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A grave negligence in the KOV open pit mine belonging to the Kamoto Copper Company (KCC) causes 8 deaths including an unknown person¹.

African Resource Watch (AFREWATCH) and Action pour la Défense des Droits Humains (ADDH), two human rights organisations specialized in natural resources sector, are deeply concerned about the lack of information following the collapse of the KCC KOV open pit mine² on the 8th of March 2016 in Kolwezi, Lualaba province, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On the 8th March 2016 the KOV open pit mine collapsed at 5h45' causing 8 deaths; the company refutes the identity of one person. During a press conference the KCC CEO³ alleged that the accident caused 2 deaths and 5 missing persons⁴.

A week later the public opinion and families of victims are still not informed on the progress of investigations that should establish individual responsibilities and reveal the causes of the mine collapse. This lack of information and poor clarifications on the incident from the investigation joint commission⁵ and KCC is a transgression to families of victims and the public opinion who need to know the truth.

A grave negligence from KCC leaders. Following an investigation made in Kolwezi on 7th March 2016, mining radars sent an alert, up to four times, between 19h00 and 21h00, on a possible landslide⁶. Despite these warnings there was no instruction to ensure the safety of miners such as to evacuate them from the dangerous mine site. This inefficiency reveals a

¹ According to provisional investigation findings, there are 7 victims of whom 5 KCC workers ((MM. KYEBO MUKILA Franck, KABOTO MWAPE Innocent, MULAND KAZAD Thibaut, KIBIKA MWEHU Médard et MUTOMBO KATANGA Deca ;) and 2 G4S workers (KASONGO WA NGOY Gerard et KAWAMA MANDEVU Prince).

² Shareholding: Gécamines 25% , Glencore PLC and Katanga Mining Ltd 75% shared between 56,75% and 18,25%. This information is available on Congo Mines website : http://www.congomines.org/drc_companies/6-kamoto-copper-company

³ Press conference held by KCC CEO Mr Gustave Nzeng in Kolwezi on 8 March 2016, and broadcasted by all Kolwezi medias in the evening.

⁴ Two KCC workers and 1 G4S (a security company) worker

⁵ The investigating joint commission is made of by: The high court, the national intelligentsia agency (ANR), the Mines services, the Mines police, The Police investigation

⁶ Feedback from anonymous workers who confirmed that the collapsed site was closed by Gécamines before KCC took over.

grave negligence from KCC leaders who do not care about human rights and, especially, workers' rights.

In this regard, AFREWATCH and ADDH believe that victims and the public have the right to know what happened in the KOV open pit mine, especially to their relatives, on the 8th March 2016. Therefore, the two organizations recommend:

To the KCC Company:

- ✚ To publicly communicate all information on the circumstances surrounding the accident that happened on the 8th March 2016 including the progress on the efforts made to find missing persons;
- ✚ To explain the motivations to not evacuate miners despite earlier alerts issued by radars;
- ✚ To compensate families of victims;

To the Congolese State:

- ✚ To investigate so that individual responsibilities are established and culprits punished according to the law;
- ✚ To ensure that families of victims are assisted and get compensations

To victims:

- ✚ To constitute a committee of victims;
- ✚ To request the truth on the incident, and that the company and the investigation joint commission respect your right to information.

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