MEMO

TO: Júlia Neiva e Mauricio Lazala, Business and Human Rights Resource Center

FROM: Ed Opitz, Vice-President Safety and Sustainability, Kinross Gold Corporation

RE: Kinross Gold comment on March 19 rejoinder from Above Ground and Justiça Global

DATE: April 9, 2018

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On behalf of Kinross Gold, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the March 19 response from Above Ground and Justiça Global with respect to our concerns about their inaccurate and misleading report on Kinross’ operations in Paracatu, Brazil.

**Like the report itself, the authors’ response to our rebuttal is purposefully selective and ignores many basic facts that run counter to their unfounded allegations.**

* The courts in Brazil have repeatedly ruled that Kinross’ purchase of lands, and continued use of these lands as mining facilities, are legal and consistent with the Constitution and laws of Brazil.  These rulings have analyzed the evidence and concluded that the Quilombola land claims in the area of the mine operation have no legal basis.
* Two detailed and separate independent clinical studies clearly show that arsenic from our operations is not a public health concern for the people of Paracatu and that arsenic concentrations in food, water and dust in Paracatu are normal.
* In recent years, criminal trespassers have attempted to steal gold from flotation tails putting themselves and our employees in danger. Our approach has been to improve fencing, lighting, patrols, and other measures to limit access to the target areas, and to co-operate closely with local law enforcement officials.
* A good neighbour, Kinross maintains a 24-hour hotline and takes immediate steps when complaints about dust or noise are received at our mine.
* Kinross’ operations have benefited the local community. The municipal-level Human Development Index (HDI) data for Paracatu show that since 1990, when modern mining began in Paracatu, the city has outperformed both the state of Minas Gerais and Brazil.

The authors’ two-sentence comment regarding their lack of interest in engaging the company in dialogue is particularly telling of the author’s unwillingness to fully inform themselves of all of the facts and portray Kinross performance in the appropriate context.

Unlike the authors, Kinross is committed to openness and transparency with regard to our operations social and environmental performance, which is why we initiated contact. Our offers of continued dialogue were made in good faith to enable the authors to develop their findings based on all the available facts, background and perspectives.

In fact, the response itself includes clear examples of omission and distortion. For instance, the authors assert that “one of the scientific studies regarding arsenic exposure in Paracatu that is referenced by Kinross includes troubling findings not mentioned by the company in its public communications materials.” The [study](http://arsenio.kinross.com.br/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CETEM-Paracatu-arsenic-study-English.pdf) in question was produced by the Mineral Technology Centre (CETEM) of the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and does make reference to a risk assessment that found “unacceptable risk”. But what Above Ground and Justiça Global omit from their charge is that the initial risk assessment (based on extremely conservative approaches) was undertaken at the outset to determine whether an in-depth study was warranted. In fact, it prompted the epidemiological and human exposure study, which was the basis of the CETEM report’s clear conclusions that arsenic does not pose a public health concern in Paracatu:

*“In general the environmental results indicated low human exposure to arsenic and were confirmed by the results of arsenic concentrations in biological matrixes of blood, hair and urine, revealing lower contents or equal to levels considered normality references or even of non-exposed populations in several countries. The epidemiological study indicated that the population shows no mortality rates by types of cancer with association to arsenic exposure above the observed levels for several Brazilian cities, regions and in the country with no cases of skin diseases referred to arsenic exposure.”*

Kinross continues to stand by its original perspective on the misleading report by Above Ground, which presents numerous unsubstantiated allegations and distorted information that are in stark contrast to the facts on the ground

We encourage anyone interested in a complete account of the facts about our operations in Paracatu to visit our online public disclosures at [kinross.com](http://www.kinross.com) and/or [www.kinross.com.br](http://www.kinross.com.br) .