

Kono District Development Association Mouth Piece of the Kono People in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Email: kddanewsletter@hotmail.com Website: www.kdda.co.uk

1st February 2011

Paramount Chief Sheku Tejan Fasuluku Sonsiama Chairman Kono District Council of Chiefs Sierra Leone

Dear Chief,

RE: KOIDU HOLDINGS KIMBERLITE MINING PROJECT

We the descendants of Kono District of Sierra Leone residing in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland find it necessary to unite and discuss together common strategies in search of solutions to our diverse problems. The operations of Koidu Holdings Mining Project in Kono District are a matter of serious concern to all Konos. As natural custodian of the Konoland, we have resolved that initial enquiries should be directed to our Chiefs for thorough clarifications of the land rights of people affected by the operations of Koidu Holdings Limited.

We are deeply concerned by the increase in company activities thereby dispersing our people with no concrete arrangement in place. The blasting effects and operations of Koidu Holdings Limited have already cost lives. May their souls rest in peace. We do not want history to repeat itself. Any responsible company would take its corporate responsibilities seriously and ensure peace with inhabitants is a priority.

It is a fact that Diamonds are inextricably linked to the past and future of Kono District. However this always reminds us of sad memories. We intend to change that trend. Diamonds are a huge opportunity for Kono and Sierra Leone in general. If the right measures are put in placed to regulate Diamond mining activities in Kono District, then we the citizens could be protected from the potential hazards and sufferings inflicted on us as a direct result of our wealth.

In the interest of transparency, peace, justice and progress, we would be much obliged if you can provide us with details of the following:

- 1. Land rights of people affected by operations of Koidu Holdings Limited.
- 2. The original contract agreement signed by Chief(s) and Koidu Holdings Limited.

3. An update on the government's position on compensation for losses of assets attributed to the operations of Koidu Holdings Limited .

We are united in our resolve to ensure that the dignity, rights and interests of our people are protected as we await your response.

Thanks in advance.

Yours faithfully,

Aiah Yornie Sodengbe KDDA Interim Secretary General UK & Northern Ireland

Dr. Kai Ngegba KDDA Interim Chairman UK & Northern Ireland 99 Chandler Way London SE15 6GB United Kingdom

CC: His Excellency Hon. Vice President Chief Alhaji Sam Sumana Mrs. Sia Koroma, the First Lady. All Paramount Chiefs in Kono District All MPs in Kono District Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi, Chairlady Kono District Council His Lordship Mayor Sahr Musa Sessie Gbenda All Councilors in Kono District Chief S.O Gbekie, Chairman Kono Tribal Authority Western Area The Chairman, KONDU Sierra Leone The Chairman, Kono Union USA The President, Kono Students Union (KONSU) National.

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