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CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE NGO

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

cc. François Philippe Champagne
Minister of Trade, François-Philippe Champagne
Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

March 1, 2017

Re: Letter of support in favour of the creation of an independent ombudsperson office in Canada

Dear Primer Minister,

On behalf of the Civil Society Institute (CSI) in Armenia, we are writing to express our strong support for the creation of an independent human rights ombudsperson office that would have the ability to investigate complaints related to allegations of human rights and environmental harm involving Canadian extractive companies operating abroad.

There are thousands of individuals and communities affected by the operations of Canadian business activities. Canadian mining companies are also operating in Armenia and communities affected by their operations have raised serious concerns regarding the negative human rights and environmental impacts associated with their operations.

To ensure Canada lives up to its international human rights obligations, we hope that the government of Canada will create an effective human rights ombudsperson office for the extractive sector. Such office should be independent, empowered to undertake investigations, transparent. The ombudsperson should include public reporting, including report on ombudsperson investigations and be adequately equipped to monitor compliance with recommendations. The government of Canada should ensure that companies that do not comply with recommendations are ineligible for government support.

We thank you for your consideration and trust that you will take this matter seriously.

Sincerely,



Artak KIRAKOSYAN

Director of Civil Society Institute

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Yerevan, 0025, Armenia