



Access Asia Mining Pte Ltd
8 Robinson Road
#03-00 ASO Building
Singapore, 048544

Golda Benjamin
South East Asia Researcher & Representative
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

14 May, 2018

Dear Ms Golda,

We write in response to your invitation dated 30 April, 2018 to comment on an article that appeared in The Irrawaddy (A Myanmar newspaper) on the 23 April, 2018 (author Nyein Nyein) which was highlighted along with a link to the original article on your website on 29 April, 2018.

Thank you for your request for comment on the original article published by The Irrawaddy. We feel there are a number of errors of fact that should be corrected and that the original article should not have gone to press in the form that it did and nor should this article have been further circulated. We make the following comments:

- Access Asia Mining Pte Ltd (AAM) is an exploration company – it is not, as referred to in The Irrawaddy, an extraction company. AAM has been present in Myanmar since early 2015 and its focus in Myanmar has been identifying prospective areas for mineral exploration.
- AAM does not intend to build a 150,000 acre gold mining venture in Monghpyak. Firstly, gold mines of this size do not exist anywhere on the planet. This claim reflects a profound lack of understanding of the mining industry. Secondly, AAM does not have any granted leases in Shan State. To repeat for the purpose of clarity: we have no mining leases, no exploration leases, no office and no staff in Shan State.
- AAM has never engaged with the Tatmadaw to solicit their support or to request security. We state this categorically and unequivocally.
- AAM has always found the areas of Myanmar that we operate in safe and secure with a welcoming people. We have never felt the need for security and indeed, as stated above, as we have no operations or permanent presence in Shan State there is nothing to be protected.
- Apparently confusion has arisen because AAM has applied for an exploration (not mining) lease and part of that process requires us to conduct community consultation meetings to gauge local attitudes, concerns and expectations. We have conducted many community meetings in the area of interest to us over a period of more than six months.
- If at some point in the future AAM is granted a lease, our regional exploration will have a virtually non-existent environmental and social impact. At this stage exploration is a data gathering scientific process. As a Singapore company with Australian management we are committed to international best practice standards and to proceeding with our work only after extensive consultation with local communities.
- No attempt was made by The Irrawaddy to contact AAM before the article in question was published. This is despite the fact that contact details are clearly posted on our website.
- The publication of this article and its propagation by the media is regretted by AAM.

Yours sincerely,

The Board of Directors