

Carrizalillo, Municipality of Eduardo Neri, Guerrero, Mexico, March 2, 2025

GREG SMITH

President and CEO of Equinox Gold

This past Saturday, March 1, 2025, in a surprising and irresponsible manner, Mr. André Souza de Amorín, Equinox Gold General Manager, and Mr. Armando Fausto Ortega, Senior Vice President for the company in Mexico, showed up in our community of Carrizalillo. With a megaphone in hand, they harangued us, rallying community members to listen to them speak about the grandiose development and progress that we will miss out on for not wanting to sign an agreement that is full of setbacks. These are the same people who lie to us and break their commitments, even while they talk about how essential the agreements are and that we must accept them. But they refuse to accept that they were developed under pressure, with threats and with the imposition of clauses that affect us directly, unfortunately accompanied by state and municipal government actors.

Upon their arrival, they persisted with their discriminatory and stigmatizing discourse, stating that a small group of ejido members oppose mining progress whose fault it will be when development moves on and everyone is impoverished and we return to the misery of the past. For almost a year now, the company has been saying this to state officials, the mining union and their partners and shareholders in Canada. Everyone has their own interests in mind, but no one cares about ours.

The company representatives announced their arrival in the community on [social media](#) and other digital media. Some messages specifically named individuals who, according to them, are standing in the way and that they believe should be held to account. This discourse contributes to the death threats [being received], for which we hold Mr. Hugo Vergara responsible, [an Equinox Gold manager at Los Filos], who seems to find it intolerable that a community could be capable of requesting respect from a Canadian company.

We are trying to understand what the company is trying to do by trying to force a meeting in the streets of Carrizalillo. Weeks have passed and they have not responded to our letters intended to reduce tensions that the company has provoked and to restart negotiations correctly. Could it be that they sought to create a provocation so that someone from our community would become aggressive and this would be used to bring criminal accusations against those people who, according to them, oppose mining development? Did they want to confirm that the community of Carrizalillo is fully supportive of mining progress and development and a depressing agreement full of cutbacks?

There many questions that the irresponsible employees of Equinox should answer because by making a surprise visit, not only did they put themselves at risk, but they went openly to inflame tempers. This even put at risk the response of the state and municipal government, which we assume knew of the visit and apparently did not want to interrupt the audacity of this reckless act. If something had gone wrong, we wonder how the Undersecretary [in the state of Guerrero] for Political and Social Development, *Mr. Francisco Rodriguez*, who Mr. Armando Fausto Ortega referred to during his visit as "*the fireman for the Governor of Guerrero*", would have put out the flames.

However, everything went wrong for them. Only 15 to 18 people showed up at their public meeting to listen, but also to protest the company's promises. In this context, they took the opportunity of course to once again use coercion and threats, also accusing the community of selling the medicines that the company donates. This accusation only demonstrates the ignorance and contempt for us, failing to recognize that his point of view is both limited and completely wrong. Those present corrected him when they said that the provision of medicines is not a donation, but the company's obligation. To explain the issues arising from health harms in the community would take time, but in

brief the provision of medicines is an achievement of our ejido's struggle [in prior negotiations] given that the company refuses to accept the serious health harms it has caused and continues to cause. If our assembly decides to distribute medicines at full price, marked down, or to distribute them free of charge, this is because the company has refused to update the amount dedicated to this very sensitive issue, such that the ejido has to make up for the additional burden and cost that ejido members have to cover and for which the company's contribution is not enough. Mr. Armando is categorically wrong because he lacks the context in which we live, and although we know he is an experienced [mining executive], his naivety and ignorance of what we face is clear, including understanding why we in Carrizalillo have a distinct struggle compared to the other communities.

We hope that your visit to our community provides a contrast that helps to undo the lies that Mr. Hugo Vergara has told considering that only 15 to 18 people showed up from a population of approximately 3,500 inhabitants. Most of those who attended respectfully complained about the clumsy nature of the visit and how it violates our right to freely determine what is fair and correct for our people.

We close this statement by publicly asserting that Messrs. André Souza de Amorim and Armando Fausto Ortega arrived in an irresponsible manner to our community, trying to stir up public scrutiny that could have resulted in an undesirable outcome. Their visit ratifies for us that the colonial process is not over and they wish to keep subduing us with "sword in hand", in this case, using their power, as well as direct and hidden threats. Those [who plan these threats] are cowards, believing that economic power in partnership with the state government is necessary to subdue us.

The month of March has begun and we reiterate, as we have been saying, that Carrizalillo is still willing to negotiate the continuity or the definitive closure of the mine, but not in the streets of our community, nor with representatives of other communities that face different effects from the mine than ours, nor with political actors that support the company and not the people they govern. We hope that both local company representatives and those in Canada understand that we will not accept pressures and threats and even less restrictions imposed. It is a question of negotiating or not, it is as simple as that. It is a question of listening and moving forward. On March 31, the agreement expires and with it the company ends its right to occupy our lands. So, on April 1, a new story will begin for us and if the company opts to establish a respectful relationship with us, that story will be one of continuity and if not, we will begin to fight for the remediation of our territory.

Once again, we call attention to the recent and escalating death threats and criminalization of which we are the object and which are a result of the company's discourse [toward us] being orchestrated in particular by Mr. Hugo Vergara.

Sincerely,

Representatives of the EJIDO DE CARRIZALILLO