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PRESS RELEASE

VARA MADA PROJECT: THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES WILL NEVER CONSENT TO THE SACRIFICE OF THEIR RIGHTS, ANCESTRAL LANDS, AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATURAL HERITAGE IN ORDER TO SECURE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S SUPPLY CHAINS FOR CRITICAL MINERALS.

The visit to Madagascar by a delegation of high-ranking U.S. government officials—including Nick Checker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, and Christopher Kulukundis, Donald Trump's Senior Advisor for Africa, accompanied by the CEO of Energy Fuels Inc.—marks an important milestone in the tumultuous history of the VARA MADA mining project.

Indeed, the diplomatic offensive involving the Head of State, Michael Randrianirina; Prime Minister Mamitiana Rajaonarison; and the President of the National Assembly, Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko, indicates the U.S. government's direct and openly acknowledged involvement in promoting the VARA MADA project in Madagascar.

At the international level, this diplomatic offensive is part of a broader geopolitical and strategic campaign, specifically aimed at securing U.S. supply chains for critical minerals amid increased international competition for access to Madagascar's strategic mineral resources.

Faced with this diplomatic assault and the combined pressure from the U.S. government and Energy Fuels Inc.' management to resume the VARA MADA project, the communities that have opposed this project for more than a dozen years remain firm in their stance. To reiterate their absolute refusal of this toxic project and its neocolonial logic, they gathered today for a march starting from the town of Tsianisiha toward the historic center of their resistance in Benetsy for a broad-based popular demonstration against the project.

They are strengthened in their resistance by the solidarity and bonds they have forged with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, which lives near Energy Fuels Inc.'s uranium production plant in White Mesa, Utah—a project they strongly oppose due to its destructive impacts on their health and environment. The Havasupai and Navajo tribes affected by Energy Fuels Inc.'s mining operations near the Grand Canyon

and La Sal (Utah)¹, have also expressed their support for the struggle of the communities affected by the VARA MADA project.

The organizations signing this statement stand in full solidarity with the communities opposing VARA MADA gathered in Benetsy, who are exercising their right to say NO to extractive projects that violate their fundamental rights and those of future generations. They reaffirm their sovereignty over their natural heritage and over the development choices that affect them.

THEY WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED OR SILENCED. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS UNTIL DEATH.

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¹ The Times-Independent, "Ute Mountain Utes march against White Mesa as energy Fuels prepares to reopen mines," October 10, 2023. <https://www.moabtimes.com/articles/ute-mountain-utes-march-against-white-mesa-as-energy-fuels-prepares-to-reopen-mines/>