



Third World Network- Africa

9 Asmara Street, East Legon
P.O. Box 19452
Accra-North Ghana

Tel: (233 302) 511189/503669/503816/500419
Fax: 233 302 511188
Email: twnafrica@twnafrica.org

The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa

March 2, 2017

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Greetings from the Third World Network Africa (TWN-Africa) a policy advocacy organization with an Africa wide remit based in Accra Ghana. I am Yao Graham its Coordinator. We at TWN-Africa have, for over 20 years, been advocating for policies and practices that advance social and economic equity in Africa and for Africa within the global order. One of our core areas of work is the extractive sector and the issues we focus on include the impact of mining on the human rights of communities and social groups. We collaborate with organizations in Canada.

We are writing to you at this time following news from our partners and friends in Canada that the Canadian government is considering the creation of the office of an Ombudsperson to receive complaints regarding the overseas operations of Canadian extractive (mining) companies.

As we understand it, the proposal before you for legislation would empower the proposed Ombudsperson to among others, investigate allegations of human rights abuses committed by Canadian companies and recommend remedies for the victims of such abuse.

Canada is home to many large multinational mining companies, many of whom have presence in Africa. They include First Quantum Minerals, Barrick Gold, New Dawn Mining and Franco Nevada, and Kinross Gold Corporation to name a few. Accusations of human rights violations have been levelled against some of these firms.

We welcome the initiative to appoint an Ombudsperson. However to ensure that the Ombudsperson's office is credible we urge that the office has the following attributes:

1. Independence from government and industry

2. That it be mandatory for companies to participate in the process
3. That the Ombudsperson can undertake independent investigations
4. That the processes be transparent, and
5. Include public reporting including reports on Ombudsperson's investigations,
6. The Ombudsperson will publish a final report for each case that includes recommendations on the prevention of harm and remedy (including recommendations for the Canadian government),
7. The Ombudsperson will monitor compliance with recommendations, and that
8. Those companies that do not comply with the recommendations will become ineligible for several forms of government support.

We believe this initiative is very good one and it will be strengthened by the proposals we have listed.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Yao Graham'.

Yao Graham (PhD)

Coordinator