

December 21, 2009

Peter Munk
Chairman of the Board
Barrick Gold Corporation
Brookfield Place
TD Canada Trust Tower
161 Bay Street, Suite 3700
P.O. Box 212
Toronto, Canada M5J 2S1

Dear Peter:

Re: Dismissal of José Vicente Leiva from Veladero Mine

I am writing to request an urgent meeting with you concerning the situation of Mr. José Vicente Leiva, General-Secretary of the Organización Sindical Mineros Argentinos (OSMA-CTA) and a Barrick employee at your Veladero Mine.

We just learned that last Thursday Dec. 17, 2009, the workers of the afternoon and night shifts on the Veladero mine called an impromptu strike at the mine site. This constitutes yet one more action to protest Barrick's refusal to negotiate with their Union (OSMA-CTA) and to reinstate Jose Vicente Leiva, their General-Secretary, to his job. The workers took their action without any protection in sub-zero temperatures. That shows us how desperate these people are. This needs a prompt solution and your intervention is urgently needed.

I wrote to you and Aaron Regent on August 25, 2009 informing you of our concern with Mr. Leiva's dismissal without due cause. Since that time, Mr. Leiva has taken his case to the Labour Court and obtained an injunction against Barrick, signed by Judge Liliana Tarbuch. We have been informed that Barrick did not comply with the judicial order and appealed the injunction. A superior court agreed with Judge Tarbuch's decision and supported the injunction. Barrick has continued to refuse reinstatement of Mr. Leiva. Mr. Leiva and his representatives, together with representatives of Barrick, met with Dr. Alvaro Ruiz, Under-Secretary of the Minister of Labour, to try to find a solution to the situation. Once more, local Barrick representatives have refused to reinstate Mr. Leiva.

We believe Barrick's actions contradict the legal statutes of Argentina, international labour and human rights conventions and, indeed, the very ethical principles that Barrick subscribes to in its own mission statement. Companies like Barrick Gold are the face of Canada abroad.

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Dismissing an Argentinean union leader without due cause simply for making demands, on behalf of the members who elected him, for more dignified treatment as workers and a safer mine site seems like behaviour that diminishes the reputation of both Barrick Gold and Canada.

I did not receive a reply to my earlier letter. I am therefore requesting a meeting with you to discuss Mr. Leiva's situation and the recognition of OSMA-CTA. We would also like to explore any role that the Steelworkers might play, jointly with our counterparts in the Argentinean Workers Central (CTA), in achieving a solution to this issue based on core labour rights like freedom of association and the right of workers to choose their own representatives. Please call my office at 416 487-1571 to arrange a convenient time for a meeting.

Sincerely,



Ken Neumann
National Director for Canada

cc Leo Gerard, International President, United Steelworkers

KN:JG:bb