

Madame la Ministre de la Justice
Mme. Rasolo Elise Alexandrine
43 Rue Joel Rakotomolala, Faravohitra – Antananarivo, Madagascar

October 25, 2017

Human Rights Defender Raleva should be released immediately

Votre Excellence,

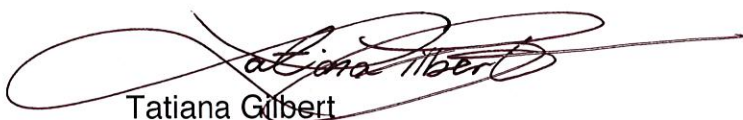
On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union we are writing to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Malagasy environmental human rights defender **Raleva**, to ensure that **Raleva** is granted immediate access to adequate medical care, and to assure that the criminal justice system is not misused to target human rights defenders.

We are deeply troubled by reports from Amnesty International of a coordinated campaign in Madagascar to abuse the criminal justice system to harass human rights defenders and those who raise concerns about natural resource exploitation projects, including the unjustified detention of **Raleva** in Mananjary prison where living conditions pose a threat to his health.

We strongly believe that you and the Madagascan government have a responsibility under international law to investigate these reports, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Articles 9 & 19* – the freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, and the right to freedom of expression and speech. If your investigation finds these reports to be true, then we would urge you to take action to hold any responsible person or official accountable for their illegal and immoral actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Tatiana Gilbert
President
TRU Students' Union



Caitlin Orteza
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc: Président de la République Hery Rajaonarimampianina, Advisor Tamara Léger - Amnesty International Southern Africa Regional Office