

## Damage to local environment

Each year for at least 40 years, 1,000 oil tankers would collect oil from the terminal at Ceyhan on the Turkish Mediterranean coast. Any accident would ruin the coast and important fishing grounds.

The oil pipeline follows a highly active earthquake fault line in northern Turkey, along which there have been several devastating quakes in recent decades - creating a major risk of pipeline spills. The pipeline passes through the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the most important sources of water in the Middle East.

The pipeline also threatens to pollute mineral water produced in the Borjomi district of Georgia, the country's largest foreign currency earner. BP has pressured the President of Georgia to suppress reservations over the Borjomi route and rapidly approve the Environmental Impact Assessment in order to comply with BP's commercial timetable.

## Adding to climate change

At a time when action to prevent climate change is becoming increasingly urgent, BP, the UK government, and all the environmental impact assessments have conveniently ignored the huge contribution the oil would make to climate change. Once in full production, the pipeline would transport 365 million barrels of oil each year. When burnt this would produce 160 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) each year. This would be:

- as much as the pollution from every power station in the UK (163 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>)
- far more than the pollution from every car, truck, bus and train in the UK (125 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>)
- nearly twice as much as heating every house in the UK (89 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>).

## What you can do

### Find out more

Visit our website [www.baku.org.uk](http://www.baku.org.uk)

Order our 200-page book on the pipeline, 'Some Common Concerns' - £11.50 (inc P&P) (cheques payable to Ilisu Dam Campaign).

Write to us or email us if you want to receive regular campaign updates containing information, events and campaign ideas.

### Write to Clare Short

(Secretary of State for International Development). She is responsible for UK payments to international public banks, and has argued that such public money should be used to alleviate poverty. Urge her to block public funding for the pipeline project. You can sign the attached postcard and send it to us (we'll collect and deliver them). Or write your own letter. There is a sample letter on our website. And write to your MP, asking them to pass your views on to Claire Short. We have a right to demand that our money is not used for this project.

### Organise a public meeting or event

We'll be happy to provide speakers, information materials, and help with publicity.

Ask your trade union or student union to pass a motion against the pipeline. We can supply suggested text.

### Support the campaign

Please send a donation (cheques payable to ILISU DAM CAMPAIGN), or even better, arrange a standing order (Ilisu Dam Campaign, A/C no 65057315, sort code 08-92-99, the Co-operative Bank, Kings Valley, Yew Street, Stockport SK4 2JU). Your support will help us to reach more people and to keep up the pressure. Thank you!

## BAKU CEYHAN CAMPAIGN

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[www.baku.org.uk](http://www.baku.org.uk)

# NO PUBLIC MONEY FOR BP'S BAKU CEYHAN PIPELINE



Stop taxpayers' money being spent on a human rights and environmental disaster in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.

*A project of the Ilisu Dam Campaign*

## Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you to express my serious concerns about the impacts the proposed Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline will have on regional tensions, poverty, human rights and the environment. I understand that the project is to be considered by the IFC, EBRD and the ECGD shortly and would urge you to ensure that no funding is provided from public monies for this project.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement for the BTC pipeline states that the project "...is not intended or required to operate in the service of the public benefit or interest in its Territory". I fail to see how the UK government could justify using public money to support a project that explicitly denies any public interest requirement.

Signature

Name :

Address :

Postcode :

Email address :

**Rt Hon Clare Short MP  
Secretary of State for  
International  
Development  
Campaign  
c/o Baku Ceyhan  
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OX2 7DL**

## BP is leading a consortium of companies asking for UK government funding to build an oil pipeline from its Caspian Sea fields to the Mediterranean.

The 1,750 km pipeline through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey would comprise one of the largest and riskiest oil development projects ever constructed. BP wants the people in the host countries – together with taxpayers in countries like the UK – to shoulder that risk.

The companies in the consortium now need to raise 70% of the US\$ 3.3 billion cost of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline. BP Chief Executive John Browne said that the pipeline project would not be possible unless "*free public money*" was made available by governments. This "*free public money*" is our money. It would come through UK government Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) and in loans from international development banks funded by the taxpayer – the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

## Anti-democratic agreements

The agreements on which the project is based actively undermine the authority of the host governments. The agreements over-ride all conflicting domestic laws, both now and for the next 40-60 years, except for the countries' Constitutions. They also force states to compensate the consortium if they introduce any new environmental, health or safety laws that reduce the pipeline's profitability.

The Turkish government is required to pay every dollar that construction of the Turkish stretch of pipeline goes over budget. Such projects almost always do go over budget – BP's pipeline in Alaska cost ten times more than planned – and the people of Turkey, rather than benefiting financially from the project as BP claims, could be left with a bill for billions of dollars.



## Threatening human rights

The pipeline would pass through or close to seven conflict zones. All the countries have poor human rights records. The pipeline would create a 1,000 mile militarised corridor, policed by armed forces.

In Turkey, imprisonment of political opponents and death and torture in custody are commonplace. The pipeline passes through regions where Kurdish villages were forcibly evicted by the Turkish army. It would be used as an excuse to prevent Kurds from returning to their homes.

Like war in Iraq, the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline is designed mainly to secure the west's supply of oil, and to assert US foreign policy on the region.

## Little benefit for local people

The pipeline would take away many people's land (and hence livelihood) – often with no compensation – and disrupt their lives. BP specifically says "*the project is not intended or required to operate in the service of the public benefit*".

There has been no real community consultation. Local people were only consulted after 10 years of planning of the pipeline project, and often not even in local languages. They were presented with the proposal as if it were a certainty. It would provide few lasting jobs and there are already widespread claims that villagers have had to pay huge bribes in an attempt to secure employment on the pipeline.