

## Teleconference about London Mining Network (LMN) meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016;

At the teleconference, KDDAUK trustees and members intending to attend the next day's meeting brought up the questions we wanted answered;

- How can we (KDDAUK/ mining campaign/ LMN) assist each other?
- Have LMN had any good results? - OCTEA Tiffany or any similarly organisations?
- Impacts?
- What are they expecting from us?
- How can we become members of the Network?
- Can they help us with discovery if we want to take legal action?
- Do they deal with environmental & social impact?
- Citigate?
- Liability of parent companies- UK law, EU law, International law?
- Liability of mining companies' customers?
- Negotiation of mining contracts?
- What International obligations do mining companies and countries have?
- What Legal obligations and remedies?
- Funders – can we put pressure on them?
- Are LMN willing to be Speakers at the London Kono Conference?
- Are LMN willing to be sponsors at the London Kono Conference?

## Draft Minutes KDDAUK and London Mining Network (LMN) Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at LMN offices, Finsbury Park

Present: KDDAUK : Sahr Fasuluku (programme coordinator), Gloria Kongomanyi (deputy programme coordinator), Dingis Nyandemo (Kono Conference committee chair), Sia Nyandemo (welfare), Aiah Sodengbe (secretary), Aiah Tondoneh (social, events and publicity), Dennis Turner (technical advisor). LMN: Liam Barrington-Bush (communications), Richard Solly (coordinator), Andy Whitmore (co-chair), and LMN volunteer.

Liam Barrington-Bush (communications), Andy Whitmore (co-chair), Richard Solly (coordinator) and colleague met with us and introduced the organisation and its work. The LMN concentrates its work on communities and mining companies with links to London. Up till now they've not done any work in Africa but mostly in South America, Eastern Europe etc. LMN said they've had some contact with NMJD (Network Movement for Justice and Development) and mentioned Lisa Nandy MP of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on International Corporate Responsibility [lisa.nandy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lisa.nandy.mp@parliament.uk).

The strategies LMN use include;

- attending and speaking at shareholders' meetings and AGM's by buying single shares of companies so they can be admitted;
- bringing over mining-affected communities to speak to shareholders at these meetings;
- Social media;
- contact with the press (they acknowledged the latter was very difficult);
- attending and contributing to public inquiries to affect policy and put issues on record, including companies' investments here in the UK,

- demonstrations, and
- networking their membership of many organisations some large and some small.
- *[Members include: ACTSA (Action for Southern Africa), Biofuelwatch, CATAPA (Comite Academico Tecnico de Asesoramiento a Problemas Ambientales), Coal Action Network, Colombia Solidarity Campaign, The Corner House, Corporate Watch, ECCR (Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility), Environmental and Social Change, Eritrea Focus, Forest Peoples Programme, Gaia Foundation, Global Justice Now (formerly World Development Movement), LAMMP (Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme), Partizans (People Against Rio Tinto and its Subsidiaries), TAPOL (the Indonesia human rights campaign), Scottish Opencast Communities Alliance, Society of St Columban, UK Tar Sands Network, War on Want. ) “LMN’s twelve observer groups include leading human rights, environmental and development organisations”. LMN is a member of Banktrack, the campaigning and NGO support organisation focused on private sector commercial banks and the activities they finance.]*

Membership criteria - first of all applicants must agree with their statements of purpose. They have two types of membership. Full members have one vote, are added to the public members list, and email mailing list. Associate members are not listed publicly and have no vote.

LMN told us they would send us the documentation to apply for membership, including the statement of purpose, trustees assured them that KDDAUK would want to join the Network.

KDDAUK trustees and members introduced the history, last few years’ events and current issues for Kono District and Kono’s and showed them the Beny Steinmetz, BSGR, OCTEA, Koidu Ltd kimberlite mine. LMN confessed they were not aware about a lot of this. We acknowledged there was not much international mainstream press coverage of the Kono situation and that this needed to be corrected, we also forwarded them a link to the Makoni Times article on the Panama Papers and ‘Dodgy Diamond Trade’ [www.makonitimes.com/2016/04/04/president-ernest-bai-koroma-exposed-in-panama-papers-dodgy-diamond-trade/](http://www.makonitimes.com/2016/04/04/president-ernest-bai-koroma-exposed-in-panama-papers-dodgy-diamond-trade/) . We shared a lot of information on the intrigues that went on in Sierra Leone, the political and police suppression and intimidation of the Kono people, and the impact of the mine and the company’s policies. We also informed them of the recent Citigate licence and we discussed its implications. Dennis Turner explained the history from 1930’s to SLST, NDMC, Sandline, Executive Outcomes, Beny Steinmetz’ BSGR, technical mining process, composition of liquid and solid tailings (chemical pollution, silica etc) and health effects, geology of the pipes under Koidu and what that could mean for the area. We also discussed other connections including the British Virgin Islands, Guinea, etc.

LMN have contact with many organisations and individuals who could be helpful to our campaign. Members of the Network would often help each other with information or resources.

Recommendations for connections:

- We needed to have good documentation with robust facts, especially before approaching some organisations and the press. One had to have an angle or very current issue or close to home issue, many stories competing for journalists’ attention many of whom would not do investigative journalism and expected everything already prepared for them. Hence the need for good documentation of our cause, background, issues etc.
- **Global Witness** are one of the main organisations we should target for assistance: They specialise in corruption, getting documentation, and in-depth investigations (eg Beny Steinmetz)

- Re environmental issues; Friends of the Earth is an associate member of the Network - they can take on short term campaigns, not long term. They could put us in touch with them.
- LMN can connect us with RAID (Rights and Accountability in Development)
- Connect to meetings of network members
- document witness experiences
- Must get well documented generally
- Emphasise UK Connections
- Kimberly process-many civil society organisations have pulled out of this agreement as it is not effective
- Connect with Bureaux of Investigative Journalism
- Angles for press include: coverage of mining in Sierra Leone, Under-pricing of diamonds by use of corruption, Life next to the mine (Koidu), air pollution illness, recent anti-corruption summit London, Romania- creative activities demo's
- One investigative journalist we could connect with is Nick Mathieson
- Africa Network-International consortium of Investigative Journalists-Time Media
- Connect with Romanian group who have creative methods of attracting attention at their demonstrations

Asked about their impact, and whether indigenous minorities such as ours had been able to have any effect LMN told us of immense environmental and social change that had been effected by such communities against powerful odds.

Conversations concluded with KDDAUK trustees sharing their heartfelt feelings and stories about the tragedy of Kono District and the Kono people, and group photographs.

Action points (in addition to those above) include:

- All to share contact details when finally sorted
- Richard Solly (RS) to send on information on joining LMN for KDDAUK to join, although LMN is happy to assist / share information before then
- Andy Whitmore (AW) to pass on contacts of Global Witness & RAID (Rights and Accountability in Development) working on Benny Steinmetz
- (Not specified who?) to pass on information to War on Want, Friends of the Earth for meeting
- Liam Barrington-Bush (LBB) to work with KDDAUK to put a press briefing together
- AW to contact Nick Mathieson, Bureau of Investigative Journalism, over possibly covering (after press briefing done)
- LMN people to speak at KDDAUK conference on 28-29 July (to be agreed who & on what)

Sahr O Fasuluku

Programme coordinator / trustee

KDDAUK