

To: **Catherine Coumans, Ph.D.**
MiningWatch Canada
4 Florence Street
Suite 210
Ottawa, ON K2P 0W7
Canada
Email: info@miningwatch.ca

Copy: **Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal**
UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Email: hrc-sr-housing@un.org

Executive Director Anna Henga
Legal and Human Rights Centre
Justice Lugakingira House
P. O. Box 75254
Kijitonyama
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Email: annahenga@gmail.com

High Commissioner Pamela O'Donnell
High Commission of Canada to Tanzania
26 Garden Avenue/38 Mirambo street
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: dslam@international.gc.ca

February 14, 2023

Dear Ms Coumans:

Response to your letter dated January 27 2023.

We refer to your letter dated January 27, 2023, with the subject: "*Forced evictions and related human rights abuses ongoing at North Mara Gold Mine*".

Regrettably, your latest letter ignores the content of the correspondence we addressed to you on November 14, 2022, and merely repeats unsubstantiated allegations contained in your first letter of October 18, 2022 regarding forced evictions and human rights abuses at North Mara. More disturbing is the graphic description of distraught villagers contained in your letter, which is stated to be based on testimonies and footage which you have not provided to us.

As you can appreciate, we are troubled by the extremely serious accusations you make, and the poignant scenes you describe, without providing any form of evidence. We therefore request that you particularize the testimonies you refer to, provide us with the footage of the scenes you describe, and that you explain to us in detail:

- a) your methodology for obtaining the information said to support your allegations;
- b) the due diligence applied in corroborating and verifying your information; and

c) how you have independently verified the accounts in your letter and report.

May I assure you that this information will be treated with the utmost care, and will be only used to allow Barrick and North Mara to investigate these allegations further. However, if you are not able or willing to provide the requested information, then we request that you immediately retract the accusations that you have made.

Your letter also contains a number of other inaccurate or troubling statements. First, it misrepresents the findings of Synergy Global Consulting in their September 2022 report. Contrary to the misleading impression given in your letter, Synergy's conclusion was that *"NMGM have made measurable progress regarding resettlement by consolidating their understanding of historical compensation processes, working to resolve outstanding historical resettlement issues, and developing a more integrated site wide plan for future resettlement"* (page 6), amongst other things.

We do recognize that resettlement can be challenging especially in the vicinity of North Mara where we are facing a high number of unscrupulous land speculators who have been illegally developing areas through infrastructure development or crop planting, including in the Komarera Village. These same individuals seek to exploit third parties to echo their illegal, but unfounded, claims in an effort to apply pressure for additional compensation, outside the remits of the law. Their voices and efforts should however not detract from our achievements in successfully completing the compensation process for the settlement of over 4,900 people at Komarera. We also recognize that our work is not complete and we strive for continued improvement. We have taken Synergy's recommendations on board and will continue to work with the Government of Tanzania to address outstanding legacy land acquisition commitments and our ongoing land acquisition at Komarera.

Second, while your correspondence revolves around the issue of resettlement, we are puzzled that your letter states that it *"follows the filing in Canada of the third legal action since 2013 regarding excess use of force by police guarding the North Mara mine against the local Kuria population"*. None of the proceedings that you referred to: (a) has any link, allegation or assertion relating to resettlement, and (b) has resulted in any condemnation of Barrick's conduct by a court judgment.

Yours sincerely



Mark Bristow

President and CEO, Barrick Gold Corporation