

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 Mr Kyle Nunas
High Commission of Canada to Tanzania
26 Garden Avenue/38 Mirambo street
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: dslam@international.gc.ca

March 2, 2023

Dear Ms Coumans:

Response to your letter dated February 24, 2023

We refer to your letter dated February 24, 2023, with the subject: “*Response to your letter of February 14, 2023*”.

We regret to note that despite our various requests, you have still failed to provide any specific information or substantiation of the allegations you continue to make against our Company, and you have ignored our responses regarding the process undertaken. To reiterate our previous letters to you, dated November 14, 2022 and February 14, 2023, there have been **no forced evictions** undertaken by Barrick, or North Mara since Barrick assumed operational control of North Mara from Acacia in September 2019, nor are there forced evictions currently underway. In 2019, North Mara, the Government of Tanzania, and Chief Valuer jointly developed a land acquisition and compensation plan. This has been implemented in full compliance with Tanzanian laws and the OECD Guidelines, resulting in the payment of fair compensation to over 4,900 people at Komarera (the level of which is ascertained by the Chief Valuer, and not North Mara) , who have voluntarily accepted our offers of compensation for their settlement and have vacated the area.

I also shared that there are unscrupulous land speculators that undertake illegal activities and seek compensation outside the remits of the law. These speculators have been responsible

BARRICK

for intimidation and violent conduct during the process, and seek to pressure the Company through external organizations that echo their unfounded claims. Your letter states plainly that you cannot “*disclose information that will breach the confidentiality of those whose identities [you] have undertaken to protect*” while at the same time refusing to share any information of MiningWatch’s research methodology and due diligence.

If you hold credible information that anyone has been forced out of their home without receiving compensation, we are willing to investigate such specific information against our own records so that (a) if they have indeed accepted payment of their agreed compensation, we can inform you and put an end to the continued thread of unfounded allegations or (b) if they have been inadvertently left out of the compensation scheme, we can ensure they are included in accordance with the compensation plan. There is no other manner in which the information can or will be used by Barrick.

I fear you may be conflating issues between your unsubstantiated claims and the plaintiffs who have brought claims in court. We acknowledge that 32 plaintiffs from Komarera have brought claims which are yet to be determined by the court, but these claims relate to the quantum of the compensation they have received, and they are not claiming that they were forcibly evicted from their homes. These individuals have also accepted the compensation that they agreed to, before then raising the claims through the court. Nonetheless, the existence of these claims is ample proof that the Tanzanian judicial system is available to all those who have complaints about relocation and compensation, and is indeed the most suitable forum for resolving these matters. We support the rule of law and the right for individuals to use the Tanzanian judicial system.

Our response is categorical that there are no forced evictions. In circumstances where you remain unwilling to disclose any information or substantiate the allegations you raise, we see little point in discussing details regarding our safeguarding of information or any other process you may be suggesting. We would invite you to reconsider your approach so that a more productive dialogue can be achieved.

Yours sincerely



Mark Bristow

President and CEO, Barrick Gold Corporation