

23 February 2020

Ana Zbono and Mauricio Lazala
Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

Dear Ana and Mauricio,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the briefing you are writing about attacks on human rights defenders in Colombia.

At BHP we believe that respecting human rights and contributing to the realisation of rights is critical to the sustainable operation of our business. Our success depends upon how well we respect the rights of individuals and groups who interact with and are impacted by our business operations and relationships.

Our Human Rights Policy Statement outlines our approach to respecting and contributing to the realisation of all human rights and in our Policy Statement we commit to respecting the role of human rights defenders and acknowledge the risks they face in upholding civic freedoms. We also acknowledge their significant voice in understanding and addressing human rights challenges in the areas in which we operate.

As you know, BHP is a one third shareholder in Cerrejón along with Anglo American and Glencore. Cerrejón is an independently managed and operated joint venture, and day-to-day responsibility for the operation lies with Cerrejón's management.

We understand that there have been a number of threats against civil rights defenders and local leaders in La Guajira, Colombia. These are very concerning and we condemn these events. As the operator in the region Cerrejón is responsible for responding to these events and has provided the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre with more detail regarding their approach. We refer you to this response dated 21 February 2020 and it is attached here for your convenience.

Kind regards,



Paige Davies
Head of Community & Social Performance

Attachment: Cerrejón response to Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, 21 February 2020