# **Exploitation by Exposure**

**Human Rights and Toxics** 



Baskut Tuncak, CHE-Alaska call-in, March 27, 2019

# UN Human Rights Council: Mandate on Human Rights and "Toxics"



## Activities and priorities of the mandate

#### Annual reports

- 2015: right to information
- 2016: rights of the child
- 2017: good practices
- 2018: worker rights
- 2018: stronger global controls
- 2019: principles on worker's rights (Sept.)
- 2019: right to freedom from exposure (Oct.)

#### Cases of alleged violations

Communications with States& businesses

#### Country visits

Kazakhstan, South Korea,
Germany, United Kingdom,
Denmark & Greenland, Sierra
Leone, Canada (upcoming)

#### Priorities

- Childhood exposure
- Workers
- Indigenous peoples
- Business and human rights
- Awareness raising



## UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

#### **Human rights of every\* child**

- Highest attainable standard of health
- Physical (bodily) integrity
- Life, survival and maximum development
- To be heard
- (Among others ...)

#### **Duties of every\* State**

- Prevention of childhood exposure to toxics
- Child's best interests as a primary consideration in relevant laws & policies

<sup>\*</sup> Every country except the United States is a party to the CRC

## Case study: Korean Humidifier Sterilizers





## Rights, not privileges

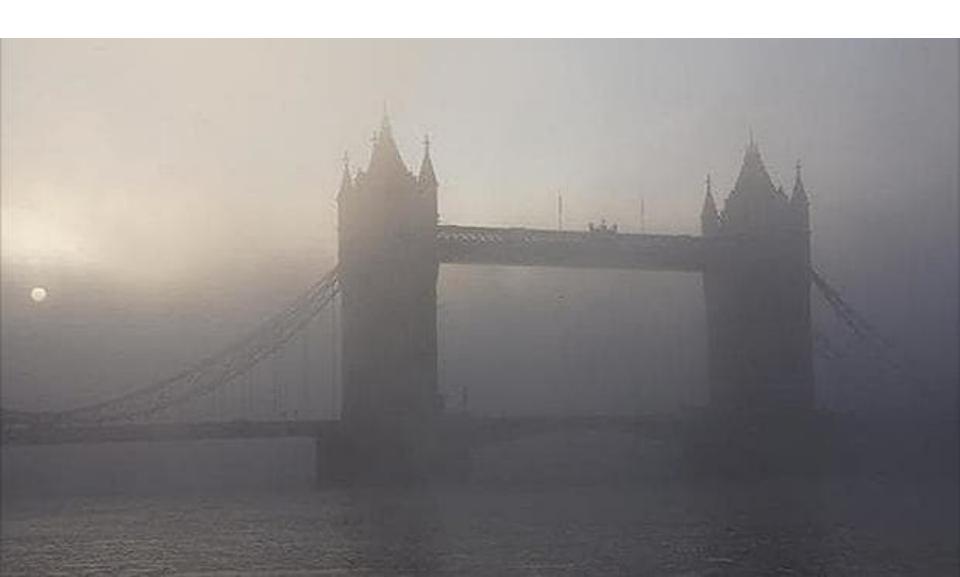
- > Life
- Health, highest attainable standard of
- Clean & safe water
- Safe & nutritious food
- Adequate housing
- Child's rights to survival, health & maximum development
- Information & participation
- Freedoms of expression, association & assembly
- Safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

- Physical (bodily) integrity
- Safe & healthy work
- Prior informed consent
- ➤ An effective remedy
- Dignity and equality, selfdetermination
- Non-discrimination: people in poverty, children, older persons, different genders, indigenous peoples, migrants, minorities and otherwise marginalized communities
- Among others ...

## What is safe, clean and healthy?



# Case Study: London Air Pollution



# Case Study: Exports of banned pesticides



#### **Contact details**

Mr. Baskut Tuncak

Email:

bt@common-rights.com

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and hazardous substances and wastes www.srtoxics.org

Twitter:

@baskut08

@srtoxics

Founder, Common Rights www.common-rights.com