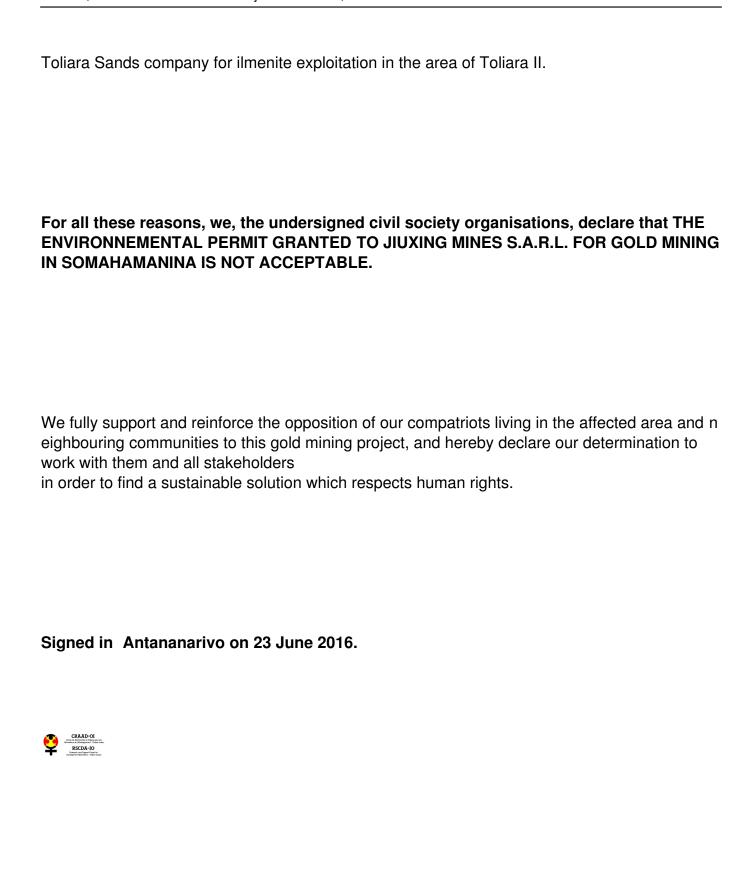


THE ENVIRONNEMENTAL PERMIT GRANTED TO THE COMPANY JIUXING MINES S.A.R.L FOR ITS MINING PROJECT IN SOAMAHAMANINA IS NOT ACCEPTABLE

The civil society organisations that have signed the present Declaration express their solidarity with and full support of the rejection by the local population of the gold mining project of JIUXING MINES S.A.R.L. in Soamahamanina, following the meetings and exchanges of their representatives since Tuesday 21 June 2016 with the established Refusal Committee of gold mining by this Chinese company.

For several months, thousands of the residents of Soamahamanina and neighbouring communities have been opposing this project for which an environnemental permit for gold mining has just been issued by the National Office for the Environment (ONE) for a duration of 40 years.

Furthermore, the local population is strongly opposed to the loss of the "tapia" forest that is part of a protected area and constitutes a vital source of income for the local silk producers. The concerned communities do not want negative environmental impacts entailed by the use of heavy extraction machinery by JIUXING MINES S.A.R.L., such as water pollution and mudding of rice fields.
Current events together with the actual risks involved clearly demonstrate that the basic human rights of the communities affected by the gold mining project in Soamahamanina and neighbouring communities are seriously endangered.
We, as signatories of civil society, denounce this violation of the basic human rights of the local population, as well as the willingness of State authorities to silence its legitimate opposition by means of the threat of use of repression forces.
We remind the State authorities that they are primarily responsible for the protection and realisation of the rights of all Malagasy citizens, and that they must refrain from using disproportionate means of repression by law enforcement forces to prevent people from claiming their rights.
It should also be noted that granting an environmental permit to projects that destroy the environnement and people seems to have become a standard practice of the ONE, as everyone could see in relation to the process of issuing a highly questionable permit to the



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Collectif pour la défense des terres malgaches – TANY. Association MAZOTO – Miaro Aina -Zon'Olombelona sy Tontolo iainana



Plate-forme de la Société Civile de la Région DIANA



FVTM - Fédération des Femmes Rurales de Madagascar



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