



MiningWatch Canada
Mines Alerte



Rights and Accountability in Development

3 November 2015

Chief Grievance Officer
North Mara Gold Mine Ltd
PO Box 422
Tarime, Tanzania

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to request that Acacia Mining give urgent consideration to the situation of a number of people we have interviewed, most of whom require emergency assistance. Some of the individuals allege that they sustained serious injuries as a result of excessive use of force by mine security personnel and/or police guarding the mine over the past few months. These incidents are recent, most occurred in September and October 2015. Two cases concern a fatality (on the mine site) and injuries sustained in traffic accidents involving NMGML vehicles.

In a few instances the costs of preliminary medical treatment has been covered by NMGML but the injuries are of such gravity as to require further treatment to avoid a drastic deterioration in the individuals' condition and/ or to prevent permanent physical impairment. Some of the victims require urgent neurological examinations and may need long-term rehabilitation and adaptive equipment to enable them to live with dignity. In other cases those injured have not approached the Complaints Office because either they were not aware of its location or of its existence. Many people who have contacted the Complaints Office claim that they have not had a response within the promised 30-day period.

We hope it will be possible to meet staff at the Complaints Office before we leave Tarime to enable us to discuss the evolution of the Grievance Mechanism and measures taken to deal with the continuing high level of violence in the vicinity of the North Mara Mine, as well as concerns about specific urgent cases.

We note that in Acacia Mining's Responsible Mining Report 2014 the Company states that it has 'transitioned management of security at North Mara' with 'encouraging results'. However reports of the use of excessive force by police and security personnel are widespread even if the number of incidents involving the use of firearms would appear to have declined during 2015. Apart from shootings, the abuses allegedly carried out by police and mine security personnel involve indiscriminate beatings with blunt instruments (batons, metal pipes and hammers) or throwing of large rocks and boulders, which can cause very serious internal injuries and may lead to severe neurological damage.

We would appreciate obtaining a breakdown of the number of complaints received by the NMGML Office in 2014 and 2015 involving alleged physical abuse and the use of excessive force by police or mine security; and the number of people who have been or are still receiving assistance from NMGML.

We would also welcome the opportunity of discussing concerns that have been raised about the implementation of the remedy programme and Acacia's alleged failure to meet its obligations under the

agreements with a group of men and women, who suffered harm and who had accepted the company's offer of a remedy. The original agreement required complainants to waive their legal right to seek judicial redress before they could access the remedy package.

Yours sincerely,

[Signed original hand delivered to the North Mara Gold Mine Ltd. grievance office on November 3, 2015.]

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cc Gary Chapman, General Manager, North Mara Gold Mine Ltd
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