# LBMA withdraws jurisdictional challenge in legal case over North Mara Gold Mine certification



The London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) has withdrawn its jurisdictional challenge in a legal case concerning the certification of gold from the North Mara Gold Mine in Tanzania. The LBMA is being sued by the families of two 23-year-old men who were allegedly killed at the mine. The families contend that the LBMA wrongly certified gold from the mine as responsibly sourced, despite allegations of serious human rights abuses.

Law firm Leigh Day, which represents the families, claims that since 2006, there have been at least 77 deaths and 304 injuries at the mine, attributed to actions by police and security guards. The LBMA had initially sought to have the case heard in Tanzania, arguing it was the appropriate jurisdiction. However, Leigh Day maintained that Tanzanian courts present significant challenges for victims of human rights abuses.

The LBMA's challenge was filed in August 2023, with a hearing scheduled for this month, but the association withdrew the challenge five weeks before the hearing date. Consequently, Leigh Day will now bring the case to the UK High Court.

Leading the claim are Leigh Day partner Daniel Leader and senior associate solicitor Alex Wessely. Mr. Leader stated that this case will set a precedent on whether a certification body can be held legally accountable for a flawed certification process that allegedly facilitated human rights abuses. The LBMA has expressed its commitment to defending the claim's substance, emphasizing its role in raising standards in human rights within the supply chain.