

9<sup>th</sup> December 2014

To: MK, Miri Regev  
Chair of the Internal Affairs and Environment Committee

Dear Ms. Regev,

Subject: Urgent Debate about the Ecological Disaster in the Arava

In southern Israel, in the last week, one of the biggest – if not the biggest - ecological disasters that the State has ever known happened.

Since last Wednesday, about 5 million liters of crude oil have flowed into the Evrona Nature Reserve, because of a leak in one of the EAPC's pipelines. This is the third time, in three years, that this company has been responsible for a serious environmental incident in southern nature reserves.

This leak is a fatal blow to one of the most important and beautiful reserves in the south of Israel, endangering the entire ecological system of regional plants and animals, and unless action is taken to prevent the oil reaching the sea, potentially the Gulf of Eilat.

In spite of the elections and the Knesset's dispersal, we urgently request you convene an inquiry on the subject, to investigate the operations of the EAPC and the Government Offices which are involved in this matter, and to closely monitor rehabilitation efforts from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Nature and Parks Authority.

We believe that there should not be a situation where such a large disaster, with extensive consequences, is not followed up by a full government investigation. We must learn from these failings and avoid the next disaster.

Yours sincerely,

Nir Papai  
Vice President of the Society for the Protection Nature in Israel.

Copy:  
Knesset Member, Yuli Edelstein, Chairman of the Knesset  
Lea Krichely, Manager of Interior Committee and the Defense of the Environment

TRANSLATED FROM HEBREW