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Onderwerp: Canadian Mining Firm Entangled in Eritrea's Abuses

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Canadian Mining Firm Entangled in Eritrea's Abuses



Photo: © 2013 Human Rights Watch

Eritrea is a pariah state that crushes repression. It even sends its many people into a forced labor system, often for years.

The government has courted international investors with its mineral reserves. The country's first large- scale modern mine, a joint venture between the government and the Canadian firm Nevsun Resources, has produced hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of gold since 2011.

But Nevsun walked into a dire human rights environment in Eritrea and has become entangled in the abuses. Companies from Canada, Australia, and China are developing projects in Eritrea and could easily do the same.

We uncovered evidence that some mine construction workers – supplied by Segun, a government-owned company – were forced laborers. There is also clear evidence that many workers had inadequate food supplies and unsafe housing.

Nevsun has tightened its policy for vetting workers. But Segun has refused Nevsun's request to interview employees.

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[Islamists in Mali Should Free Child Soldiers](#)

These Islamist groups have no business recruiting children into their ranks, much less putting them on the front line. These groups seem to be willfully putting scores of children directly in harm's way. Before the military campaign goes any further, the Islamists should release these children back to their families.

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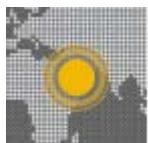


[Venezuela Should Halt Censorship, Intimidation of Media](#)

Over the years, the Chávez government has built a legal regime that allows it to censor and punish its critics, in clear violation of international norms. Now it is using these laws to limit public discussion on issues of national importance.

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[Syria's Army Using New Type of Cluster Munition](#)

Syria is escalating and expanding its use of cluster munitions, despite international condemnation of its embrace of this banned weapon. It is now resorting to a notoriously indiscriminate type of cluster munition that gravely threatens civilian populations.

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