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It is disappointing but not surprising that Rio Tinto has refused to address evidence in [Rio Tinto: The way it really works](#) of discrepancies between Rio Tinto's claims to social responsibility and its actual practices. The discrepancies are too broad-based and systematic for the company to ignore or explain away.

If Rio Tinto truly believes that the report is "based on inaccurate or out of date information," as they claim in their response, why don't they say what is inaccurate or out of date?

Rio Tinto's involvement in a mine in Indonesia where 39 workers have been killed on the job since 2013, its plans to develop a copper mine in the U.S. despite widespread opposition by Native Americans who consider the land sacred, the 2,300 labor-related grievances unresolved by management at a Rio Tinto mine in Canada and the company's destruction of indigenous sacred sites and vital natural water supply in Mongolia are just some of the well-documented and current facts discussed in the report.

Practices such as these bring risks to Rio Tinto's major stakeholders, such as workers, local communities and investors. They also expose the company to financial, reputational, legal and operational risks. The company's poor practices constitute a governance gap preventing it from adequately managing the risks in its sector. And its off-handed dismissal of the problems documented in the report shows further disrespect for the people who are affected, adding insult to injury.

Although Rio Tinto has refused to address these matters in this forum, we still encourage investors and others to assess these risks and try to engage Rio Tinto on its unsustainable behavior. One way is by entering into dialogue and raising questions with the company to seek clarification of the issues, and urging changes in corporate practices where needed. Model questions are provided at the end of our report.