

### **Exploding News: Rescued Miners in Wangjialing Mine Disaster were Surrogates**

Reported by a blogger on bbs.tianya.cn that the 115 survivors from Wangjialing mine disaster were surrogates while the real miners trapped beneath were abandoned at the outset owing to excessively poor rescue conditions.

To suppress outcries from their families, the government has sent more than 2000 personnel to pinpoint the victim's family members to be silenced, so as to forestall possible agitation in the community. This blog was deleted shortly after.

### **2000 situation-stabilizing officials share life with families of Wangjialing mine victims**

At the 15th April news conference held by the Rescue Headquarters of the 3.28 Wangjialing Mine, the reporter learnt that care-taking operations were progressing smoothly in the aftermath of the mine flood disaster, as other miners were being re-located and victims families taken care of.

According to the brief by the Deputy General Manager of the China Coal Group (CCG) Hong Yu, the rescue headquarters promptly set up a situation-stabilizing taskforce and a rescue plan had been worked out. The plan was further broken into detailed sub-operations such as medical treatment and transport facilitation to ensure that the operation was risk-free. The team would simultaneously start support for the families of trapped miners.

Hong Yu told reporters that 945 miners had been either diverted to other work sites or have taken leaves, with paid travel expenses and wages in the amount of 14.5 million yuan. The remaining 225 miners would take part in the rescue operations.

More than 650 family members have been re-settled in nine cities/counties including Hejing, Lingshan and Xinxian, revealed Hong Yu. To support the grieving families the China Coal Group has mobilized more than 1000 personnel from its own departments, plus another 1000 from local municipal and county governments to form 135 teams. Each team is dedicated to one family by living with them and handling everything on their behalf: from solving their practical problems to briefing updates on a daily basis.

### **Thirty thousand yuan bonus for victim's family to withdraw request to see corpse of loved ones**

[boxun forum] the original blog from a blogger in Yiwang Web, Dezhou, Shandong

I am a family member of a trapped miner. I am not sending any comment anonymously, nor attempting to throw up doubts regarding the numbers or anything else. All I want to say is what I know of.

Currently waiting at places like Hejing are about 20 families of mine victims who have had their blood tested. Also gathering there are those "patriarchal" government officials at multiple levels, ie, county, township and village, responsible for administrating the affairs of those families. In engaging the families for support, these officials are talking about cooperation, instead of showing concern for the victims families, such as whether the victims have been rescued or how to get compensation on their behalf.

They are intimidating the families to withdraw demands to see the dead bodies of their dear ones for the last time, by claiming that the corpses, if any, are beyond recognition. Anyway, all the families need to do, they say, is to have their blood tested and wait for the results. Otherwise, these families should talk directly to the CCG.

Well, without the proof of identity, the families may end up in getting nothing out of this – losing both men and the money. Simply put, the message the authorities are driving home is whoever resorts to contention and argument will face dire consequences. In addition, in the distribution of the cigarette/telephone allowance, the obedient are rewarded 1000 yuan in contrast with the 500 yuan for the discontented.

I am wondering, why it should be so difficult to see their dear ones for the last time. Note, there is the allegation that an extra reward of 30 thousand yuan is available for families that express a wish NOT to see their dead family members. The foresaid aside, what worries me the most is the compensation, the amount of which may depend on what we say or do. Will the compensation be skimmed at multiple levels to virtually nothing?

What does this mean? My understanding is, some – maybe a lot more – of the trapped dead will never be recovered. In other words, they will not appear in the official list as trapped dead miners, as long as their families can be persuaded, by hook or crook, to keep silent for the 30 thousand bonus. That, I guess, is the reason behind the procrastination in publicising the victim list, until the 2000 strong taskforce have successfully brought the families to a mutual silence. But I am afraid this will never happen.

This is because, firstly, how is the situation is to be stabilised and people's minds put at ease if

these families are not shown the bodies of their dead family members; secondly, how can those fake “miners”, who were taken to hospitals alive and healthy, keep their mouths shut? One might be persuaded, but what about the rest? Even if they could be suppressed for the moment, could they be muffled for the rest of their lives?

Only God knows how this “stabilization” task has changed to “maintaining the lie, the evil, the sinister and the fraudulent”.

At this time, official figures are 115 rescued and ten unaccounted for. In fact, what remains to be done is to obtain the consent of the 115 victims families to remain silent. Once that is established, these ten will be declared dead for sure.