

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

13 December 2023

Dear Ms. Coumans:

## **Response to your Report dated 12 December 2023**

Barrick Gold Corporation (Barrick) is aware of the report, *Evicted for Gold Profits: Indigenous Kuria forced off land in expansion of Barrick Gold's North Mara Gold Mine in Tanzania* (the "Report"). We are disappointed that MiningWatch have not only recycled allegations that were made in October 2022 but that you have again failed to verify your information and ignored our request in our last response to you that you engage with us prior to publishing any future reports concerning any of Barrick's operations. We have previously cautioned against publishing information that is not credible but encourages the illegal activities taking place in the region such as illegal mining and speculation – this is irresponsible and inconsistent with your stated mission to base your work on mutual learning and participatory methodologies.

The report raises serious allegations made against North Mara Gold Mine and Barrick Gold Corporation and we refute the unsubstantiated claims that MiningWatch Canada have once again made. Barrick reiterates that there have been no forced evictions undertaken by North Mara Gold Mine.

Barrick has made significant progress in dealing with legacy issues that were inherited, including legacy land issues. The land compensation process included extensive engagement between the team at North Mara and the communities, Chairpersons of the surrounding villages, district and regional government as well as national government. All agreements and compensation paid for land have been made through consultation and agreement with the households.

In response to the MiningWatch Canada Report [we have issued a statement on our website](#) dedicated to providing factual data and the progress we are making at the North Mara Gold Mine.

Your letter states that you personally visited the North Mara region in October this year. It is unfortunate that you failed to contact us to not only to verify the information you have received but for North Mara to provide you with the facts and details. This lack of consultation is in direct contrast with the principles of transparency that you and your organization claim to be

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championing. This is unfortunately a disturbing trend we have noted in other regions where your organization is active.

North Mara is engaged with and works alongside local and national NGOs in Tanzania. We are, therefore, puzzled as to why you have not consulted with them as they, unlike MiningWatch Canada, are on the ground, understand the context in which North Mara operates and are actively working with North Mara to progress the community development in the communities around the mine. This consultation would have been useful in verifying the information you have received.

Unfortunately, there are a minority of bad actors operating in the region that are responsible for illegal activities, including encouraging intruders and funding fraudulent land speculation. Your continued reporting risks perpetuating these actions and supporting illegal activities. Your mission further states that you support the safety of mineworkers, however your reporting encourages and empowers a small number of individuals to continue their violent actions and extortion. We take this opportunity to reiterate our call for you to share your due diligence so we can cross reference with the North Mara land acquisition process, and we caution you, once again, from publishing unverified and unvetted information.

Barrick and North Mara are working closely with the community, government and civil society to improve basic human rights, improve livelihoods, and would encourage responsible reporting that does not unravel the progress being made on the ground and initiatives in which you should be constructively participating rather than passing incorrect judgments from afar.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bristow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mark Bristow**  
**President and CEO, Barrick Gold Corporation**