

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C. February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Mariana Franco González
Investigadora y Representante para México, Centroamérica y el Caribe
Vitória Dell'Aringa Rocha
Asistente de Investigación para América Latina
Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
franco@business-humanrights.org & rocha@business-humanrights.org

Dear Mariana and Vitória,

Thank you for your email. I am grateful for the opportunity to respond. Dinant, like many other companies, continues to suffer from the invasion and illegal occupation of its facilities in the Aguan and Lean Valleys. Recently, the situation in these regions has deteriorated significantly, with armed trespassers shooting, killing, and injuring our employees.

To make matters worse, Dinant is the victim of a misinformation campaign being waged on social media by Plataforma Agraria. In one such case, Dinant has been accused of the murder of Mr. Omar Cruz Tome and his father-in-law, residents of Tocoa, in Colon. We categorically deny and reject this and other such preposterous allegations by Plataforma Agraria.

Dinant has repeatedly and consistently called for credible investigations of the lawlessness, violence, and tragedies in Honduras. Should the authorities deem any allegations against Dinant worthy of investigation, we will be happy to engage with the police and the prosecutor on the matter.

Dinant has never resorted to violence. A recognized leader in demonstrating respect for human rights, we are a full member of the <u>Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights</u> (VPSHR), pursuant to a vote by NGOs, private corporations, and governments. Dinant was the first Honduran company to join the VPSHR, and the first agribusiness in the world to be awarded full membership. We continue to provide regular training to all security staff, as well as other divisions throughout the company.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

**Roger Pineda Pinel** 

Director of Corporate Relations and Banking

CC: File