Addition to shadow report on
Right to life and Health

On January 9th, 2014, about 300,000 West Virginians were exposed to toxic chemicals, including MCHM (4-methylcyclohexane methanol) and a mix of polyglycol ethers caused by Freedom Industries' chemical spill.¹ On January 29, a West Virginia state official told legislatures that he can guarantee that some residents are breathing in a cancer causing substances from the spill that occurred earlier this month. The scientists do not know either the short term or long term affects of these chemicals because little or no research.

On February 2, 2014 another disaster occurred near Eden, North Carolina. At Duke Energy's retired Dan River Power Station approximately 50,000 to 82,000 tons of toxic coal ash and up to 27 million gallons of wastewater have run into the Dan River. This spill is the 3rd largest in U.S. history.² It took Duke Energy 26 hours to report the accident to the public. Coal ash is a serious threat to ecosystems and drinking water because it contains heavy metals and other toxic chemicals. Some of the caustic and harmful chemicals found in coal ash are lead and arsenic.

Men, women and children, including elders and disabled persons are/were not afforded protection and a safe environment to live and grow in, in both disasters areas described above. The governmental agencies, including the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), have not protected communities. The U.S. failed its citizens by not providing: thorough and regular inspections, adequate oversight, sufficient laws, lack of enforcement, and sufficient penalties for endangering and harming communities.

The communities living in and around the 'spill' areas had their rights violated under the ICCPR, Article 6,7,9,17,23, 24,and 25.

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¹ CNN Justice, dated February 4, 2014
² WaterKeeper Alliance, dated February 4, 2014