



**P.O. BOX 100,  
PORGERA,  
ENGA PROVINCE  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Phone: (+675) 7111 2610

Email: [akalitange\\_association@yahoo.com](mailto:akalitange_association@yahoo.com)/[mc.yapari@gmail.com](mailto:mc.yapari@gmail.com)

---

**To: Kelvin Dushnisky – President – Barrick Gold Corp**  
**Peter Sinclair – Senior Vice President, Corporate and Legal- Barrick Gold Corp**  
**Illa Temu – Country Executive Director – Barrick Niugini Limited**  
**Anthony Smare – Director Corporate & Legal – Barrick Niugini**

May 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Dear Sirs,

**RE: URGENT - ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AT THE PORGERA MINE - VILLAGE BURNING, FORCED EVICTION, ASSAULT, RAPE**

I acknowledge receipt of your letters dated March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in response to my letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

In your letters you all have stated some things which are contradicting to the allegations which I have raised. These include:

**1. The houses burnt down were temporary structures and only 18.**

As you are aware, Wangima Village has a long history of occupancy by Teine Clan of the Porgera Gold Mine's SML area. Wangima Village has been the Teine Clans residential Village for some decades.

The type of house that were torched are undoubtedly their residential buildings and not temporary/make-shifts as you claimed. Your statement has brought these poor land and resources owners' livelihood to question as being inferiors who live in make-shift or temporary bush material houses. Just because a house is made of pieces of tins and grasses does not mean it is not a real house with a family living in it. Papua New Guinea people live in these kinds of houses, but maybe they look like temporary structure to foreign people.

Barrick hasn't explained why it could be OK to burn someone's house. Even if someone is "illegal" it is not good for police to destroy all their properties and burn their houses down. Why does the police act in this way, and why doesn't Barrick speak against this kind of action?

Barrick proclaims in its Human Rights and Security Policy that Barrick is committed to respecting and protecting human rights wherever it operates. Is this how Barrick respects and protects

human rights by forcefully evicting local indigenous land and resources owners by undermining their rights?

Two similar incidents of forced evictions have occurred in April, 2009 and 2014 where in both more than 130 houses have been burnt. The current planned and executed incident that occurred on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March involves 52 houses torched and not 18 as you have stated.

Upon receipt of the incidents report, ATA was told by the victims that a total of 150 houses were burnt. Barrick disputed the allegation stating that only 18 temporary structures were burnt down. To confirm the difference, I have physically visited the site on the March, 31 and had confirmed that the total houses burnt down are 52. For confirmation, please refer to the attachment below at "**Annexure A**".

## **2. Denial of Barrick's involvement in the planning and implementation of the force eviction**

Blame game and passing of bucks to local policemen and women has been a systematic problem for Barrick ever since its takeover from Placer Dome as the majority shareholder of the Porgera Joint Venture.

During the last two incidents of forced evictions and other string of human rights allegations, the Barrick's denial of these allegations has been a systematic problem. We at ATA have been fed-up with Barrick's denials, passing of bucks and blame game.

We have strong evidences to allege that Barrick has planned and executed the force eviction despite your letter claiming that Barrick and its management at the mine site were not aware of the incident until it was implemented.

Further, these policemen and women are housed, fed, clothed and even paid by the Barrick at the mine site and Barrick's denial to the allegations is just another mere excuse.

It is also evident in the "***Porgera Operations – Post 24 March, 2016 of the Royal PNG Constabulary Commissioner's Intent for Porgera Operations – The Way Forward***" presented by Nelson Chanei, Chief Inspector and the Contingent Commander of the Porgera Operations<sup>1</sup> that:

- a. The National Executive Council of PNG has not extended the Call-Out in Porgera which has lapsed on March, 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 after its initial inception 2 years ago,
- b. The Porgera Operations is currently solely funded by Barrick (Niugini) Limited which owns 45% of the mine; the other 50% is owned by Jijin a Chinese Company with 5% owned by the EPG and landowners
- c. The current phase of the operation is under an existing arrangement of mutual understanding between PJV and RPNGC;
- d. Funding support by PJV is coordinated by OSCA within the DPM & NEC through above arrangement.

<sup>1</sup>see also; [https://www.linkedin.com/in/nelson-day-chanei-dps-](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nelson-day-chanei-dps-082a2085/treasury/position:803394845/?entityUrn=urn%3Ali%3Afs_treasuryMedia%3A(ACoAABlgamIBmhW4ma9MBwEnwyAXn1OzBD7zr-w%2C51194561))

[082a2085/treasury/position:803394845/?entityUrn=urn%3Ali%3Afs\\_treasuryMedia%3A\(ACoAABlgamIBmhW4ma9MBwEnwyAXn1OzBD7zr-w%2C51194561\)](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nelson-day-chanei-dps-082a2085/treasury/position:803394845/?entityUrn=urn%3Ali%3Afs_treasuryMedia%3A(ACoAABlgamIBmhW4ma9MBwEnwyAXn1OzBD7zr-w%2C51194561))

Therefore, Barrick must admit that its employees at Porgera have committed this abuse and that Barrick will adhere to the following ATA's recommendations, hold the perpetrators accountable and apologize the victims for the abuse caused.

### **3. Search Warrant obtained from Porgera District Court**

In addition to clause 2 above, upon receiving your respond to my letter urging Barrick's immediate intervention and investigation, I had written to the Porgera Court House to confirm whether the Court has issued the said warrant.

In response to our letter the Porgera District Court said that they had neither issued a Search Warrant nor did they had given any directives to any police personals to do a search at the Wangima Village for the last 24 months from the date of this eviction exercise being the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017. Find attached is an official letter from Porgera District Court at "**Annexure C**".

Therefore, Barrick's respond to my allegation is totally bias and misleading.

To the maximum, a Search Warrant does not allow police operations to burn down houses. Your respond stating that the PJV mine has been advised that warrants were issued by the Porgera District Court for the raid and asserts that mine personnel had no prior knowledge of the police action is just another denial of the fact.

This response is remarkable as it does not explain how such a planned raid could occur in a village inside Barrick's mine lease area without Barrick's prior knowledge –as there is a history of such house burnings in Wangima by police involved with the mine as reported by MiningWatch Canada, Amnesty International and the Porgera Landowners in 2009 and 2014.

Barrick must admit by saying that the string of forced eviction were planned and executed by the Barrick to expand its operation as the Wangima Villagers and their settlement in the SML area has been hindrances to its mine's operations plan.

### **4. Engagement of Mr. Ila Geno**

We at ATA had believed that Mr. Ila Geno was engaged as an independent monitor and investigator of the Police Operations in Porgera and had welcomed him to do a thorough investigation on these incidents of forced eviction, physical assaults and the rapes involving the PNG Police Mobil Squads.

ATA has made several attempts to reach him while he was at Porgera, however; he was not reached. Latterly, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> , I was called and informed that he is back in Port Moresby and had further assured me via email that he will be here at Porgera to do further investigations from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April. This response came about some hours later when I had emailed some of the concerned individuals here in PNG and aboard including Anthony Smare regarding his visit at Porgera in which I have said that ATA has never met Mr Geno and that his reports will **not** be reliable and facts.

After his assurance, we had gathered all the victims including the physically assaulted and the raped/gang raped victims and went to meet him at his office at the PJV Admin Building. To our surprise all of us were denied entry and Mr Geno had arranged entry permits for only 4 representatives, especially ATA Executives including myself.

Upon arrival at his office, we were verbally told that he is a contractor engaged by Barrick and that he has no investigative powers. He further added that pursuant to his engagement's contractual agreement with Barrick, he is only obliged to write reports and submit them to Barrick and the PNG Police Commissioner.

During our meeting, I had advised him that I am willing to cooperate with him to provide evidences in the form of medical reports and their written statements from the physically assaulted and the rape/gang raped victims, however, Mr. Geno told us that he will sought permissions from the PNG Police Commissioner to do the investigation as he is a retired police officer and that under the constitutions of PNG, he has no investigative powers and only otherwise authorized and empowered by the Police Commissioner to do so.

Hence, your response stating that we at ATA were unwilling to cooperate are bias and misleading. Mr. Geno has neither requested for any evidences nor a list of names who need urgent assistances. All he said was that he is also concerned about the disrespect that the Barrick has for the local indigenous community here at Porgera and this is evident in his interview with the Radio New Zealand International where he says that he is also very concerned about human rights abuses at Porgera.<sup>2</sup>

### **5. Investigation by Senior Police Officers**

As far as I am aware, there has never been an investigation conducted by a senior police officer in Porgera about the allegations.

Knowing that such false and misleading information would be sent to your attention by your Managers here at Porgera, I have personally written to the Acting Porgera Police Station Commander to conduct an investigation into the incident, however; this was delayed due to my arrest by the Barrick hired police officers. Find attached is the official letter that I had written to the Acting Police Station Commander at "**Annexure D**".

I am not sure which group(s) of senior police officers had undertaken the investigation. Should this investigation was done by the Barrick hired police officers, then I dispute this investigation report and strongly declare as bias and misleading. How dare on Earth would one engage a police/some police officer(s) who are accused to have committed the crime, to investigate the crime they themselves have committed? Ridiculous indeed!

Therefore, your so called senior police officers investigation reports are misleading and bias in its nature. I do understand that it is not your prerogative to physically come to this level to do the investigation yourselves. However; I strongly oppose the reports that were submitted towards your attentions and declare them with strongest term possible as bias and misleading and that such similar misleading reports of human rights abuse here at Porgera that have been submitted towards your attentions by your Managers from Porgera for the last two decades are all misleading as well.

<sup>2</sup> See : <http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/201839477/claims-of-human-rights-abuses-near-a-png-goldmine>

ATA as an organization is not here on the ground to oppose and retaliate against Barrick when it comes to human rights abuse issues here at Porgera. We are here to protect and defend the local indigenous peoples' rights and assist Barrick by means of notifying Barrick Gold Corp and its joint venture partners of your employees and allies conducts in breach of the Barrick's Security and Human Rights Policies. Also it is our prime objective to work cohesively with Barrick to address these escalating human rights violations issues once and for all and hold the perpetrators accountable for their conducts and where merits, Barrick as an employer of the perpetrators can provide remedies to the victims pursuant to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights [The Guiding Principles].

ATA is well prepared and is equipped with the best local technical know-how to address, mitigate, evaluate and to come up with best strategies to assist Barrick to stop and prevent the escalating human rights abuses, illegal mining and other social issues confronted with Barrick Gold Corp here at Porgera.

## **6. BNL's OGM at the Mine Site**

Moving on with, we at ATA are aware that PJV does have an Operational Grievance Mechanism at its Yoko I Office at the PJV Mine Site, however; this OGM is ineffective, not transparent, unpredictable and there is power imbalance in evaluating such allegations. Additionally, the OGM is manned by incompetent personnel and such urgent incidents will not be evaluated in transparent and accountable manner with urgency to serve the victims.

The ineffectiveness, not transparent, unpredictable and power imbalance are some of the facts that ATA has learned after submitting ATA's previous allegations of human rights abuses under the PJV Grievance Acknowledgement ID No: 3936.

The Barrick Gold Corp has assured ATA that it will influence the BNL and its OGM to evaluate the allegations under this Grievance Acknowledgement ID No: 3936 via its letter dated July, 8, 2016 but nothing has been done to date. Hence, after knowing the weakness, ineffectiveness and incompetency of the company created OGM, ATA opt not to submit the victims name list knowing that it will be a waste of ATA's precious time.

## **7. Conclusion**

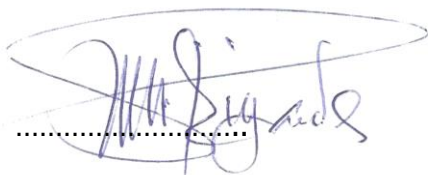
To conclude with, ATA now through this letter urges Barrick to:

- a. Admit the fact that the force eviction was wrongfully executed by the Barrick hired police which was ordered by the BNL Management at Porgera.
- b. Also admit that, the BNL Management Team here at Porgera have submitted misleading investigation reports of the incident after knowing ATA's factual proofs which are attached herewith.
- c. The investigation reports which the Barrick's Top Management have received and had relied from the Porgera Management Team were and are misleading and bias.
- d. Provide temporary shelters, food rations, cooking utensils, clothings and others to the 300 plus Wangima Villagers forthwith.

- e. Provide medical assistances to the victims of rape and assaults, including the three women that were gang raped at the Anawe Dump Site on the 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- f. And also fund and engage other International Human Rights Investigative Organization to thoroughly investigate abuses by mobile police officers during their eviction of residents of Wangima and the gang rapes at the Anawe Waste Dump Site.
- g. Make public the MOA between the PNG Government and the Barrick to engage Police Operations in Porgera as we already have some of the lead information about the operational being solely funded by Barrick Gold.
- h. Make sure no abusive police are working around the Porgera mine, and make sure Barrick isn't paying the police who burned Wangima. Police with accusations against them must be suspended.
- i. Provide remedies to the forcefully evicted, physically assaulted and raped and or gang raped victims within 6 months prior to the receipt of this letter together with the other victims whose names have been submitted under the PJV Grievance Acknowledgement ID No: 3936
- j. Make known the investigation report conduct by the senior police officers and the independent monitor of police operations in Porgera.
- k. Work cohesively with ATA as partners in addressing, mitigating, evaluating and setting up preventative measures for human rights, illegal mining and other social issues confronted with Barrick.

With these, I take this time to personally applaud you Mr. Peter Sinclair for your prompt and positive response so far despite receiving misleading information from your Managers here at Porgera. I believe that the facts are not being reported to you when requested and this has and is creating disputes amongst ATA and Barrick. Should the facts are reported and brought to your attention, the Porgera's human rights abuse issues would have been addressed ,mitigated, evaluated, and where merits, remedies would also have been provided by Barrick under your leadership. Also, preventative measures would have been in place long time ago.

Sincerely,



M'Diyan Robert Yapari

Executive Officer - Akali Tange Association Inc.

cc

- Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator Asia Pacific, MiningWatch Canada, [Catherine@miningwatch.ca](mailto:Catherine@miningwatch.ca)
- Sarah Knuckey, Professor and Director, Human Rights Clinic – Columbia Law School [sk3946@columbia.edu](mailto:sk3946@columbia.edu)
- Marco Simons – Principal ERI [marco@earthrights.org](mailto:marco@earthrights.org)
- Tamara Morgenthau – ERI [tamara@earthrights.org](mailto:tamara@earthrights.org)
- Tyler Giannini , Professor and Director Human Rights Clinics Harvard Law School. [giannini@law.harvard.edu](mailto:giannini@law.harvard.edu)

**Annexure A - House burnt and areas  
of Police Activity in Wingima**

**Please refer to separate  
attachment on this email  
label, "Wangima Police  
Operation 30 March  
aerial photos 2017"**



# **Annexure B - Porgera Police Operations Post**



## **PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016**

**RPNGC COMMISSIONER'S INTENT**

**PORGERA OPERATIONS 2016 – The Way Forward.** “

**PRESENTED BY:**

**Nelson Chanei  
Chief Inspector  
Contingent Commander  
Porgera Operations 2016**



## PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016

### INTRODUCTION:

- The NEC has not extended the Call-Out in Porgera which has lapsed on 24MAR16 after it's initial inception 2 years ago;
- The NSAC is adamant RPNGC assumes its mandatory obligations of maintaining law and order in Porgera and SML/LMP areas;
- There has been limited consideration of the consequences of not being strategic by stakeholders in terms of planning due to lack of funding support by GoPNG to develop appropriate long term intervention strategies.



## **PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016**

### ➤ Background

1. The Porgera Operations is currently solely funded by Barrick (Niugini) Ltd which owns 45% of the mine; the other 50% is owned by Jinzan a Chinese company with 5% owned by the EPG and landowners.
2. The current phase of the operation is under an existing arrangement of mutual understanding between PJV and RPNGC;
3. Funding support by PJV is coordinated by OSCA within the DPM & NEC through above arrangement;



## **PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016**

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015:**

1. Formulating an effective SMP (drafted) that addresses the short & long term issues and captures the Government intent.
2. Making informed representations on behalf of the RPNGC to the relevant stakeholders;
3. Developing strategic alliances and collaboration with willing partners to support Government priorities.
4. Reduction in IM nos. from 21AUG15 to current levels as a result of effective and discipline approach.



## **PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016**

### **CHALLENGES FACED IN 2015:**

- 1. Restoring credibility to RPNGC as lead Law & Order agency in the Porgera JFCO Operations;**
- 2. Effective use of Human & Non Human Resources to add value to the conduct of the JFCO operations;**
- 3. Developing frameworks that provide clear direction for collaboration and inter phasing with stakeholders.**



## **PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Review arrangements between PJV & RPNGC with the view of having RPNGC assume administration of PJV funding support;
- Develop long term plans that entails localization of policing functions back to PPC Enga by building local capacity;
- Review the MOU between RPNGC and PJV on the Reserve Constabulary.





## **PORGERA OPERATIONS – POST 24 MARCH 2016**

### **CONCLUSIONS:**

➤ The RPNGC as lead law enforcement agency in the Porgera Operations must retain both administrative and operational functions in compliance with its Constitutional Obligations & Corporate intent.

### **INTENDED OUTCOMES:**

1. Maintain continuity and cohesion with stakeholders;
2. Support local leadership and community intentions;
3. Effective short term and long term intervention;
4. Enhance efficiency of the RPNGC in service delivery;

### **COMMUNITY BENEFIT:**

Royal PNG Constabulary is competent in managing law and order in Porgera District and SML/LMP areas.



**Annexure C - Letter to ATA  
from Porgera District Court**



**MAGISTERIAL SERVICES**

**District Court Porgera**

**Post Office Box 23, Porgera, Enga Province**

**Telephone: (675) 547110 /5471084 Facsimile: (675) 57886646 Mobile:  
72719260 Email: mapiee492@gmail.com**

21<sup>st</sup> of April 2017

**Mr. McDiyan Robert Yapari**

Public & Executive Officer

Akali Tanger Association.

Dear Sir,

RE: **EVICION OF WINGIMA VILLAGE-PORGERA ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2017- YOUR ENQUIRIES.**

I have compelled the Clerk of Court to search our records/files to verify if I had issued any formal Court Orders to Evict the above mentioned Settlersat Wingima from the date of your enquiries on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to date, but to no avail.

It is clear we have not issued any orders for Eviction of the said settlements at Wingima in the last 24 months from the date of this Eviction Exercise being the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

I do recall however that an application for such an Eviction Order was filed on behalf of Superintendent Norman Kambo the SOE Contingent Commander then, sometime in late 2014, by Senior Constable Henry Sagu of Porgera Police, but such Orders were not formalized/entered as yet, hence we have not retained any copies of that Application since the Applicant then never returned our Copies.

Yours faithfully,

  
.....  
**Mr. Michael W. Apie'e.**

Senior Magistrate

PORGERA DISTRICT COURT





**P.O. BOX 100,  
PORGERA,  
ENGA PROVINCE  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Phone: (+675) 7111 2610

Email: [akalitange\\_association@yahoo.com/mc.yapari@gmail.cc](mailto:akalitange_association@yahoo.com/mc.yapari@gmail.cc)

March, 31<sup>st</sup> 2017

The Senior Magistrate  
Porgera District Court  
P.O. Box 243  
**Paiam**  
Enga Province

Attention: Mr. Michael Apieie

Cc; James Guanda – Senior Court Clerk – Porgera

**RE: FORCE EVICTION OF WINGIMA VILLAGE, PORGERA**

Sir, we write this as an organization representing the local villagers of the aforesaid area. The residents of the above village are victims to a forced eviction carried out by the PNG Mobil Police engaged in the Porgera Operation.

It is alleged that, at around 5:30 am in the mornings of March, 25<sup>th</sup> the PNG Police Mobil Squads engaged in the Porgera Operations had forcefully burnt down 45 houses, physically assaulted 6 young men and had also raped 8 women including some school aged girls.

Upon receiving the complains from the Villagers, ATA as a human rights advocate wrote to Barrick Gold Corp demanding for explanation of the incident as the said Village is situated below the Mt. Peroko, (PJV's Open Pit) PJV's leased area.

In Barrick's respond, the Barrick stated that it (Barrick) had no idea on the matter. Barrick further stated that its management at the PJV Mine Site were neither involved in the planning nor implementation of the force eviction.

However; the Barrick also stated that the burning down of the houses was done by PNG Mobil Police under a warrant issued by the Porgera District Court.

After noting Barrick's respond to our allegation, we had interviewed the victims to know whether they were given an eviction notice or a warning but only to realize that neither a warning nor an eviction notice was served or given to them.

After this lengthy correspondences and interviews that we at ATA have undertaken, we now believe that the right avenue to seek such is the Porgera District Court. We are therefore writing to request your honourable office to verify whether a warrant was issued by this honourable in relations to this incident.

Should a warrant was issued, please state clearly the following:

*Now as Case to Compensate & Justice to Prevail*

Page 1 of 2

1. To whom the warrant was issued. (Requestor of the warrant)
2. The purpose of the warrant issued,
3. Validity of the warrant,
4. And Brief description of the warrant should you wish to clarify.

Also, should the claimed warrant was never issued by this honourable court, than please; also state that in your reply as well.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned personal.

We thank you in advance for your time and we are looking forward to hearing from you sooner.

Sincerely,



McDiyan Robert Yapari  
Public & Executive Officer - ATA

cc

- Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator Asia Pacific, MiningWatch Canada, [Catherine@miningwatch.ca](mailto:Catherine@miningwatch.ca)
- Sarah Knuckey, Professor and Director, Human Rights Clinic – Columbia Law School [sk3946@columbia.edu](mailto:sk3946@columbia.edu)
- Marco Simons – Principal ERI [marco@earthrights.org](mailto:marco@earthrights.org)
- Tamara Morgenthau – ERI [tamara@earthrights.org](mailto:tamara@earthrights.org)
- Tyler Giannini , Professor and Director Human Rights Clinics Harvard Law School. [giannini@law.harvard.edu](mailto:giannini@law.harvard.edu)
- Emily Dwyer, Coordinator of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability, [coordinator@cnca-rcrce.ca](mailto:coordinator@cnca-rcrce.ca)

**Annexure D - ATA's Letter  
to Porgera Police Station  
Commander - Requesting  
Investigation of Wingima Incident**

**PROOF OF SERVICE FORM**

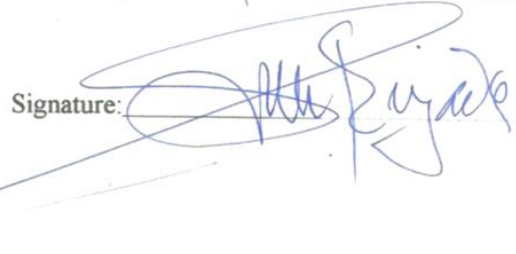
**Request Letter - Inquiring Porgera Police to Investigate ATA's Allegation of Barrick Forceful Eviction Of Wingima Village, Porgera, PNG.**

**PART 1:     Delivery Method:     Hand Deliver.**

Name of Deliverer: MCDIYAN YAPARI

Date: 03/04/17

Time: 10.54 am

Signature: 



**PART 2:     Receiver Declaration:**

Name of Receiver: skd. Opi Saungua

Position: a/kcc Porgera

Date: 03 April 2017

Time: 10.54 am

Signature: 







P.O. BOX 100,  
PORGERA,  
ENGA PROVINCE  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Phone: (+675) 7111 2610

Email: [akalitange\\_association@yahoo.com](mailto:akalitange_association@yahoo.com)/[mc.yapari@gmail.com](mailto:mc.yapari@gmail.com)

---

The Porgera Police Station Commander  
Porgera Police Station  
P.O. Box  
Paiam, Enga Province

31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017

**Attention: S/S Constable Simon Mek,**

**RE: URGENT - ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AT THE PORGERA MINE -  
VILLAGE BURNING, FORCED EVICTION, ASSAULT, RAPE**

As per our verbal conversation yesterday, I would hereby like to formally write towards your attention seeking for immediate investigation into two Police misconducts here at Porgera by the Police Mobil Squads engaged in the Porgera Operations.

It was on the morning of March, 25 at around 5:30 am, the Operation Police Officers torched down 45 houses belonging to the Wingima Villagers adjacent to the Porgera Gold Mine's Open Pit.

According to the witnesses' statements, it is alleged that the Villagers were neither given an eviction notice nor a warning. Also during the raid, it is alleged that 8 school aged girls were raped and 6 men were physically assaulted. This incident brings light into the two similar incidents which occurred in 2009 and 2014. The total houses burnt so far during these three incidents are more than 150.

Also, on the March, 20<sup>th</sup> three women were gang raped by Police Mobil Squads deployed to patrol the Mine's perimeter. In that incident, an eye witness who was at the scene told ATA during an interview that these poor women were taking short-cut to go to their Panadaka Village using a traditional path when they were held up at the dump site and had gang raped them.

After noting these string of human rights abuses by the PNG Mobil Police who are housed, fed, clothed and even paid by the Barrick Gold Corp under a confidential MOA between the State and the PJV, I had personally wrote to the Barrick Management seeking for their intervention to the allegations.

In their respond to my allegations, the Barrick stated that the eviction was lawful as the Police officers had obtained a warrant from the Porgera District Court. They further stated that the PJV Management was never alerted of the actions nor the PJV was involved in the planning and implementation of the force eviction.

After receiving their respond, I had psychically approached the Porgera District Court Staff to confirm whether the warrant was issued or not but only to realized that the Porgera District Court did not issue any warrant.

I am therefore requesting your honourable office to immediately intervene and investigate into these allegations as I belief that these allegations are very serious and demands prompt investigations.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on my phone and email above.

Please find attached are correspondence letters with Barrick.

Sincerely,



M<sup>c</sup>Diyan Robert Yapari  
Executive Officer Akali Tange Association Inc.

cc

- Inspector George Kakas, PPC Enga
- Catherine Coumans, Research Coordinator Asia Pacific, MiningWatch Canada, [Catherine@miningwatch.ca](mailto:Catherine@miningwatch.ca)
- Sarah Knuckey, Professor and Director, Human Rights Clinic – Colombia Law School [sk3946@columbia.edu](mailto:sk3946@columbia.edu)
- Marco Simons – Principal ERI [marco@earthrights.org](mailto:marco@earthrights.org)
- Tamara Morgenthau – ERI [tamara@earthrights.org](mailto:tamara@earthrights.org)
- Tyler Giannini , Professor and Director Human Rights Clinics Harvard Law School. [giannini@law.harvard.edu](mailto:giannini@law.harvard.edu)
- Emily Dwyer, Coordinator of the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability, [coordinator@cnca-rcrce.ca](mailto:coordinator@cnca-rcrce.ca)