



## At UN peer review, Haiti urged to ensure respect for human rights in development of mining

*States call on Haiti to address environmental risks of mining, protect right to water, and ensure public consultation*

(30 November 2016, New York) – Following a [joint report](#) on the human rights risks of metal mining in Haiti, co-authored by NYU's Global Justice Clinic and Haitian partner Kolektif Jistis Min (KJM), a United Nations review of Haiti's human rights record addressed the government's failure to consult the public about mining or to adequately safeguard against environmental harm. At the review on November 7<sup>th</sup>, Costa Rica recommended that Haiti “conduct environmental impact studies when granting mining concessions and promote prior consultation and transparency measures during these concessions.”

In the lead up to Haiti's review, representatives of the Clinic and KJM, a coalition of popular organization of the Haitian social movement, raised awareness among states about the human rights risks of metal mining in Haiti. Up to now, the Haitian government has excluded communities most directly affected by mining activities from decision-making processes. This is particularly concerning given the significant environmental risks that gold mining poses, including the potential to deplete or contaminate Haiti's already scarce water supply. During the review, Mexico recommended that Haiti “implement measures to guarantee the rights to adequate food, clean water and sanitation.” Sufficient clean water is necessary not only for consumption but also for maintaining adequate sanitation and for agricultural purposes. Industrial gold mining directly threatens these rights.

This was the second time that the Human Rights Council reviewed Haiti's record. Issues relating to mining did not arise at Haiti's first review in 2011. Since that time, however, the Haitian government has granted exploration and exploitation permits to a number of foreign-owned companies and Haitian subsidiaries covering a large part of Haiti's Massif de Nord. The prospect of active mining occurring remains a serious and imminent risk to the communities in Haiti likely to be affected.

Haiti's adherence to the recommendations of Costa Rica and Mexico is critical to preventing environmental harm and to government accountability for any future human rights violations associated with metal mining. Haiti agreed to implement these recommendations and will be required to report back to the UN Human Rights Council in two years on its progress. The Global Justice Clinic and KJM will continue to monitor the steps Haiti takes to protect the environment, publicly disclose mining-related information, and ensure communities are meaningfully consulted on mining projects.

The UN Human Rights Council is expected to release the official outcome of the review any day now, which will be available at [this link](#). Until that time, a webcast of the review as well as the draft outcome report can be accessed [here](#), on the UPR-Info website.

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