

Public statement by communities affected by Anglo American in response to a letter from Anglo American

We are communities and indigenous peoples from Peru, Chile, Brazil and Colombia who have been impacted by the British mining company, Anglo American. We are from different territories that have united in resistance to defend our natural commons, to say we have had enough of the abuses in our lands, in our life and against nature. We are communities and organisations that fight for environmental justice, human rights and the rights of mother earth. We want to protect the life that Anglo American is destroying.

We face various socio-environmental conflicts from the intensive extraction of minerals and the exploitation of nature carried out by Anglo American in Latin America. Some of these conflicts are directly related to the El Cerrejón coal mine in Colombia, the copper mines in Quellaveco, Peru, El Soldado and Los Bronces in Chile, and the Minas Rio iron mine in Brazil.

Anglo American has sent a letter requesting meetings with the affected communities. We ask ourselves, have Anglo American executives not been listening to our voices and the demands we have been making for years? We reject this request because for decades our communities, social organisations and indigenous peoples have been denouncing the disaster that Anglo American's operations leave in our ecosystems with no response from the company.

Our demands have been presented year after year at the Annual Shareholders' Meeting in London. We have published the impacts in international media, we have taken to the streets to defend our right to life. We want Anglo American to take responsibility for its damage and to stop creating it. If Anglo American has a bad memory, here we describe again the disasters that it has inflicted on our life and nature.

I. Chile

In Chile, Anglo American has two operations: El Soldado and Los Bronces. The Los Bronces Integrado expansion project has been denounced by various organisations and communities in the country. This project involves the expansion of the mining corridor between the mountain range and the Valparaíso region, including an underground mine under the Yerba Loca Nature Sanctuary. In 2010, it was already clear that the Los Bronces operation directly impacts the glaciers. According to the authorities of the Environmental Impact Assessment System, this project is harmful because of its intensive and irresponsible use of water and considered a potential risk to ecosystems and people's health. The National Institute of Human Rights considers this project to be one of the country's socio-environmental conflicts, as mining operations cause direct damage to glaciers and would also be responsible for creating large amounts of toxic waste.

The community of El Melón, which is located almost 120 km from Santiago, is also facing conflicts over water that have been building for years due to the presence of Anglo American. The community, of about 9,000 inhabitants, began water rationing in February 2023. Families have their water cut off between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., in order to replenish groundwater reserves. Water scarcity is a fact. Anglo American's El Soldado

operation could be one of the main culprits for this drought. The company has the right to use 453 l/s of water, and the community only has the right to 55.8 l/s. In 2019, community organisations seized Anglo American's No. 9 well, as a way of putting pressure on the company. This action got the mining company to "commit" to "injecting" some of the water they use into local people's depleted wells. Despite this, the situation in the community has only got worse.

II. Colombia

In Colombia, Anglo American, together with BHP Billiton and Glencore, used to run El Cerrejón, the largest open pit coal mine in Latin America. Anglo American sold its stake in the mine in 2022, but without settling its debt to indigenous communities and the ecosystems. The negative impacts left by Anglo American while working on El Cerrejón have been hugely significant in social and environmental terms. The intensive use of water and the appropriation of the territory forced the indigenous communities and inhabitants of the area where the mine operates to have to resettle elsewhere. National and territorial social organisations, as well as indigenous communities, have issued multiple statements and complaints warning of the terrible consequences that resettlement has caused in their lives, cultures and worldviews. On the one hand, there is a serious socioeconomic situation, since the communities do not have the means to support themselves, due to the fact that they were deprived of their territory's resources. Displacements and so-called 'resettlements' have violated the rights of indigenous peoples, transforming their cultural and ancestral practices and taking away their access to water and their possibility of having food sovereignty. These serious violations can endanger the lives of the communities that historically inhabited the territory where El Cerrejón is located today. Anglo American has left the territory without taking responsibility for its actions, which have consequences for the entire life cycle of these towns. Today, after decades of operation of El Cerrejón, the department of La Guajira is the most impoverished in Colombia, with levels of child malnutrition among the highest in the country. Meanwhile, companies prosper at the expense of the local population's wellbeing, and the disappearance of invaluable bodies of water in a semi-desert area, such as the Bruno stream. The idea of diverting, rectifying and seizing the Ranchería river basin also continues to be pursued.

III. Perú

In Peru's Moquegua region, water scarcity is a huge problem. This has been compounded by the negative effects of previous mining operations. Peru's Ombudsman's Office previously identified this situation as a potential conflict as Quellaveco, Anglo American's new project, could exacerbate the scarcity of water resources in the Tambo river basin. Indeed, in September 2022, farmers from the Tambo Valley in Arequipa came out in protests for the National Water Authority (ANA) to annul the permit granting Quellaveco to use 22 million cubic metres (MMC) of water from the Titire and Vizcachas rivers for its mining operations. Both rivers are in the Tambo river basin, on which the peasant communities of the Tambo valley in Arequipa depend for agricultural activity and for domestic use. Another concern is that Quellaveco, in order to make its project viable, has diverted the Asana River with an 8-kilometre tunnel. The company says it is protecting the river by making sure it doesn't come into contact with the operation, but modifying nature is not an option. No amount of engineering work can replicate what nature has done for thousands of years, creating rivers

that contain complex ecosystems, above and below ground, that will be affected. We have already seen the experience of La Guajira, Colombia, where the Cerrejón coal company diverted the Bruno Stream to expand the mine. Subsequent inspections have verified that the stream and its ecosystems are disappearing.

III. Brazil

In Brazil, residents of the state of Minas Gerais, where Anglo American operates Minas Ríó, fear for their safety. The Sapó dam exceeded the limits established by law. The State Attorney General's Office filed a public civil action against Anglo American for this situation because the construction of dams is prohibited when there are communities inhabiting the rescue areas. Downstream of the dam reside the communities of São José do Jassém, Água Quente and Passa Sete. In addition, the consequences of the Minas Ríó operations are felt at great distances. The project includes an oil pipeline of about 530 kilometres. This pipeline is used to transport large volumes of iron ore, and requires large amounts of water. Local communities condemn the worsening water crisis, as this situation has also caused the contamination of rivers and the destruction of springs.

1. Property negotiation, resettlement process:

The biggest problem with negotiations today is that there is no programme with specific rules for each community. In practical terms, in a community, families who wish to leave the affected territory cannot negotiate because the company pays the value of the property in instalments. When the first instalment is paid, those affected must leave the land unless they have the total value to buy another property. Even with the amount paid in full, families struggle to find properties of the same standard of living in other places. It should be noted that the negotiations do not consider the material and moral damages suffered by the communities and the amount paid per hectare is below the market price, having been measured in 2018, without adjustment for inflation.

With regard to the resettlers, specifically those from the Gondó community, in negotiations the company committed to taking on the bureaucratic procedures and cost of the notarial assignment of the properties acquired by the resettlers - a commitment that is recorded in the contracts and property delivery terms signed by the company. However, this was never fulfilled. The families have been left as illegal occupants of the land where they were resettled. Three families have already tried to get the company to solve the impasse. Two did not receive a response and one family was informed by the company that this matter would be resolved through the usucaption procedure.

The family groups assigned to the collective resettlements of Simão Lavrinha, Piraquara and Jardim Bouganville also report new harms continue to surface: lack of property registration, water insecurity, insufficient water supply to guarantee backyard agricultural, livestock and horticultural activity in rural resettlements, lack of employment and income opportunities, loss or weakening of community ties, structural cracks and fissures in the houses built, economic losses caused by the devaluation of land and real estate speculation, as well as sociocultural conflicts with the host community, are some examples of what these families experience in their daily lives.

Regarding the people who live in the Self-Rescue Zone (ZAS) in the communities of Passa Sete, Água Quente and São José do Jassém, these families request that they are properly relocated, taking into account that they live with the risk of the tailings dam bursting. It should also be noted that Anglo American has not presented an official definition regarding the recognition of the community of São José do Jassém as belonging to the ZAS. Therefore, we request that the MPMG make a statement that confirms that this community is located in this risk zone, in order to guarantee its members the right to resettlement.

We call on the company to address these demands and resolve the problems it outlines, carry out an adequate negotiation programme in accordance with the conditions of each community, and effectively comply with the coexistence programme.

2. Socio-environmental damage, monitoring and treatment.

We propose the creation of opportunities for the affected population to monitor Anglo American's actions and their socio-environmental impacts, such as the impacts on water resources, air quality, and business expansion plans that may affect the neighbouring communities. Currently, the mining company is monitoring the condition of the local water and is the only provider of data on this subject to the public agencies and institutions responsible for monitoring this situation.

Many families in the communities of Passa Sete, Jassém, Água Quente and Gondó no longer have access to water in adequate quantity or quality and receive their water through the company's tanker trucks, which is always insufficient for the region's traditional production methods and for a healthy life. Affected people in the Gondó community who receive water through the tanker truck do not receive it twice a week, as agreed, and are left without a source of drinking water for days.

In view of this, we call for the company to be required to comply with the water delivery deadlines by tanker truck or guarantee an effective solution for the water supply, as well as providing the families and ATI with analyses that prove the quality of the water supplied. We also highlight the need for alternative and independent monitoring, which can happen via public bodies and be accompanied and guided by the commission of the 13 communities, so that data is being collected independently of the company.

In addition, the Independent Technical Advisors chosen by us should be able to commission independent studies, as provided for in the ATI work plans. These independent studies are essential to ensure reliable information on water quality, for example.

3. Minas Rio Ore Pipeline:

We recommend that Anglo American create efficient communication channels with the communities of Córregos and Gondó so that they can learn about and effectively participate in discussions around problems related to water resources in the region, i.e. suppression, flow reduction or drying of springs and contamination of existing water courses.

These possibilities should be created to allow the commission of the 13 communities to permanently and independently monitor the water supply for the operation of the pipeline, so that the needs of the population – for the supply of homes, for maintenance of agricultural and livestock practices – can always be prioritised, at the expense of Anglo American's needs.

We also request more detailed information on the railway line to be built in the region. There was a public hearing on the subject, but no specific information has been provided to the communities.

4. Inefficiency in relations with the community (RCC):

Currently, the official channel to open up dialogue with the company and request that action be taken in response to the demands of those affected is through their channel for relations with the community (RCC - 0800 941 7100). Once the service protocols in this channel are open and the response period (7 business days) has passed, families are being left without a response from the company.

We need the Háblanos RCC channel to be more effective and for the company to respond within the period it has established itself, as well as for the responses to be satisfactory and solve the problems faced by the people affected .

5. Internet access

The people affected in the communities do not have access to the internet in order to be able to participate effectively in the actions. Therefore, we ask the company to install internet access networks in the communities.

6. Request the permanence of the ATI in the territory

We call for the technical advisers to remain in the territories of the 13 affected communities, as provided in condition 39 of the licensing process. The work carried out by ATI is essential to participation in this entire process. This request is justified by the fact that the contracts the manager makes with the institutions that provide advice only last 2 years. Those of us affected understand that the ATI must exist at all times, even after the negotiation of the property and the departure of the families from the territory, as in the case of monitoring the effectiveness of the Productive Restructuring Program, to cite an example. In this way, we request the renewal of the work of the ATIs for a longer period, with the aim of guaranteeing continuous and qualified advice to the communities. This is necessary in order to have continuous access to adequate information on Anglo American's Plans, Programs and Actions, the rights guaranteed by current legislation and negotiation spaces advised by technicians for a better understanding of the processes and fair referrals for the people affected .

Finally, we ask Mr. Jarbas Soares de Souza, Attorney General of the State of Minas Gerais, to closely analyse our claims. We know that despite the approval of Law 23.291/2019, which establishes the State Policy on Dam Safety (also known as Mar de Barro Nunca Más), it is prohibited to grant any environmental licence for the construction of a dam with communities

living close by. However, Anglo American obtained an operating licence from the State Council for Environmental Policy (COPAM), the licensing body of the State of Minas Gerais, to build the dam at the Sapo mine, despite the presence of approximately 400 people who live in the Self-rescue area.

Therefore, we urge that we shouldn't wait for the people affected in Conceição do Mato Dentro, Alvorada de Minas and Dom Joaquim to experience a disaster similar to those that destroyed communities such as Bento Rodrigues, in Mariana, or Córrego do Feijão, in Brumadinho.

In addition to the points mentioned above, the communities reject Anglo American's request because:

- As grassroots organisations and communities, we believe in dialogue as a value, but it is not enough. For decades we have held dialogues with Anglo American without having successful results. Anglo American's outrageous activity must stop, which is why we demand concrete answers to our long-existing demands.
- The communities do not know what issues Anglo American wants to discuss at the meeting, given that Anglo American knows all our demands and has not provided solutions to them.
- We reject the colonialist way in which Anglo American operates. Although London Mining Network is an allied organisation and works in solidarity with us, using the London Mining Network as an intermediary to request meetings with the communities affected by its operations demonstrates that Anglo American does not have good relations with the communities it impacts on a daily basis and relies on an organisation from the global north to reach us.
- Anglo American asks us to send our questions prior to its shareholders' meeting in London, but we decline this request. We also demand that Anglo American be ready to respond with concrete facts to the demands and questions that we will ask.
- There are communities in Brazil that are willing to meet with the company at a more opportune moment. In the event that this meeting is held in the future, as well as with communities in Peru, Colombia or Chile that also decide to dialogue in this way, we, as allied organisations, are willing to support such a decision. But we want Anglo American to bear in mind that the guidelines and some criteria for holding these meetings will be decided by the communities, and that this process will be observed and monitored by all the organisations that support this declaration.

Communities affected by the Los Bronces project and El Soldado, Chile

- Movimiento NO + Anglo Chile
- Asociación Escuela de Montaña Camino a Farellones
- Modatima Lo Barnechea
- Junta de Vecinos las Varas de lo Barnechea
- Corporación Defensa de la Cuenca del Mapocho
- Centro Ecológico Churque
- Grupo Ambientalista El Melón
- Corporación Camino a Farellones
- Territorios Democráticos

- Ong Poyewn
- Catemu en Movimiento
- Coordinadora Defensa Akunkawa
- Coordinadora de Esteros y Canales Aconcagua
- Red Parque Cabritería de Valparaíso
- Asociacion Indigena Ipachay Mapu de Lampa
- CasaVerde Centro Cultural
- Antupillan Escuela de Teatro, Artes y Oficios

Communities affected by the Minas Rio project, situated in the municipalities of Conceição do Mato Dentro, Dom Joaquim and Alvorada de Minas, Brazil

- Beco community
- São Sebastião do Bom Sucesso (Sapo) community
- Cabeceira do Turco community
- Turco community
- Água Quente community
- Passa Sete community
- Itapanhoacanga community
- São José da Ilha community
- São José do Arrudas community
- São José do Jassém community
- Taporoco community
- Gondó community
- Córregos community

Communities affected by the Cerrejón project, Colombia

- Concejo Comunitario Negro Ancestrales de Tabaco
- Comunidad Wayuú La Gran Parada

Communities affected by the Quellaveco project, Perú

- Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente - DHUMA

International organisations assisting

- London Mining Network
- TerraJusta