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Congo's mines ministry reacts to Global Witness reports on "secret sales" controversy

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The Democratic Republic of Congo's Ministry of Mines released [a statement in English](#) today critiquing Global Witness's briefings on the controversial sale of mining permits in the country. The English statement differs slightly from the earlier version in French, and Global Witness has put them both on its website today.

The mining ministry's statement in English criticises Global Witness for its "lack of information on the subject and a double standard" in its work on what has been dubbed the "secret sales" controversy. Global Witness would like to stress that its reports on the subject are based on thorough analysis of documents and interviews. This information is all detailed in the reports and their endnotes.

The latest Global Witness [briefing of 12 June](#) details the involvement of UK-listed ENRC in the controversy, and the company's links with the businessman Dan Gertler. Global Witness also published [a report of 9 May](#) detailing the commodity giant Glencore's involvement in the secret sales controversy.

The French version of the mining ministry's statement – sent out by e-mail on 11 June - says that Global Witness's work was based on "rumours without foundation". Although the French version has not been published in its entirety on the internet until now, it was largely taken up verbatim by the Agence Congolaise de Presse (Congo's national news agency) in [an article of 13 June](#). Global Witness received the French version of the ministry's statement only indirectly and after publication of its 12 June report.

The ministry's statement also addresses questions relating to transparency, the use of offshore tax havens and the involvement of Mr Gertler in Congo's mining sector. The French and English versions are available on Global Witness's website at <http://www.globalwitness.org/secretsales>, along with Global Witness's briefings on the subject and other related documentation.

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