



Sent by postal mail and by email

Casablanca, August 26, 2019

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

2-8 Scrutton Street, 2nd Floor,
London, EC2A 4RT, United Kingdom

Re: Business & Human Right Resource Centre's Weekly Update

Dear Ms. Huerbi and Ms. Begum,

Thank you for reaching out to us and giving us the opportunity to respond in detail to the gratuitous and thoroughly unjustified claims made by Swissaid and affiliated Swiss NGOs against OCP. At OCP, we ensure that the safety, health and the well-being of our workers and the neighboring population is fully respected and that the best and most stringent measures are taken in respect of our operations and their impact.

You should be aware of the background behind the would-be "report". The "report" made by these Swiss NGOs was published – as they publicly stated – in the context of a domestic political agenda related to a legislative vote in Switzerland. The "report" is merely a compilation of biased information hastily put together in order to serve this purpose rather than a professional analysis of the facts.

We only became aware of the "report" on May 15, 2019, shortly before its date of publication. Notwithstanding the unreasonably short deadline to respond, apparent bias and lack of professionalism in the methods used, we responded with the level of openness and transparency that characterizes our Group. We provided the NGOs with extensive clarifications and concrete evidence demonstrating OCP's actual performance on the issues raised and highlighted the severely flawed allegations and gross errors contained in the "report". We also extended an invitation for the NGOs to visit our facilities, but unfortunately it was rejected and the version of the document published on June 5, 2019 hardly took any of the information and evidence we provided into account. Indeed, the published version of the "report" contains additional unrelated and even political allegations upon which OCP was not provided with the opportunity to comment. It was therefore clear to us that these NGOs were pursuing a different agenda.

On June 7th, OCP submitted a right of reply to Swissaid and the affiliated NGOs. To our deep regret, Swissaid refused to publish it.

We were therefore compelled to file a request before the local Courts on July 24th requesting to order the publication of our right of reply. The procedure is currently pending.

OCP further reserves the right to take any further action in the event the allegations stemming from this "report" would be further disseminated, in order to restore the facts and its reputation.

We are attaching here for you OCP's right of reply dated June 7th which provides a technical and detailed response to Swissaid's "report" dated June 5th, together with a letter (including its English translation) sent by the labor union representing OCP's employees, which addresses and refutes the content of the "report". We respectfully expect that if Business & Human Rights Resource Centre decides to continue with its publication and dissemination of the Swissaid "report", it will publish these documents



We thank you again for contacting us regarding these important issues that we take very seriously, and also for giving us the opportunity to answer in detail these unfounded accusations.

OCP Group was, is and remains deeply aware of environmental matters and of its workers' and local populations' health and safety. This is part of OCP's broader commitment to Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policy that is outlined in our Sustainability Report that you have already received.

This GRI-certified Sustainability Report includes, among many elements, the relevant certifications granted to OCP that evidence its compliance with many obligations and commitments. For instance, OCP has received numerous awards that confirm the strength of its compliance with international standards and its HSE excellence policy (OHSAS 18001 certification for Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series at the Safi and Jorf Lasfar sites, and ISO 45001 2018 for Safi site), which has resulted in the co-development of 18 standards (15 of which are dedicated to health and safety) with the joint venture DuPont OCP Operations Consulting (DOOC) that governs the HSE component of OCP's operations, employees and its subcontractors. These standards are deployed and systematically audited.

We are confident that any publication you would make related to the Swiss NGOs' "report" would reflect in detail OCP's strong rejection of the allegations contained therein, including specifically the content of our right of reply. We remain at your disposal to provide any further relevant information you may need.

Sincerely,

For: OCP Group
By: Ms. Hanane Mourchid
Senior Vice-President, Sustainability Platform

*Exhibits: (1) OCP Group's right of reply;
(2) Original letter sent by the labor union representing OCP's employees; and
(3) The English translation of the labor union's letter.*