

### **Barrick response to the Akali Tange Association - October 2018**

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Akali Tange Association (ATA)'s rejoinder to Barrick's recent response to *Facing Finance's* report.

The ATA reiterates many of the inaccurate allegations raised in *Facing Finance's* report about the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV)<sup>1</sup> on which Barrick has already provided a detailed response in July 2018. As such, rather than repeat our position on these matters, we point interested readers to our original response (available [here](#)).

However, we are concerned about the ATA's troubling assertion that abuses by PJV's security officers and the police are 'common' in the Porgera Valley. Both Barrick and the PJV take these allegations seriously and urge the ATA to provide any information it may have to the police, mine management, or Mr. Ila Geno, the Independent Observer of the Porgera Police Operations.

There have been virtually no allegations – and no allegations found to be credible – of abuses by PJV security personnel since 2010. We believe this is due in part to the important actions the mine has taken over the past eight years to prevent such incidents from occurring in the first place. These include:

- Funding the Porgera District Women's Association (PDWA) to hire a women's welfare liaison officer to provide support and assistance to victims of sexual and domestic violence.
- Partnering with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre to provide training for PNG-based practitioners in women's welfare and human rights to better assist women affected by violence in PNG.
- Supplementary mandatory human rights training for PJV security personnel to encompass sexual violence and harassment issues.
- Enhancing all security operating procedures and training modules to reflect a greater emphasis on the protection of human rights.
- Implementing a plan to increase supervision of security personnel in the field on a 24-hour basis.
- Installing digital radios featuring GPS tracking in all vehicles to allow for better oversight of security personnel.
- Installing in-car cameras in all APD vehicles to monitor the activities of APD personnel in and around vehicles.
- Expanding the PJV's CCTV security camera network to provide coverage of the mine's major waste dump areas.
- Hiring additional female security guards, including in supervisory roles.

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<sup>1</sup> Barrick (Niugini) Ltd. is the 95% owner of the Porgera Joint Venture and is the manager of the operation. Barrick Gold Corporation and Zijin Mining Group each own 50% of BNL and hence each own 47.5% overall.

Notwithstanding these important steps, the reality is that human rights dilemmas will persist, at Porgera and everywhere we operate, that have no obvious and simple solutions. This makes it especially important for the full range of actors – companies, government, communities, and civil society – to be constructively engaged and help collectively improve human rights contexts. One example of this in Porgera is the Restoring Justice Initiative, which is supported by the PJV. This is a multi-stakeholder collaboration between local government, businesses, community leaders and non-governmental organizations aimed at helping reduce tribal conflict, improve law and order, and spur community development in the Porgera Valley.

In regard to questions the ATA asks in their rejoinder about resolving historical grievances, we point to a recently published report by BSR to address this very matter.

Specifically, Barrick and the PJV commissioned BSR in June 2017 to help enhance access to remedy for people living in the communities surrounding the mine. The BSR team was led by Dr. Margaret Jungk, former chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and Bennett Freeman, former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Over the course of 12 months, BSR undertook in-person consultations with a wide range of local, national and international stakeholders – including the ATA itself – with a focus on the needs of those seeking to raise and resolve grievances. The result is a comprehensive set of findings and recommendations aimed at addressing the complex and unique challenges that exist in the Porgera context.

The report – and Barrick and the PJV’s initial response to the findings and recommendations – is available [here](#). Importantly, the report contains recommendations not only to the mine but to others that should be involved to help improve remedy pathways in Porgera. This includes the Porgera community itself, local and international civil society representatives, and the Government of Papua New Guinea.

Barrick remains committed to respecting the rights of individuals and communities impacted by our operations. We reiterate our commitment to good-faith, broad and constructive engagement on social, environmental and human rights matters. We will do this by publishing detailed and candid information on our sustainability performance; by opening ourselves to rigorous, balanced, and third-party scrutiny; and engaging in constructive and solution-oriented dialogue with all interested stakeholders.