

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern for Raleva, the environmental human rights defender, who has been arrested on September 27<sup>th</sup> on the charge of 'use of false title' at a meeting held by a Chinese gold mining company. He allegedly used the title of "Head of District", but he denies the charge and the head of district himself having been present at the meeting, it is very unlikely that he has been able to use the title. At the meeting Ravela has asked the company representatives to present the mining and environmental permits required for reopening the mining activity. It seems obvious that the authority is abusing the criminal justice system to hamper the protest.

Moreover, Raleva underwent surgery several months before his arrest, and the living conditions in prison pose a threat to his health as he has not fully healed yet.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Raleva as he is being detained solely for his peaceful human rights activism.

I also call on you to ensure that pending his release, Raleva is granted immediate access to adequate medical care.

Finally, I call on you to ensure the criminal justice system is not misused to target human rights defenders.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,