



BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION Tel: +1 416 861-9911
Brookfield Place, TD Canada Trust Tower Fax: +1 416 861-2492
Suite 3700, 161 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2S1
Canada

April 17, 2017

Dear Mr. Yapari,

Following my initial letter to you on March 27th, I write to notify you that the various investigations into your allegations of police misconduct in relation to the police operation in Wangima on March 25th, 2017 are materially complete.

As I indicated on March 27th, Barrick Niugini Limited¹ (“BNL”) immediately launched a formal internal inquiry to better understand the situation, asked Independent Observer of the Porgera Police Operations (“the Independent Observer”), Mr. Ila Geno, to investigate the situation, and urged senior police officials to investigate any complaints.

Those investigations are now substantially complete. The police, the Independent Observer, and BNL’s internal investigations reached consistent conclusions. In January 2017, the police obtained warrants from the Porgera District Court to search temporary shelters for drugs, weapons, and other evidence of illegal activities. According to a written police report from March 30th, 2017, those searches revealed drugs, evidence of prostitution, and evidence of illegal mining. The report further advises that users of the shelters were told in January that they were being evicted under an existing eviction order that covers the land, giving them ample time to seek relief from the court.

On March 25, 2017, the police then proceeded with their eviction operation. The Independent Observer and BNL investigations both confirmed that the Porgera Joint Venture neither requested the action nor was notified of it ahead of time. The police advised that few people were present when they arrived at the location on March 25th. Contrary to your allegation that 150 structures were destroyed, the police concluded that that the operation involved some 18 shelters – and no permanent structures. The Independent Observer’s inquiries, BNL’s investigation, CCTV, and photographs from the scene similarly confirm that roughly 18 shelters were removed. We had asked you for further evidence in support of your allegation that the number was substantially higher than that; to date, none has been provided.

¹ Barrick (Niugini) Limited is the 95% owner of the Porgera Joint Venture and is the manager of the operation. Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group each own 50% of BNL and hence each own 47.5% overall.

The police have also reported that they believe force used was reasonable. BNL's own investigation corroborates this; based on extensive review of CCTV footage from the mine, at this time, we are not in possession of any evidence to support the ATA's allegations of physical or sexual abuse. To date, no grievance has been filed by individuals with the PJV grievance mechanism. In addition, no victims have sought aid from the mine medical facility and the Independent Observer reports that medical facilities in the area have had no victims of police abuse appear.

We understand from the Independent Observer that you declined to present alleged victims to him to permit an investigation, and that you also declined to provide him with a report that you say you provided to the police. In our investigation, we found that the police have not identified such a report from you. It is regrettable to learn that you chose not to cooperate with the Independent Observer's requests.

As you might be aware, VICE news reported on March 30th that it had interviewed Sepelyn Puka, who claimed to have been a victim of sexual assault. PJV's site personnel have been unable to find anyone with that name in the surrounding communities or in the Papua New Guinea voter registration lists. Should you know this person's whereabouts, we urge that you ask her to contact the Independent Observer to allow him to investigate her claims.

To summarize, investigations from the police and the Independent Observer, along with BNL's investigation and CCTV footage, have unequivocally determined that approximately 18 make-shift shelters in the operation area were removed, not 150 structures as indicated in your letter. Furthermore, the police confirm that their eviction operation on March 25th, 2017 followed protocol and came after a warrant issued by a local court found evidence of illegal activity in the area. The users of those shelters were given warning of their eviction well in advance, and no evidence has yet been identified to corroborate your allegation of physical abuses. And finally, there is no evidence that BNL was aware of the action before it took place.

In closing, let me reiterate my request that you please provide mine management and/or the Independent Observer with any material information regarding alleged physical abuse so that a proper and thorough investigation can be conducted. You can contact Ila Geno on 76868222 and 72088859.

Regards,



Peter Sinclair
Chief Sustainability Officer

