Anagold Mining and Çöpler Mine Site
Common Misinformation:

1.) **Those who lost their lives could not be reached.**

The bodies of all our colleagues who lost their lives have been recovered. Our first colleague was reached on the 53rd day, April 5, 2024; the body of our last colleague was reached on the 116th day, June 7, 2024.

In any case, the extent of our grief is undeniably immense.

2.) **The company's Mining License has been revoked; Anagold will not be able to resume mining activities.**

While Anagold's 2021 EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) positive decision was revoked by the first-degree administrative court, this revocation does not legally constitute a direct obstacle for new applications. Previous EIA reports remain valid. Production activities have been halted by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and MAPEG (General Directorate of Mining Affairs). The Mining License has not been revoked. Furthermore, associating the EIA report with the incident is not a correct technical approach, and the first-degree court's decision has been appealed.

Administrative and operational efforts are meticulously ongoing to obtain the necessary permits for the resumption of activities in accordance with the highest environmental standards.

3.) **The company's taxes have been waived, and the company has failed to fulfill its tax obligations.**

Since 2011, Anagold has made $505 million in state payments, equivalent to 10.2 tons of gold. These payments consist of Corporate Tax, Social Security and Income Tax, State Royalty, Customs Duty, fees, and permit charges.

It is believed that the aforementioned false statement relates to Law No. 7440, known to the public as the Restructuring Law, dated March 12, 2023. Indeed, within the framework of the rights granted to all commercial enterprises under the said law, Anagold, like all other firms, restructured its tax debt by benefiting from this legal right.

Additionally, in 2023, a total of $10.3 million in additional earthquake tax was paid for the 2022 taxation period. This amount is higher than the tax debt regulated under the restructuring.

4.) **No one has been arrested; the company is being favored because it is a US company and/or because of its local partner.**

There are currently five arrestees within the scope of the file. Of these arrestees, four of whom are Anagold employees, one has been dismissed from the Company; the investigation process of three company employees, two of whom are foreign nationals, continues with detention.

5.) The company produced beyond its capacity, put production pressure on employees, and the heap leaching slipped for this reason.

All our work and production processes have been carried out in accordance with all legal legislation, including the EIA, and subject to continuous inspections. It is continuously inspected by the relevant ministries and institutions. We have undergone 135 inspections to date.

When setting production targets, a meticulous evaluation process based on realistic and achievable goals is carried out. In this process, optimized production targets are set for each year, taking into account the technical data, equipment status, and environmental factors in the mine site. Furthermore, these targets are periodically reviewed and revised, if necessary, in light of changing conditions and emerging new data throughout the year. Contrary to claims, production targets have been reduced in recent years, considering operational realities and sustainability goals.

As we have also informed the judiciary and the Grand National Assembly Research Commission; the 58-million-ton capacity Phase 4 stacking was completed with 55.4 million tons in August 2020. There is an approved capacity of 64 million tons with the Phase 4B project. Moreover, this capacity is below the final capacities of 73 million tons and 85.3 million tons defined in the 2014 and 2021 EIA reports, respectively. As of January 2024, the total amount of stacked ore is 60.1 million tons.

6.) This incident was expected; employees warned the company 5 years/3 months/3 days in advance; they saw the cracks.

This was not an expected incident.

Leach areas are designed with significant engineering studies, and at every stage, it is continuously inspected whether it complies with the project. The area where the incident occurred also complies with the project. Heap leaching is designed according to different climatic conditions in various areas, from valleys to plains and mountainous areas, as well as flat areas, depending on the topography.

There has been no deviation from the project. This situation can be proven with the operational data that has occurred. Since the operation is within the limits specified in the project, there has been no overreach. The project, prepared by one of the world's leading design engineering firms, was inspected 365 days a year from many angles: by the company, the accredited firm assigned by the public, the design firm, and also as a consulting firm.

In the heap leach area, not only cracks but all kinds of movements were monitored with very technical and various technological methods and equipment.

Moreover, everyone in the mine site, whether on duty or not, including visitors, has the authority to stop the operation in case of an abnormal observation.

For example, in the past, the operation at the Çöpler Mine site was stopped even when a subcontractor employee saw an electrical cable that was not in the drawing. In addition, all operation stop decisions are recorded.

On February 13, 2024, as soon as cracks were detected, all security procedures were activated, and the area was evacuated and closed. The landslide occurred during the process of understanding the situation and taking precautions and measures.

There is no notification of cracks being seen on February 12 or before. It is completely false and unfounded that there are statements within the scope of the prosecutor's investigation that cracks were seen that could cause a landslide.

The assessment of whether the incident could have been prevented is a matter that can be understood when the technical explanation of how this landslide occurred is provided. The root causes are still being comprehensively investigated. This research is very time-consuming because it is conducted by examining the finest details of years of activities. However, the preventability of this landslide can only be discussed when the root causes are clearly established. In addition, radar and satellite data received over time are being examined in detail. The aim here is to reveal the situation regarding whether the data from the radar and satellite have been evaluated correctly, and therefore, rather than the preventability of the incident, the situation regarding reducing its effects.

7.) The height of the heap leach, which is a maximum of 150 meters worldwide, has reached 257 meters.

Unfortunately, the claim that the heap leach height is 257 meters was first put forward by Karadeniz Technical University immediately after the landslide. This information is not correct; this statement was later corrected by the University. Anagold's highest point of the heap leach is 102 meters in design parameters and was actually built as 95 meters.

So far, the maximum height between the geomembrane laid on the heap and the top elevation of the leach heap has been measured as 95 meters.

This error was corrected in the final report published by the Karadeniz Technical University Landslide Application and Research Center, and the height information was updated. However, the misunderstood statement has taken root in the public eye.

8.) They find the gold and take it abroad.

Gold produced in Türkiye is not taken abroad. According to Turkish laws, the right to purchase gold lies with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, and all produced gold is first sent to the Istanbul Gold Refinery, where it is processed. The pure gold obtained as a result of this process is then sent to the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye by the refinery.

9.) Due to excessive solution injection between the slopes, sludge/pooling has occurred. Insufficient cement has been used.

The cement process is a highly technical and analysis-based matter. Its reduction or increase is determined according to the incoming analysis results. The reduction or increase process is carried out in accordance with the instructions of the analyzing company. Therefore, the claim that the company used insufficient cement is unfounded and does not reflect the truth.

The solution input-output amount is also tracked, and there is no data outside of what should be regarding this input-output. Anagold Madencilik fully complies with the water balance and solution management criteria determined by the design company in the Çöpler Gold Mine heap leach operations. The actual water balance and solution flow values were monitored and managed in accordance with the specified design criteria. The quantities of raw water added to the system, the quantities of solution fed to and returned from the heap, the quantities of water discharged as system surplus, and the quantities of solution in the pools were regularly monitored and kept under control.

10.) Europe does not conduct mineral exploration with cyanide, but they use cyanide in Türkiye.

Gold is not mined with cyanide anywhere in the world. This is an incorrect statement spread by a team that has no knowledge on this subject. Cyanide is used only in a closed system at the end of production, and only 4 percent of cyanide use in Türkiye is used by mining companies.

The use of solution, which includes diluted cyanide, exists, in the simplest terms, only in the ore enrichment stage, which is defined as separating the ore from the soil.

Values are continuously recorded by flow meters at every stage of the water cycle.

Under the heap leach, there must be special impermeable layers from the ground up. Moreover, it is contrary to the nature of the work for impermeability not to be ensured. Because if the ground is not made impermeable, the gold that is dissolved and taken into the water will escape underground.

The solution used within the heap leach area circulates within the system in a closed circuit. There is no discharge to the outside.

The amount of cyanide gas measured in the environment where gold is separated with cyanide (in the heap or in steel tanks) is approximately less than 1 mg/m^3. The safe dose threshold allowed in the world is 11 mg/m^3 in closed environments and 50 mg/m^3 in open environments, and it is applied far below this threshold in our mine site.

Türkiye imports approximately 600,000 tons of cyanide annually. According to official data, only 4 percent of the cyanide used in Türkiye is used in mining, and the rest is widely used in other industries, especially in the production of synthetic yarn and fabric, nylon, plastic, jewelry, metal plating, metal processing, and pharmaceuticals.

In the Çöpler Mine, the use is only about 0.8 per thousand of Türkiye's total consumption.
As required by the universal rule of toxicology science, every chemical can be used safely within safe dose limits without harming the environment and human health. Plants such as cherry, almond, apricot, peach, and plum kernels, beans, potatoes, radishes, cabbage, turnips, broccoli, and corn contain cyanide compounds.

In gold mining, a dilute solution containing usually 0.05 percent (Çöpler heap leach operation 0.03-0.04 percent) cyanide is used.

Approximately 78 percent of the world's gold mines use cyanide for separation. This method has been used for about 140 years in Europe, America, Australia, and almost everywhere in the world. Cyanide use in gold mining is the most common method. The cyanide usage rates in mines with an annual production of over 100,000 oz are shown below.

	Australia	USA	Canada	Russia	China	Europe	EU	Japan	TOTAL
Total Gold Mines	56	26	32	34	58	18	15	1	240
Total 5-year gold production (koz)	42,297	26,378	24,887	22,343	9,275	6,836	6,583	781	139,380
% of 5-year production done with cyanide	88%	98%	93%	91%	30%	65%	64%	0%	77.96%

SSR's mining activities are carried out according to national and international standards. There is no difference from country to country. The same international standards were applied at the Anagold Çöpler Mine.

11.) There was leakage from the sliding leach into the Fırat (Euphrates) River and groundwater. Cyanide mixed with the soil.

The mine site is 2.3 kilometers away from the Fırat (Euphrates) River at the closest point. The landslide occurred within the mine site.

All samples and analyses taken from the heap leach area where the slide occurred show that there are no chemicals harmful to the environment and public health in the area.

These samples are regularly taken and analyzed from many different parts of the area by both the company and the relevant state institutions.

In the examination of the relevant ministries; surface and groundwater samples were taken daily and weekly until April 5, 2024. From April 5, 2024, sample collection continues twice a week Samples have been taken daily since the incident within Anagold's internal monitoring, and sample points and sampling frequencies vary according to flow and precipitation conditions.

Rapid action was taken in coordination with the relevant state units in order to prevent even the slightest pollution in the Fırat River after the landslide, and multiple dams were built in the Sabırlı Valley. The surface waters were prevented from reaching the Fırat River.

As detailed information; immediately after the incident, the culvert in the Sabırlı Valley, coordinated by the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), was closed and the water outflow to the Karasu River was prevented.

Two dam weirs, one impermeable and one permeable, were built on the Sabırlı Stream with the guidance of DSİ.

Since the incident, the return solution from the heap has been directed first to the storm pool and then to the waste storage facility.

Anagold employees, together with their families, continue their daily lives with the people of İliç on the site and in the lodge, and continue to share the water resources and environment in the same region.

12.) When the mine stopped, 3,000 people were laid off.

Despite the temporary suspension of production, Anagold did not carry out any mass layoffs from February 13, 2024, to August 19, 2024. On August 19, 2024, the company was forced to lay off as few employees as possible by offering a financial support package in addition to their legal rights, in order to minimize the grievances of our employees.

All employees were kept on the payroll for six months. In August, 134 out of 603 people were laid off, and the unpaid leave process of 53 employees continues. In the layoffs, compensation and support packages were offered, where all legal rights were protected. As of October 2024, Anagold has 416 employees.

Anagold does not plan a new layoff at this stage.

If the site works at full capacity, employment is around 3,000 people.

13.) The American company belongs to one of the families alleged to rule the world.

SSR does not have a dominant shareholder.

SSR Mining, an American company based in Denver, Colorado, operating in the precious metal mining sector, is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange and the Canadian Toronto Stock Exchange with the symbol SSRM and is 100 percent publicly traded. The largest shareholder is its own personnel with 0.91 percent (shares or bonuses held by the personnel).

14.) Fish deaths were detected after the incident.

It was determined that the fish deaths occurred in a localized area during the investigations.

Both independent analyses and toxicological examinations conducted by the technical personnel of the Elazığ Fisheries Research Institute and the İliç District Agriculture and Forestry Directorate did not associate the fish deaths with the heap slide.

It has been assessed that the fish deaths may have been caused by oxygen deficiency due to the decrease in water and seasonal transition periods and/or fish diseases of the fish remaining in a small pond formed after the water moving towards the land as a result of the rise in the river water level formed an arm and then the waters receded again.

No other fish deaths were found during the controls carried out along the river.

15.) The Çöpler mine has destroyed agriculture in the region.

According to the report of the Erzincan Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry dated July 2024, there are 20,639 enterprises in the province. These are, respectively; Farmer Registration System Enterprise 7,817, Cattle Livestock Enterprise 6,708, Small Cattle Livestock Enterprise 2,390, Food Enterprise 2,465 and Beekeeping Enterprise 1,259.
In greenhouse cultivation alone; while there were 90.1 decares of greenhouse area in the province in 2016, it reached 153 decares in 2018 and 570 decares in 2024.

All detailed data on agriculture and livestock are available on the website of the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry.

Anagold Madencilik launched the Social Development Fund (SKF) in 2018 to increase economic diversity and support sustainable development in the region. This fund supports projects that enable the local people to continue their own independent economic activities, not limited to the mining sector alone.

Within the scope of the SKF, supporting local and traditional livelihoods such as beekeeping, livestock, agriculture and small business development contributes to the long-term economic independence of the local people.
Contrary to the claims that the local people are forced to work in non-mining sectors, our goal as Anagold Madencilik is to encourage people to return to their traditional livelihoods and to support growth in these areas.

In particular, with the support provided to projects in the fields of agriculture and livestock, it has been made possible for the local people to exist independently in these sectors.

In addition, small businesses supported by the SKF strengthen the region's economic infrastructure, create new job opportunities and ensure economic diversity.

Our company strives to ensure that the regional economy has a versatile and sustainable structure, not only around the mining sector, with the importance it attaches to non-mining projects and the support it provides.

To date, support has been provided to 74 beekeeping, 69 livestock, 17 agriculture, 28 small business development and 6 social development projects.

Approximately 15,000 trees and saplings of various species have been planted within the mine site; approximately 3,600 saplings were distributed during Environment Week in 2022 and 2023 alone

16.) They built a new village and gave hush money to the people.

We believe that contributing to the social, cultural and living areas of the environment where we operate and live with our employees is the necessary social approach.

The location of the New Çöpler Village was determined by the village people and the council of elders. The construction of 33 two-story houses, a mosque and imam's house, a school and its lodge, a commercial building, and a headman's building was completed in 2011. The New Çöpler Village is the first resettlement project implemented by a private company in the mining sector in Türkiye.

Anagold's social responsibility projects in Erzincan province demonstrate its long-term commitment to the sustainable development of the region. The company's investments in this region are extensive projects in the fields of health, education, infrastructure and social support, aimed at improving the welfare of the local people.

Contrary to the allegation, the company does not aim to gain social approval or legitimacy with these projects; the projects are carried out with a completely transparent and auditable approach, focusing on the needs of the local people. It is not possible for these projects for the development of the region to serve a purpose such as organizing uncontrolledness.

The claims to the contrary are untrue and put the people of the region under suspicion as much as the company.

17.) Erzincan is a 1st degree earthquake zone, the mine is built on an active fault.

Five-stage work is required to understand the earthquake generation potential of active faults: Detailed Mapping of the Fault, Trenching and Determination of Old Earthquake Traces, Determining the Age of Earthquake Movements, Determining the Recurrence Interval, Seismic Hazard Analysis of the Fault

The concept of a competent fault is based on the frequency and magnitude of earthquakes it can produce, rather than whether a fault is active or not. The time limits of a competent fault vary depending on the tectonic activity of the region.

It would be wrong to comment on this issue as there is no published document on newly defined faults such as the Sabırlı Fault or an assessment of the fault's activity. However, when the specified studies are carried out, the seismic potential of the fault in question will be revealed. In addition, the mentioned fault line also passes through the body structure of the Bağıştaş Dam.

The faults located in the Çöpler Complex Mine site enable the ores to reach the surface, and it is natural for there to be faults in the site where the enterprise is located.

The foundation soil geological and geotechnical investigations of the mine operating facilities were designed and constructed in accordance with these designs.

In addition; currently, an independent academic study supported by our company is also currently being conducted by METU Geological Engineering. The result of the study will also be shared with the public.