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To: Kelvin Dushnisky – The President - Barrick Gold Corp
Peter Sinclair – Senior Vice President, Corporate and Social Responsibility – Barrick Gold Corp
Ila Temu – Country Executive Director – Barrick Niugini Limited
Anthony Smare - General Manager Corporate & Legal – Barrick Niugini Limited

26th March, 2017

Dear Sirs,

RE: Urgent - Allegations of human rights abuses at the Porgera mine - village burning, forced eviction, assault, rape

I am writing to notify you of serious human rights abuses committed this week and last week at the Porgera Joint Venture mine in Papua New Guinea, and to request that you take immediate action to stop these abuses and investigate them and explain what happened.

The PNG Police Mobil Squads have burnt down 150 houses on March 25, 2017 at around 5:30 am (PNG Time). The PNG police Mobile Units forcefully evicted residents from Wingima village near Barrick's Porgera gold mine and burnt down some 150 houses. According to reports from eye witnesses at the scene, the Victims said they had no warning and were not given eviction notices in advance of the attack.

Upon receiving a call from one of the residents of the village, I have personally went to see what had happened. To my surprise, I saw that all the houses were already burnt down and there was only coals and ashes. Find attached are the photos taken after the burnt down of the Villager's houses.

When asked, one of the eyewitnesses and an owner of one of a houses that was burnt down said that he was fast asleep at around 5:30 am in the morning when the PNG Police Mobil Squads forcefully broke his houses door and entered. After entering his house, they dragged him out of his house half naked and a policeman set his house on fire. He further said that he did not get even a single shirt or a pant. Everything he owns including cooking utensils, clothes, beds and other valuable properties were all burnt down.

Also I personally interviewed another victim and he said that his younger sister and other two school aged girls were also gang-raped during the raid. Some people have said that a total of eight young school aged girls were gang-raped and six young men were bashed up by the

Police Personals. I am still trying to investigate if these rapes are true or not. The names of the bashed-up men were collected and I will lodge complains on their behalf at the Local Police Station on Monday.

I went to one of the Policeman who was involved in the raid and had asked why they are forcefully burning down the local landowners' houses and he said that it was Barrick who had ordered them. He said, "The Company gave us orders and that we had no choice but to follow their directives". He also added, "We are here working for money and if we don't follow orders, we will not be paid our daily allowances." Please note that this is the third time Barrick and its allies are burning down Wingima Village.

Even if some of the people living in Wingima were new to the place, it doesn't give Barrick or the police the right to burn all their houses and their valuable properties, or to bash them up.

The escalating human rights violation is going from bad to worse including force evictions, rapes, shootings and beatings. Witnesses reported to me a different incident of gang rape on Monday, 20th March, 2017 at around 3:00 pm. One eyewitness said women were crossing a haul road when the Barrick hired PNG Police Mobil Squads patrolling the Mine's Waste Dump held them up during the daylight and gang raped them. These Special Hired PNG Police Mobil Squads forcefully removed the 3 women's dress and clothes. When they were naked the Policemen had forced them to the ground where all of them took turns in raping them. The witness who was interviewed by ATA said that he couldn't belief his own eyes.

The history of abuses at the PJV mine is too long. We used to think the situation was getting better, but it is very bad now.

I am requesting to you stop these abuses. Since you are paying for the food and accommodation and fuel of the police, and they are guarding your gold, you have a responsibility.

Please:

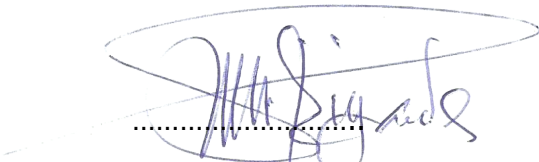
1. Say that you will investigate these allegations and help the Porgera police do a proper investigation, and tell us and the world the result of your investigation.
2. Explain why Wingima was burned down again.
3. Make sure the Mobil Squads who work to guard your mine are not committing abuse or assault. Every Mobil police now should be suspended from work until the investigation is finished.
4. Give a fair remedy to the Victims.
5. Provide temporary shelters, clothes, cooking utensils and food rations to the forcefully evicted Villagers forthwith.
6. Meet all medical expenses for the injured men and raped young women forthwith.

7. Press the government of Papua New Guinea to thoroughly investigate abuses by mobile police officers during their eviction of residents of Wuangima and the gang rapes at the Anawe Waste Dump Site.

8. And also fund other International Human Rights Investigative Bodies to thoroughly investigate abuses by mobile police officers during their eviction of residents of Wuangima the gang rapes at the Anawe Waste Dump Site.

9. Further, this incident brings light to the previous similar abuses done by the Barrick's Security Guards and its hired PNG Police Mobil Squads at Porgera. The complains of the previous incidents have been lodged with the Barrick's Grievance Mechanism at the PJV Mine Site and in acknowledgement of the receipt of the grievance, the ATA was issued a grievance acknowledgement ID Number 3936. But Barrick has never responded since then, however; ATA had staged a peaceful protest demanding for respond from the allegation and on July, 8, 2016 Barrick stated that it will influence BNL to evaluate those allegations under Grievance ID 3936 and where merit provide remedies that will be equitable and rights-compatible. But, "When will Barrick evaluate those allegations and provide remedies as assured as it is almost a year now?"

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M'Diyan Robert Yapani', is written over a horizontal dotted line. The signature is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

M'Diyan Robert Yapani

Executive Officer - Akali Tange Association Inc.

cc

- Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator Asia Pacific, MiningWatch Canada, Catherine@miningwatch.ca
- Sarah Knuckey, Professor and Director, Human Rights Clinic – Columbia Law School sk3946@columbia.edu
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