

# Protests and criminal complaints in the Western Balkans



## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

### 1. Dabar (hydropower)

Chinese investors: Gezhouba group

2023/ [Covert loan agreement](#)

### 2. Bistrica (hydropower)

Chinese investors: Aviation Industry Corporation (AVIC International),  
China Water Resources Beifang

2022-2023/ [Construction work started without permit](#)

2023/ [Construction work started without permit](#)

### 3. Banja Luka-Prijedor (highway construction)

Chinese investors: Shandong Hi-Speed International

2021/ [Covert construction plan for highway construction](#)

2022-2023/ [Covert contract for highway construction](#)

2023/ [Absence of transparency in land sell](#)

#### **4. Stanari (coal power plant)**

Chinese investors: Dongfang Electric Corporation

2016/ [Construction work started without Environment Impact Assessment](#)

#### **5. Banovici (coal power plant)**

Chinese investors: Dongfang Electric Corporation

2016/ [Unclear air pollution control limits for the planned power plant](#)

#### **6. Tuzla (coal power plant)**

Chinese investors: Bosnia China Exim Bank, Gezhouba Group

2016/ [Rejected lawsuit on air pollution](#)

2019/ [Investigation on Illegal state aid](#)

#### **7. Ugljevik (coal power plant)**

Chinese investors: BNBM Eastern Europe

2022/ [Construction work started without an environmental permit](#)

2023/ [Construction work without an environmental permit](#)

2024 / [Annulment of new environmental permit](#)

#### **8. Sarajevo (tram construction)**

Chinese investors: China Railway Engineering Corporation

2022/ [No access to documents on tram project](#)

#### **9. Neretva (hydropower)**

Chinese investors: Sinohydro

2022/ [Three lawsuits concerning the construction permit](#)

2022/ [Council of Europe: Concerns for negative impact on biodiversity](#)

2023/ [Public protests](#)

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## **SERBIA**

#### **1 Subotica (highway construction)**

Chinese investors: Shandong Luqiao Group

2023/ [Illegal waste disposal](#)

#### **2 Novi Sad (highway construction)**

Chinese investors: Chinese Road and Bridge Construction (CRBC)

2021/ [Risk for environmental damage and flooding after construction of a bridge](#)

2022/ [Public protests against bridge construction](#)

2022/ [General spatial planning plan adopted in a flawed procedure](#)

2022/ [Destruction/Illegal cutting of woods](#)

2023/ [Illegal wood cuttings](#)

2024/ [Risk for environmental damage after construction of a bridge](#)

### **3 Zrenjanin (construction of a tire factory)**

Chinese investors: Linglong, China Energy Engineering Group

2019/ [Public action for raising public awareness on pollution](#)

2020/ [Starting construction without a permit](#)

2020/ [Not conducting extra inspection](#)

2021/ [Illegal construction of production facilities](#)

2021/ [Pollution and environmental risks associated with the new factory](#)

2021/ [Two criminal complaints about abuse of workers rights](#)

2021/ [Public protest and blocking of Highway](#)

2021/ [Local road near Linglong blocked by activists](#)

2022/ [Requesting to annul decisions related to construction works](#)

2023/ [Protest against inhumane working conditions/environment pollution](#)

2024/ [Complaint against exploitation of Indian workers](#)

### **4 Perlez near Zrenjanin (plastic recycling factory)**

Chinese investors: Feitiansuye

2021/ [Inspection forced by the citizens on pollution](#)

2021/ [Public protests against water and air pollution](#)

### **5 Kostolac (coal power plant)**

Chinese investors: CMEC, China Exim Bank

2018/ [Formal complaint to the Energy Community Secretariat for not required EIA for expansion of Drmno mine \(filed by CEKOR and Bankwatch\)](#)

2019/ Court complaint for limited access to EIA for Kostolac B, filled by CEKOR against Ministry of Environmental protection (source CEKOR)

2020/ Complaint to the Office of Protector of citizens for resettlement for Drmno village (source CEKOR)

2021/ 2017/ Court accepted a complaint from CEKOR against EPS regarding absence of EIA on Kostolac B3 (source CEKOR)

2021/ [Complaint regarding hazardous pollution](#)

2023/ Case won against EPS Kostolac B3 (Source CEKOR)

2023/ Court accepted CEKOR's complaint against Ministry of environmental protection and EPS for non compliance with EIA on Kostolac coal power plant (source CEKOR)

2023/ [Arrest of 6 persons for financial damage of EPS in Kostolac B project](#)

### **6 Smederevo (iron and steel factory)**

Chinese investors: HBIS

2021/ Protest against pollution (Source Pokret Tvrdjava)

2021/ [Protest against pollution](#)

2022/ [Criminal complaint on pollution](#)

2022/ [Air pollution in Smederevo](#)

2023/ [Failure to comply with the right to information](#)

2023/ Criminal complaint on air pollution rejected (Source Pokret Tvrdjava)

2024/ Appeal to the higher Prosecutor due to rejected complaint (Source Pokret Tvrdjava)

### **7 Drmno mine (coal mine)**

Chinese investors: Export-Import Bank of China, CMEC

2020/ [Failure to comply with international legislation](#)

2021/ [Expanding coal mine without a permit](#)

### **8 Chachak (highway construction)**

Chinese investors: Chinese Road and Bridge Construction (CRBC)

2023/ [Protest of villagers against illegal expropriation](#)

### **9 Kragujevac (construction of a sewer system)**

Chinese investors: Chinese Road and Bridge Construction (CRBC)

2022/ [Contract issued without a public tender](#)

### **10 Bor Majdanpek (copper and gold mines)**

Chinese investors: Zijin, Dundee mining

2020/ [Serbian agency neglected environment permit for Majdanpek mine](#)

2022/ [Protest against demolition of mountain peak Starica](#)

2022/ [Protest against demolition of mountain peak Starica](#)

2022/ [Protest against demolition of mountain peak Starica](#)

2022/ [Protest against demolition of mountain peak Staric](#)

2023/ [Protest against the opening of mine on Zhagubica mountain, Majdanpek](#)

### **11 Bor (copper mines and smelting complex)**

Chinese investors: Zijin

2019/ [Criminal complaint against the director of Zijin, the Mayor of Bor and the Minister for Environment for air pollution](#)

2019-2020/ [Environmental pollution](#)

2020/ [Criminal complaint regarding pollution](#)

2020/ [Criminal complaint against pollution](#)

2021/ Serbia Zijin Copper fined for construction of mining facilities and without permissions (source RERI)

2021/ Serbia Zijin Copper fined for mining constructions and operating without a permit. (source RERI)

2021/ [Criminal complaint against pollution](#)

2022/ [Pollution of water in Mali Pek river](#)

2022/ Criminal investigation against Serbia Zijin Copper for construction work without a permit (Source RERI)

2022/ Indictment Act against Zijin for environmental pollution filled by the Basic Public Prosecution in Bor (source RERI)

2022/ Criminal complaint against Zijin for construction of wastewater treatment without construction permit (source RERI)

2022/ Serbia Zijin Copper fined for commercial offence, (source RERI)

2022/ Serbia Zijin Copper convicted for working without a permit and for starting construction work without the environmental impact assessment (source RERI)

2022/ Serbia Zijin Copper were sentenced and fined for constructions without the EIA approval. (source RERI)

2022/ Serbia Zijin Copper sentenced and fined for construction of mining facilities and carrying out of mining works without appropriate mining permit. (source RERI)

2022/ Serbia Zijin Copper were fined for construction of mining facilities and carrying out mining works without approval of the competent authority. (source RERI)

2023/ Criminal complaint to the Basic Public Prosecutor in Bor against Zijin filled by RERI for construction without construction permit for the copper smelter capacities in Bor (source RERI)

2023/ Indictment against Serbia Zijin Copper for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant of mine waters, and the demolition of the old smelter in Bor without obtaining EIA approval (source RERI)

2023/ Complaint against Serbia Zijin Copper for carrying out mining works in Krivelj without mining approval, EIA approval, water approval and waste management without authorisation. (source RERI)

2023/ Commercial offence against Serbia Zijin Mining for suspicion that the company was disposing and managing mining waste without a valid permit. (source RERI)

2023/ [Workers protests against bad working conditions and low salaries](#)

2023/ [Postponed court hearing on environmental pollution complaint](#)

2023/ [Court decision on EIA \(Zijin has to submit an environmental impact assessment\)](#)

2023/ [Administrative court adopted a complaint against Zijin \(Krivelj\)](#)

2024/ [Protest in village Krivelj against work in mine](#)

2024/ Commercial offence application against Serbia Zijin Copper for the construction of the mining facilities without appropriate mining permit. (source RERI).

2024/ Commercial offence application against Serbia Zijin Copper for the construction of mining facilities and carrying out mining works on the waste disposal tailings without approval of the EIA Study.(source RERI)

2024/ Indictment Act against Serbia Zijin Copper due to reasonable doubt that the company committed criminal offence for the construction of mining facilities without EIA approval, as well as without the mining approval.(source RERI)

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## **MONTENEGRO**

### **1 Pljevlja (thermal power plant)**

Chinese investors: Dongfang Electric Corporation

2019/ [\(Complaint to Constitutional Court regarding coal power plant Pljevlja\)](#)

### **2 Bar-Boljare (highway construction)**

Chinese investors: China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC)

2014/ No access to documentation (word document)

2015/ No access to documentation (word document)

2015-2018/ [Illegal landfills and environmental damage](#)

2017/ No access to documentation related to the highway construction (word document)

2017/ [Covert implementation of infrastructure project](#)

2018/ No access to documentation related to the tendering procedure. (word document)

2018/ [Complaint against environmental degradation of Tara river](#)

2018/ [Complaint about damages land](#)

2019/ Lawsuit regarding Inconvenience and damage related to the construction works (word document)

2019/ [Abuse of power leading to environmental degradation of the Tara river](#)

2019/ No access to documentation related to the construction program (word document)

2020/ No access to documentation related to the permits to use explosive devices in the construction (word document)

2020/ Lawsuit regarding breaches of the environmental legislation and non-compliance with environmental assessment (word document)

2021/ [Lawsuit on environmental damage of Tara river](#)

2021/ [Lawsuit over environmental damage to the Tara river and building without proper documentation](#)

2021/ No access to documentation related to the construction activities on the highway (word document)

2021/ Poor maintenance of the access road (word document)

2021/ Damages to private real estate property due to a fire on the construction site (word document)

2023/ Damages due to the works on the highway and interrupted access to property real estate (word document)

### **3 Mozura (construction of a wind park)**

Chinese investors: Shanghai Electric Power Engineering Montenegro LLC

2022/ [Lawsuit over the legality of VAT exemption, evasion of tax and other duties, and criminal charges for abuse of official position](#)

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## **ALBANIA**

### **1 Munellë Mine-Fushë-Arrëz (copper enrichment plant)**

Chinese investors: Jiangxi Copper Corporation

2015/ [Breaking a safety rule and procedures in the Munellë mine which caused the death of one worker](#)

2015/ [Violation of workers rights](#) (link not working) (link corrected)

2017/ Damage of property (word document)

## **2 Patos-Marinza oil fields**

Chinese investors: China's Bankers Petroleum

2017/ Complaint regarding [pollution of agricultural lands and loss of production](#)

2018/ Complaint regarding damage of private property due to construction activities (word document)

2019/ Fine for [tax evasion](#)

2019/ State institution decision [of dominant position on oil market](#)

2019/ State institution decision of [abuse of market power](#)

2021/ Public protest about [pollution from oil pits](#)

2022/ Public complaint regarding [contamination and hazardous wastes](#).

2022/ Complaint to state institution regarding [discrimination of a worker](#)

2023/ Complaint about [violation of employment rights](#)

2023/ Court complaint regarding [health damage due to air and water pollution from the company](#)

## **3 Zharrës village in Mallakastër**

Chinese investors: Bankers Petroleum Ltd

2017/ Complaint regarding [property damage in the village due to ground shake](#)

2021/ Complaint regarding [pollution and raise of health problems of local residents](#)

## **4 Ballsh**

Chinese investors: Bankers Petroleum Ltd

2020/ Sentence against [dominant position in the oil market](#).

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## **NORTH MACEDONIA**

### **1 Kicevo-Ohrid highway**

Chinese investors: Sinohydro

2017/ [Workers protest because of non paid salaries](#)

2018/ Damages to private property due to improper conditions on the construction site (word document)

2022/ Work related accident (non material damage) (word document)

2021/ Occupational health and safety standards (word document)

2023/ [Lawsuit from local residents due to endangering the local river](#)

2023/ [Government considering terminating the contract due to wrong](#)

[construction plans](#)

## **2 Miladinovci-Stip (highway construction)**

Chinese investors: Sinohydro

2019/ [Lawsuits regarding corruption of government officials](#)

**Footnote:** In some cases it has not been possible to provide a digital link of the complaint/protest. In those cases the sources are one of the three Serbian civil society organisations: [Pokret Tvrđjava](#), [CEKOR](#) or the Serbian [Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute \(RERI\)](#)



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For press enquiries, contact [press@justfinanceinternational.org](mailto:press@justfinanceinternational.org)