



Bilbao March 6, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC., M.P

Prime Minister Canada

Langevin Block

Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Prime Minister,

I am pleased to write you on behalf of ALBOAN, an international development organization based in northern Spain and promoted by the Jesuits. We work in Central and Southern America, the Central Lakes Region in Africa and the states of Gujerat and Tamil Nadu in India. During the last 10 years, we have experienced increasing concerns regarding the respect of human rights and the environment in mining areas and regions where we support the work of several grassroots organizations.

We are members of the Justice in Mining Network (<https://justiceinmining.com>) developed to protect the human rights and the environment, and ensure that mining occurs when equity and sustainability are addressed.

We have received indications from our friends in Canada that the Canadian government will create a new ombudsperson office to receive complaints concerning the overseas operation of Canadian extractive companies such as those involved in mining. It can be recalled that in several regions of Central and South America, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southeast and Central Asia, several grassroots organizations have raised serious concerns on Canadian firm's mining operations.



ALBOAN

ONG promovida por los resultados

It is in this line that we urge your office to include a number of elements that we believe are essential to ensure that the mechanism is credible. They include the following:

- The office will be independent (from government and industry)
- Company participation in the process will be mandatory
- The ombudsperson will undertake investigations
- The process will be transparent
- It will feature public reporting, including reports on ombudsperson investigations
- The ombudsperson will publish a final report for each case that includes recommendations (this can include recommendations for the Canadian government)
- The ombudsperson will monitor compliance with recommendations
- Companies that do not comply with recommendations will become illegible for several forms of government support

We respectfully hope that our appeal will be given due consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Tere Guzman

Executive Coordinator

ALBOAN Foundation