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DRC: Survey by CDHD and IPDHOR Reveals Persistent Concerns Among Communities Affected by Ruashi Mining's Musonoi Project in Kolwezi

Lubumbashi, June 22, 2026 – The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (CDHD) and the Initiative for the Protection of Human Rights and Social Reintegration (IPDHOR) are releasing the preliminary findings of a survey conducted among communities living around Ruashi Mining's Musonoi Project in the city of Kolwezi, Lualaba Province. The survey forms part of ongoing efforts to document the social, environmental, and health impacts associated with copper and cobalt mining, while strengthening the protection of the rights of affected communities.

The full survey report, which is currently being finalized, will be published in the coming weeks and will provide an in-depth analysis of the impacts reported by the affected communities, together with recommendations addressed to the various stakeholders.

Although respondents acknowledged the existence of a community development agreement between the company and local communities, they indicated that many of the commitments made do not adequately address the priority needs of the population. Among the concerns most frequently raised are insufficient access to clean drinking water, recurring power outages, and the lack of meaningful community participation in decisions affecting them.

The survey documented numerous complaints regarding emissions from industrial facilities, odors emanating from settling ponds and wastewater discharge channels, as well as dust generated by truck traffic. Residents reported recurrent cases of respiratory illnesses, nosebleeds, and irritations, particularly among children. Health professionals working in the affected neighborhoods also indicated that they had observed an increase in respiratory diseases among children. Communities further expressed concern over environmental degradation, including visible damage to vegetation, homes, and the Dilala River, which is used for various domestic purposes.

In the Bel Air 3 neighborhood, several households reported cracks in their houses that they attribute to blasting operations. Communities also expressed concern over the expansion plans of mining activities, which could result in their displacement. Affected residents are calling for any solution to be based on consultation, respect for human rights, and consideration of their concerns.

In light of the documented findings, CDHD and IPDHOR call upon national and provincial authorities, as well as relevant government agencies, to:

- Strengthen oversight and enforcement of Ruashi Mining's social and environmental obligations in Kolwezi;

- Ensure the effective participation of affected communities in consultation and decision-making processes;
- Ensure that any measures concerning populations affected by Ruashi Mining’s operations comply with national and international human rights standards;
- Conduct independent assessments of the reported health and environmental impacts associated with Ruashi Mining’s activities;
- Ensure that harm suffered by affected communities is adequately remedied and that sustainable solutions are implemented.

CDHD and IPDHOR also call upon civil society organizations, the media, and all relevant stakeholders to continue their awareness-raising and advocacy efforts in support of the rights of communities affected by mining activities.

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