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His Excellency Mr. Luis Enrique Chávez Basagoitia
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CC:
Newmont Mining Corporation
Yanacocha S.R.L.
Minas Buenaventura S.A.A.
International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Peru

London, Thursday 11th February 2016

To Their Excellencies, Permanent Representatives of Peru in the United Kingdom and at the United Nations in Geneva,

We, the undersigned individuals and organisations are writing to state our concern over the recent attacks taking place on Máxima Acuña de Chaupe's farm in Cajamarca, Peru. For five years, Máxima and her family have endured brutal and degrading treatment as a result of an ongoing land dispute with mining company Yanacocha. A ruling in December 2014 from the Criminal Chamber of Appeals for the Superior Court of Justice of Cajamarca acquitted de Chaupe family of allegations of "illegal occupation" made by the company. Nevertheless, Yanacocha security and workers continue their acts of intimidation and threats.

SUMMARY OF RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST MÁXIMA ACUNA DE CHAUPE

On the 30th January, the family's pet dog "Cholo" was stabbed in the neck while the family was away. The family is convinced that the perpetrators were workers from the Yanacocha mine who have set camp some 100 metres away from the Chaupe's house. When contacted, the mining company denies the presence of workers on the site at the time of events, however there are no other inhabitants living in the vicinity, only mine workers.

On 2nd February, Yanacocha personnel entered Maxima's property, destroying the family's crops. Photographic evidence taken on the day also show that assailants stole bags potatoes that were intended for the family's consumption. The family and their lawyer are convinced this act was premeditated, as perpetrators purposefully waited for the harvest to be ready before carrying out their theft (ie. The potatoes were planted 3 months ago). As he attempted to record the events with his mobile phone, Maxima's son, Daniel Chaupe received several death threats and verbal abuse.

These acts were carried out under the supervision of a contingent of the Peruvian National Police. These agents were fully dressed, equipped as riot police and armed with batons. However, despite wearing their official uniform, all labels and signs on the shield and dress that would indicate "Police" were hidden by black tape. This brings us to question yet again, the shady relationship between Peru's national police and the mining company Yanacocha.

Yanacocha continues to deny the incidents and aggressions against the Chaupe family. In addition to ongoing threats and security incidents, the company has set up surveillance cameras to monitor the area. A few days prior to the events, on the 19th January, Daniel Chaupe reported seeing a drone flying above their property which they suspect, was intended for the record of their daily activities.

In sending you this letter, we hope to highlight that these acts are in violation of a series of human rights that include Máxima's right to a private life, adequate food, a life free from violence as well as her right to a life in dignity. As the State of Peru has signed and ratified a series of international agreements that underpin its commitment to upholding human rights and democracy, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, we thereby respectfully ask you to take urgent action to ensure Máxima and her family's safety. Particularly:

-Recognise that the endless attacks, threats, including death threats, theft and destruction of Máxima's property constitute criminal offences in Peru and elsewhere and degrading treatment, putting Máxima's livelihood at serious risk

-Call for transparency on the role of Peruvian National Police at the time of the incidents that occurred on the 30th January and 2nd February and their relationship with mining company Yanacocha

-Demand that Yanacocha ends all acts of intimidation against Máxima and her family, and refrain from perpetrating further threats to her security and well-being

-Investigate and prosecute the parties involved in the trespassing and theft on Máxima's property. The recent attacks are the only the latest in a series of incidents that have been denounced at the office of the public prosecutor. To this date there has been no investigation, regardless of the gravity of these violations.

Signatures from the following organisations and individuals:

Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme (LAMMP)- UK

London Mining Network (LMN)- UK

The Gaia Foundation- UK

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

CATAPA -Belgium

Publish What you Pay- UK

The Minewatch Committee from the Denver Justice and Peace Committee- USA

Alliance for Global Justice- USA

Comité por los derechos humanos en America Latina – Canada.

Movimiento Mesoamericano contra el Modelo Extractivo Minero- M4

Red Unión Latino Americana de Mujeres (Red ULAM)

Frente de Mujeres Defensoras de la Pachamama- Ecuador

Frente de Mujeres Guardianas de la Amazonía- Ecuador

Otros Mundos AC/Chiapas- México

Papua New Guinea Mining Watch Group Association- Papua New Guinea

Comité de solidarité avec Cajamarca- France

Dotty Nittler – USA

Harriet Mullaney- USA

Bonita R Bock – USA

Egla Martinez, Associate Professor, Carleton University- Canada

Profesora Sonia – Brasil

Cecily Mui – USA

With additional support from:

GRUFIDES- Peru

Betty Voss- USA

Steven G Grabowski- USA

Yolanda Oqueli- Guatemala