

# THE ECOLOGICAL DISASTER. TESTING OF NUCLEAR BOMBS IN KAZAKHSTAN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.

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# Semipalatinsk Test Site

The site was selected in 1947 by Lavrentiy Beria, pol. head of the Soviet atomic bomb project.

Area - 18,000 square kilometers

In use from 1949 to 1989

The first bomb test - 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1949



# Health impacts

The full impact of radiation exposure was hidden for many years by Soviet authorities and has only come to light in 1991.

Rates of lung, stomach and skin cancers were particularly high.

Radiation poisoning, birth defects, severe anemia and leukemia.

# Anti-nuclear movement

“Nevada Semipalatinsk” - name of the movement.

Was formed in 1989.

It was led by Olzhas Suleimenov.

The movement gained global support and became a “real historical factor in finding solutions to global ecological problems.



# Closure of STS

On August 29<sup>th</sup> STS stopped its actions due to the decree made by N. A. Nazarbayev.

Since its closure, the STS has become the best-researched atomic testing site in the world, and the only one in the world open to the public.

# References:

- [http://factsanddetails.com/central-asia/Kazakhstan/sub8\\_4d/entry-4668.html](http://factsanddetails.com/central-asia/Kazakhstan/sub8_4d/entry-4668.html)
- SHYN-Kitap History of Kazakhstan