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PUSSY RIOT - BLACK SNOW:

1. MUSIC VIDEO
2. SERIES of ACTIONS
3. OPEN LETTER TO PUTIN AND HIS CRONIES

1.
PUSSY RIOT - ЧЁРНЫЕ СНЕЖКИ feat. MARA 37 / BLACK SNOW / 黑雪 / ブラックスノー



Watch the video HERE

(+ free to share hi-res photos and video clips at the end of document)

BLACK SNOW music video was shot on 25 March 2019, unknown location near Moscow.

DIRECTED BY NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA
D.O.P. - GEORGY VISNU
2nd Unit D.O.P - SNEZHANNA DUBROVSKAYA
Technical Director - VAGIF GUSEINOV
Special thanks - ANTON MOTOVITSA, NIKITA SVIRS, ANNA PODGORNOVA
Edited by NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA & DENIS MISHLE

MUSIC
Production - CHAIKA
Songwriting - NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA, CHAIKA, MARA 37

2.
ACTIONS

As a part of BLACK SNOW campaign Pussy Riot made a series of guerilla actions in Russian forests (January-March 2019). Here are the photos of some of those actions.



"Red water flows in the Russian rivers"



"Eat the rich"



All banners were re-used later as the art objects.

3.
OPEN LETTER TO PUTIN AND HIS CRONIES

We're printing this one and sending it to the Kremlin.

To Putin and his cronies,
including Potanin, Prokhorov, Deripaska, and Abramovich



Norilsk, Daldykan river, 2016

Hey hey, it's Nadya Tolokonnikova.

You might remember me for that 2-year prison sentence you slapped me with back in 2012, when performed a 40-second act of protest and beseeched the Virgin Mary to chase you away. I was 22 at the time, and my young daughter Gera had just turned four. But right now I'm not interested in talking about church or prison – I want to talk about a different issue. I want to talk about rivers of blood, black snow, toxic waste, and acid rain.

You fill the Russian North with unprocessed garbage (see Shiyes and 10 million tons of Moscow waste). You criminalize ecological activists (see 5 new cases against Alexandra Koroleva, the co-chair of Ecodefense!). Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Kuzbass are forced to seek environmental asylum in Canada to escape intolerable living conditions, high rates of oncological illness, black snow, poisoned water, and the indifference of local government officials. People in Kuzbass ask: "How can you be a patriot of something or someone who won't even notice how we live? How we breathe? What we drink?" Listen, this is just completely unacceptable.



Norilsk

I was born and raised in the polar, industrial city of Norilsk – a city built on bones. The city was built by prisoners from the Norillag (or Norilsk Corrective Labor Camp). Over 500,000 people came through Norillag from 1935 to 1953 – every third prisoner perished while building the city. In Norilsk, winter lasts nine months, with temperatures as low as -45 degrees Celsius, and winds that go 20-25 meter per second. Snow starts to fall in September, only to be followed by nine months of winter, black blizzards, and permafrost. If that wasn't enough to undermine the health of the locals – our icy hell is also deadly and toxic. Watch this compilation, "Norilsk: you won't see this on TV," on YouTube.

As a kid I used to play in slag. Yes, slag – so what? We had giant mountains of slag in our backyards and little bunches of grass would grow through them. As a six-year-old, I would rake up the slag and bring buckets of water from my house so these little bunches of grass could grow better.

The trees around Norislk are dead. Their black branches pierce the sky – just like in those post-apocalyptic movies. Their leaves have necrosis from acid rain.



Norilsk

My hometown produces this kind of headlines: "A river in Norilsk has become 'bloody' again," "Bloody rain over Norilsk." Some people on the internet suggested that this dust or emissions from Nornickel, or maybe the radiation levels are too high (here are some posts on Instagram about the red rain: 1, 2).

Here's a short list of what Nornickel dumps in the rivers: iron, nickel, petroleum products, lead, copper, chlorides, nitrates, calcium, magnesium, phosphates, zinc. Here's a list of what goes in the air: sulfur dioxide, nitrates, sulfates, phenols, industrial dust, heavy metals. 2 million tons (!!!) of sulfur dioxide is emitted into the air by Nornickel every year. This is more than the sulfur dioxide emission of all of Western European countries. That's 11 tons of sulfur dioxide per year for each resident of Norilsk.



Norilsk, Daldykan river, 2016

Sometimes you can't see neighboring houses in Norilsk because of the gas. I've never seen an aurora in Norilsk – the sky is smog.

When you go outside in Norilsk, you have to wrap yourself up in scarf – not just because of the blizzards, but because the sulfur dioxide burns your eyes, nose, mouth, and lungs. When combined with water, sulfur dioxide turns into sulfuric acid. If taiga larches get necrosis from the acid, what do you think is happening to your precious little aveoli? Nobody the hell knows.

In the morning, people make their way to school. A classmate of mine – she steps outside and starts coughing. She says that the air burns her lungs. Fuck. That means that the gas emissions in Norilsk are dozens, or maybe even hundreds of time higher than the maximum permissible concentration. My classmate, like many others in Norilsk, has had asthma since childhood – people with asthma can barely handle the gas emissions. Doctors say that people living in Norilsk are twice as likely as other people to develop cancer. On average, the life expectancy in Norilsk is 10 years shorter than in other parts of Russia.

The Nornickel headquarters aren't based in Norilsk (big surprise!) – they're based in Moscow, in the Mercury City Tower. The company owners include: Vladimir Potanin (30.4%), Deripaska (27.8%), Roman Abramovich (4.2%), and Alexander Abramov.

Vladimir Potanin's fortune – $19 billion – was built by the labor of people forced to live in one of the dirtiest cities in the world. By some accounts, the amount of toxic waste in Norilsk exceeds even Chernobyl.

"The director of Nornickel, Vladimir Olegovich Potanin, was hospitalized in intensive care and is in serious condition. According to the doctors, his faced cracked, his butt stuck together, and his lips are turned up. The doctors are fighting for his life," joke the miners.

Rosprirodnadzor allowed Nornickel to *control its own* atmospheric emissions. LOL. This isn't corruption, it's a "unique public-private partnership," you'll say. In response to citizens' complaints, the corporation will say: If you don't like it, then don't work. Nornickel doesn't give a shit. No one has greater protection than Nornickel. For example, when the Daldykan river in Norilsk turned blood red, Nornickel only paid a modest sum of 30,000 rubles.

соответствии с действующей методикой составил около 2,7 миллиардов рублей. Сброс загрязняющих веществ приводит к существенному ухудшению качества окружающей среды, так как (в соответствии с результатами проверки) значительно превышались как ПДК, так и установленные временно согласованные сбросы (ВСС). По ряду веществ, превышение нормативов достигало 100-450 раз, а максимальное зафиксированное превышение ПДК составляло 2400 раз (по меди). Таким образом, в действиях неустановленных должностных лиц ЗФ ОАО «ГМК «Норильский никель» усматриваются признаки состава уголовного правонарушения, предусмотренного ст. 246 УК РФ (нарушение правил охраны окружающей среды при проектировании, размещении, строительстве, вводе в эксплуатацию и эксплуатации промышленных, сельскохозяйственных, научных и иных объектов).

Принимая во внимание изложенное и руководствуясь п.2 ст. 37 (ст. 150, 151) УПК РФ

П О С Т А Н О В И Л:

Направить материалы проверки нарушения требований водоохранного законодательства ЗФ ОАО «ГМК «Норильский никель» по подследственности руководителю СО по г. Норильску СУ СК при прокуратуре Российской Федерации по Красноярскому краю для решения вопроса об уголовном преследовании по фактам выявленных нарушений уголовного законодательства.

Прокурор г.Норильска

советник юстиции В.Н. Козловский

Despite this demand from Norilsk's prosecutor, a criminal case for polluting the environment was never opened. In this letter, a local prosecutor V.Kozlovsky, basically admits that NorNikel exceeds the acceptable pollution norms by 100-450 times, and even by 2400 times when it concerns copper pollution.

Norilsk was built by prisoners and my family works here now. But the city is controlled by a handful of super rich cismen with dubious reputations and poor ethical and aesthetic judgment (as we learned through the story of Nastya Rybka).

Regarding the above statements, I have a few questions, comments, and suggestions:

To Potanin

Do you feel the pressure of the Order of St. Sergius of Radonezh, given to you by the Russian Orthodox Church, when children in Norilsk develop lung cancer? You make millions more than the miners and metallurgists that work for Nornickel – but the

miners and metallurgists spit out their lungs from their work. Do you really think that your labor is valuable and complicated to deserve millions? And if so, why? Have you ever been in the mountains for anything other than skiing?

To Deripaska
Damn you really managed to fuck up Krasnoyarsk with your aluminum factories. When I went to visit my grandma, I saw that same black snow again. Spend some of that money on sewage treatment centers – you can't spend it all on yachts, for fuck's sake.

To Putin
I envision that soon we will create a progressive, Russian environmental party. We will have the majority in parliament, we will cooperate with the management of the country, and we will be as thick as thieves.

To Everyone
Corporations, especially those that use natural resources, cannot exist with public control. Each of us should be able to see and influence what is happening in these corporations. The decisions made by corporations like Nornickel don't just affect Potanin, Abramovich, Deripaska, or Putin – they affect me, you, some guy, and the kids and grandkids of that guy. Toxic emissions don't dissolve – they accumulate and cause mutations in humans and animals alike, and they will lead to irreversible environmental catastrophe.

I'm not suggesting that we immediately close all factories, but the way I see it – humanity has two options. Either we leave things as they are and we just die out, turning our planet into Chernobyl and Norilsk. Or we figure out how to build a technologically advanced civilization that uses renewable energy sources for its industries.

The lack of corporate control is not a uniquely Russian problem – activists all over the world are calling on corporations to take responsibility for their actions. But in Russia, the corporations are especially heinous because of the hellish corruption in the country. The rule of law doesn't apply to corporations. But what we can do is take power into our own hands – this takes a certain level of arrogance. We need to act like we have already won – we need to act like we live in a clean Russia of the future, where we elect and be elected, where the media is free and independent, where we can create autonomous environmental watchdogs, where we can support Great Thunberg and "Fridays for Future," where we can go outside and be organic kittens.

I love you – but I don't love Putin.
xx Nadya

BLACK SNOW - LYRICS (English translation)

NADYA
in a black black city
in a yard, among the sulfur darkness
we'll be having ***a black snowball fight*** *w/ you*

in black black mittens
in the void and silence
we'll go for a walk
under the black sulfur sky

i see the shape of god in acid smoke
he's choked on the smog but winked at me a little
the acid rain hasn't fucking stopped since last year

my eyes are being corroded, I'm hard to get

a blizzard's burning out my air, we're ***buried in*** *ash*
we're the furthest from Pluto, we're a nuclear planet
we've dominated nature, but we're slaves to the internet
i'm marching in the ranks and quietly crying about it

red water flows in Russian Russian rivers
dust sticks to my eyelids, I'm hanging on a thread
red water flows in Russian Russian rivers
dust sticks to my eyelids, I'm hanging on a thread

MARA 37
I've been eating black snow since I was 14 years old
i close my eyes, i'm putting on a plastic bag
it's dark in the bag and i don't see all the sorrow
i'm going to stay there and die like a grandpa

it's beautiful because we're from Russia
we're mute, bitch we're mute
dirty children, smutty beasts
we were playing with the snow and suddenly disappeared

AAAAAAA

there's black snow in Russian prison camps

black on black
tastes like blood over the prison camp
black smog from the factories
creates black snow

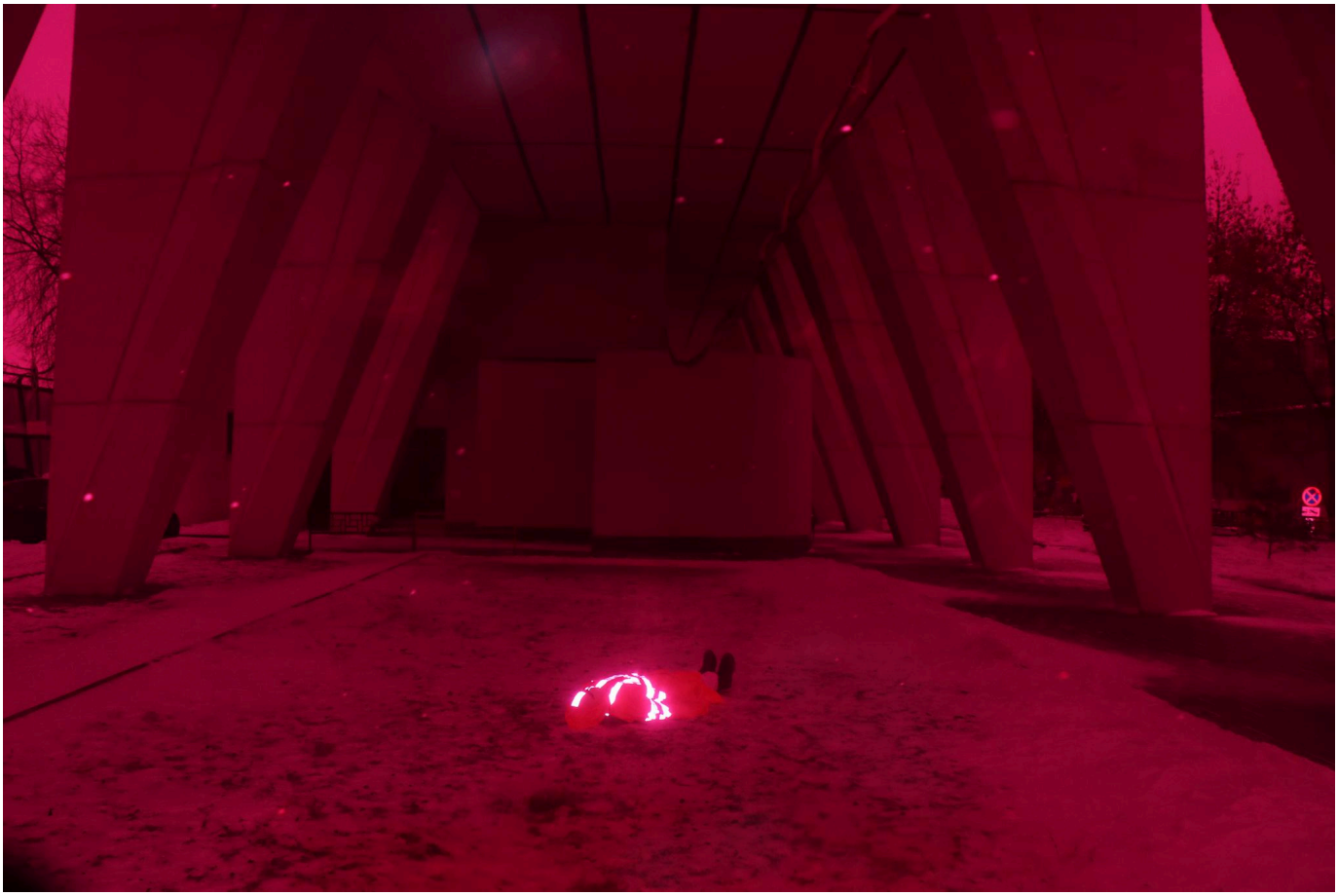
bitch we're fed up with the black snow in epaulettes
black snow over Russia makes us cough up blood

NADYA
red water flows in Russian Russian rivers
dust sticks to my eyelids, I'm hanging on a thread
red water flows in Russian Russian rivers
dust sticks to my eyelids, I'm hanging on a thread

i'm screaming like a Australopithecus, you're shooting bang bang
hey cop, don't be so clumsy cuz you'll shoot yourself
the sounds of terrible explosions of the century, I'm running, but I'm running to nowhere
corpses of half-humans, corpses of single-industry towns

i visited Eden yesterday, ***where only oligarchs live***
there's no smog, there's no death, every newborn gets a Maybach
Putin's building himself a bunker in the depths of the Altai mountains
i'm sticking underground, i'm suffocating under a collapsed mine





MORE PHOTOS here +
VIDEO CLIPS here (free to use with credit)

Please connect for more about Pussy Riot:
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