he was horrified by everything that covered the beds, closets, children's toys and things. The same thing happened in our home. Grass, concrete, everything is black, he complains and adds that the locals organized protests because of this problem in the previous period, however, the police started punishing people, so the people had to "flee".

Danas' interlocutors believe that "the Chinese have protection from the state" and add: "they must function, and nobody asks us, for our children, no one does anything." Zoran

Stojanović points out that the workers are silent, and when asked what their health condition is, he says that “three people from my neighborhood died of cancer in a year” and adds that the locals suspect that civil servants are corrupt because they do not react.

- Our children are not allowed to go outside, because in broad daylight, at 35 degrees in the shade, there are no clouds - black rain falls. China, equals Vučić. They are the killers of Serbian children. He constantly emphasizes some birth rate, and he kills our children here, says Stojanović resignedly.

### **Chimney for Belgrade Waterfront**

- I gave a proposal, since there are four chimneys here, to put one on Belgrade Waterfront, one up on the city of Decani, from there to beat one towards Dorcol, on Kalemegdan to put, so when there is no wind to dissolve the black dust, Belgrade residents might rise and protest as well - says Zoran Stojanović.

Source: danas.rs