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Toxic cargo belonging to Israelis

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A poisonous chemical cargo containing highly toxic yellow phosphorus that leaked in western Ukraine belonged to two Israeli businessmen.



That according to Ukrainian politicians and media outlets who also said Lev Levayev and Arkady Gaydamak are believed to be the owners of the cargo.

The chemical spill that poisoned dozens of people in the area occurred on July 27 when a freight train carrying it from Kazakhstan to Poland derailed near Lvov.

Meanwhile, a Jewish member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Alexander Feldman, lashed out at the media for publishing the news about the ownership of the cargo, in what he called "some politicians and journalists" fanning "anti-Semitic hysteria."

Following the incident, Ukrainian newspapers had written the two Israeli and Kazak businessmen were involved in the accident. Ukrainian politicians had also said the cargo belonged to Levayev and Gaydamak, but a few days later, a minister rejected the idea and claimed a Dutch company was the owner.

When the train derailed, 15 of its 58 tankers overturned and 6 tons of toxic material went up in flames. Although firefighters were able to contain the fire they could not stop the poisonous phosphorus gas from spreading.

Hundreds of Ukrainians were evacuated from nearby homes. Nearly 150 people are being treated for inhaling the toxic fumes released in the spill.

Analysis of soil and water samples collected in a state ecological inspection 200 meters from the place of accident found poisonous substances exceeding concentration norms.

MJ/NN

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