



Press Release

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VIOLENCE AT CMOC-KFM: AFREWATCH CALLS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHT

African Resources Watch (AFREWATCH) has learned with deep outrage of a video that has gone viral, showing acts of violence against Congolese workers employed by CECC, a subcontractor of the mining company CMOC-KFM, a subsidiary of the CMOC Group. In particular, this video shows Chinese nationals physically assaulting a Congolese worker, as well as members of the security forces using live ammunition at the mining site.

AFREWATCH condemns in the strongest possible terms these acts of violence, as well as the excessive and unjustified use of lethal force in the context of the workers' social demands. Respect for human dignity, physical integrity and fundamental freedoms must be guaranteed in all circumstances, including at mining sites.

AFREWATCH reiterates that the workers' demands vis-à-vis their employer are legitimate and must be addressed through constructive social dialogue that respects human rights. Under no circumstances can the expression of such demands justify acts of violence, degrading treatment or the use of firearms against workers or demonstrators.

Consequently, AFREWATCH calls on the companies CMOC-KFM and CECC, as well as the relevant political, administrative and judicial authorities, to take all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of workers, protect their fundamental rights and prevent any recurrence of such acts. The organisation also calls for the prompt launch of an independent, impartial and transparent investigation to establish who is responsible, to punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law and to ensure redress for the victims.

Finally, AFREWATCH reaffirms its commitment to promoting human rights, ensuring compliance with international labour standards and establishing a permanent social dialogue as the foundation for the responsible and sustainable exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

AFREWATCH

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