

March 13, 2025

To Mr. Greg Smith  
CEO & President, Equinox Gold

**Re: Threats against Carrizalillo ejido and call for respectful negotiations**

The below signed organizations write with profound concern over escalating tensions, threats of violence and legal persecution of members of the ejido of Carrizalillo and their families who live roughly half a kilometre from the massive heap leach pad at Equinox Gold's Los Filos mine in Guerrero, Mexico and whose agricultural lands are almost completely occupied by the mine.

In addition to loss of agricultural lands, the community has reported losing over a dozen water sources, the contamination of others, and a corresponding rise in health harms since the mine was installed in 2007. The land use and social-cooperation agreements with the community are not only a legal requirement for the mine to operate, but also important tools that the community has to offset the impacts of such losses and harms. These agreements are set to expire on March 31.

For well over a year, your company has repeatedly issued an ultimatum, stating that if it does not achieve the terms it seeks in the renegotiated agreements with Carrizalillo and two other communities "it may suspend operations indefinitely or until such time as new agreements are in place." It is clear that Equinox is seeking long-term agreements at a drastically reduced rate compared to current agreements, presumably to make up for losses at Los Filos and to justify further investment. It is not clear, however, that the agreements with communities are to blame for the company's reported losses at Los Filos in recent years. Company filings for 2023 explain these losses as a result of technical and economic issues, including as a result of the company's decision to delay investment for a new processing plant necessary to obtain better yields in order to focus on construction at the now operating Greenstone mine in Ontario.

This ultimatum, however, followed by a media campaign that the company has mounted against the ejido and in particular against its leadership, is giving rise to increasing tensions that we fear could lead to acts of physical and psychological violence in Carrizalillo. The recent breakdown of negotiations and the company's refusal so far to respond to the community's requests to reset conditions for continued talks further contributes to the escalation of threats and criminalization against the community.

- The company's ultimatum has been picked up regularly in local media, including to single out specific community representatives as responsible for the threatened mine closure, putting them and their families at risk of violence.
- The "La Filosita" radio station that operates within the Los Filos mine has been disseminating spots accusing Carrizalillo's representatives of obstructing efforts to reach a new agreement, to the detriment of workers and children in the community.

- Two top company officials of Equinox Gold, Mr. André Souza de Amorim, Equinox Gold General Manager for Los Filos, and Mr. Armando Fausto Ortega, Senior Vice President for Equinox Gold in Mexico, recently made a surprise visit to Carrizalillo on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> reiterating the threat that if Carrizalillo refused to sign a final agreement with the company that day that the mine would close.
- Over a dozen community leaders, family members and an advisor to the community have received death threats since the end of February.
- The ejido has held Equinox Gold and its social responsibility manager for Los Filos, Mr. Hugo Vergara, responsible for spearheading the smear campaign against the ejido who has repeatedly expressed his contempt for the ejido's representatives.

The death threats and stigmatization against community members from Carrizalillo are already acts of psychological violence, which could lead to grave acts of physical violence. Furthermore, such stigmatization could set the stage for a possible inter-community confrontation, which is particularly dangerous in the context of extreme systemic violence prevalent in central Guerrero. The ejido of Carrizalillo has already faced the forced displacement of half of its community in 2015 and more than 60 murders in the last 15 years.

As they have publicly expressed, Carrizalillo is not opposed to negotiations, but rather seeks a reset in talks with your company that would be with respect, independent of two other communities, which live at a considerably further distance from the mine and who have not faced comparable impacts from its operations, and that would also be independent of Guerrero state officials who they have denounced for putting undue pressure on them at the negotiation table to force agreements.

The company always has discretion about whether to operate or close the mine, but it should immediately drop its ultimatum toward the community and do everything within its power to bring a halt to any involvement of its personnel in threats or other behaviour that might contribute to provocations and threats of violence. Further, we urge the company respond constructively and respectfully to Carrizalillo's requests to restart negotiations over the land use and social-cooperation agreements. If the company decides instead to suspend or close the mine, it must also engage in talks with the community to determine the appropriate closure plans with regard for the community's needs.

**CC**

Ross Beaty  
Chair of the Board of Directors, Equinox Gold

Mr. Cameron McKay  
Ambassador for Canada to Mexico

Sylvie Bedard  
Director General - Central America and the Caribbean

SIGNED BY

**MEXICO**

1. Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining (REMA)
2. Centro de derechos humanos de los pueblos del sur de Veracruz Bety Cariño
3. Coolectivo de Académicos Sudcalifornianos
4. La Sandia Digital
5. Ideas Comunitarias
6. El fogón de las palabras
7. Rizoma Entretejiendo la Defensa de los Bienes Comunes
8. Centro de Investigación y Capacitación Rural (CEDICAR)
9. Mujer y Medio Ambiente
10. Teleradiocosta
11. Fundación Bajío Sahuaro
12. Cooperación Comunitaria A.C.
13. Al Sur: Latin American Studies Project
14. Liga Mexicana por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Limeddh
15. Bienestar Comunitario Cicacalco
16. Frente Popular en Defensa del Soconusco
17. Secretariado Social Mexicano
18. GeoComunes
19. Geo-grafías Comunitarias
20. Cineclub La Luciérnaga
21. Mujeres y maíz
22. Pastoral Social, Iglesia Anglicana de México
23. Colectiva ¡Cambiémosla Ya!
24. Bios Iguana A.C
25. Colectivo Tecuan
26. Instituto Guerrerense de DH AC
27. CartoCrítica
28. Mujer Libre Mx La Fuerza de Ixchel AC
29. Centro de Estudios de la Región Cuicateca-Oaxaca
30. Centro de Estudios para el Cambio en el Campo Mexicano
31. Maxtum Kalaw Chuchutsipi
32. Movimiento morelense contra la minería tóxica por metales
33. Movimiento cívico Obradorista
34. Alianza Mexicana contra el Fracking
35. Centro Cuicateco de los Derechos Humanos
36. Otros Mundos Chiapas
37. Impulso Sustentable Lek
38. Modi Te Yu Nguani
39. Comité en defensa del territorio de Guadalcazar

40. Casa Armaluz, Organización de Educación Acción Comunitaria del Pueblo Originario de San Pedro Cuajimalpa CDMX.
41. Colectivo Sí a la Vida
42. Corriente del Pueblo Sol Rojo
43. Comité ixtepecano en defensa de la vida y el territorio
44. Comité de Hijos Ausentes de Temaca en Guadalajara
45. Asociacion Ecologica Santo Tomás, A.C.
46. Geografía Septentrional
47. Observatorio de Conflictos Mineros de Zacatecas
48. Salvemos Temaca
49. Comunidades Unidas zimapan, a c.
50. Colectivo del periódico El Zenzontle Ricc
51. Querétaro con Palestina
52. Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario
53. Colectiva Malditos Plásticos
54. Red de Mujeres Zoques Construyendo Esperanza
55. Unitierra Jonotla
56. API-NAHU
57. Mujeres para el Diálogo
58. Centro de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias para el Desarrollo Rural Integral
59. Asociación por la Protección de la Tierra y Bienestar de Epazoyucan A.C.
60. Grupo Promotor Controlaría Autónoma del Agua de Guanajuato
61. Morras Por El Territorio
62. Fundación Don Sergio Mendez Arceo
63. SICSAL
64. Comité de Solidaridad y Derechos Humanos Monseñor Romero
65. Centro de Derechos Humanos Paso del Norte
66. ITESO

#### **CANADA**

67. Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA)
68. Americas Policy Group (APG)
69. MiningWatch Canada
70. Common Frontiers
71. Mining Justice Alliance- Vancouver
72. CoDevelopment Canada
73. The Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL)
74. Rights Action
75. Friends of the Earth Canada
76. Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network
77. Observatory on Violence, Criminalization and Democracy, University of Ottawa
78. Trade Justice Group of Council of Canadians
79. Mining Injustice Solidarity Network

## **INTERNATIONAL**

80. Yes to Life, No to Mining, Global Solidarity Network
81. Institute for Policy Studies - Mining & Trade Project, U.S.
82. Earth Thrive, U.K./Balkans
83. Earthworks, U.S.
84. WITNESS, U.S.
85. Project Sepik, Papua New Guinea
86. Save Our Sperrins, Northern Ireland
87. The Gaia Foundation, U.K.
88. CATAPA, Belgium
89. Aid/Watch, Australia
90. Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, Philippines
91. Grupo de mujeres guerreras de Morazán, El Salvador
92. UNIR en Haití
93. Universidad Itinerante de la Resistencia en Haití
94. Salva la Selva, Spain
95. Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice, U.S.
96. TerraJusta, Bolivia
97. Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, U.S.
98. Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente, Perú