

Thick smoke from the burning landfill endangers the health of the residents of Belanovica in Serbia

Residents of the village of Belanovica say that their health is in danger, because they cannot breathe from the thick smoke, namely due to the uncontrolled delivery of garbage, a fire has been burning at a nearby landfill for several days. Until September 2017, Ljig had its own landfill, but it was closed due to the construction of the highway, ie the section of Corridor 11, because it endangered traffic safety by frequent burning. After that, the communal services started to take the garbage to the so-called Belanovac landfill.

The house of the Mirić family is located only 200 meters from the landfill. In the 1990s, Mirići ceded 16 acres to the municipality in order for the local community to get a landfill. But, they say, not for the municipal waste of the whole of Ljig. To make the problem even bigger, a fire has been burning at the landfill for several days.

“We produce organic food, but now we are endangered. That is impossible. We have cattle and domestic animals that drink polluted water that seeps in all directions, all the way to the river. We lost a lot of cattle and it is very difficult for me,” says Verica Mirić from Belanovica.

Locals say that this is an environmental catastrophe and that some are afraid of smoke from the landfill.

“Everything is brought here from Ljig. Material that must not be disposed of. From sanitary material to syringes. This is a miracle in nature. Total irresponsibility of the authorities,” says one local.

Gradimir Filipović, director of JKP “Komunalac” from Ljig, admits that this is an illegal landfill. He says that the problem appeared four days ago when the fire broke out, but that the fire and communal services are on the field to repair it.

“We started fencing and putting in the gate. She’s wild, and that’s why she has no control and no guards. I hope that what happened will make us sane. We will have guards and working hours, so as not to create a catastrophe until another solution is found.” “, says Filipović.

The president of the municipality of Ljig, Dragan Lazarević, told us in a telephone conversation that the landfill will be closed in a year. He says that the Ministry of Environmental Protection is also aware of this problem. Lazarević says that they entered the project of building a regional landfill.

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