

I am writing to express my grave concern on people peacefully protesting against a mining project in Casillas and by-standers who were tear gassed and dispersed by riot police on 22 June. There are concerns of further excessive use of force as police presence continues in the community.

Authorities should be asked to respect, protect and guarantee the freedom of assembly and the right to a peaceful manifestation in Casillas. The police should be called to act in accordance to the UN Basic Principles of the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. They should be urged to promptly investigate the allegations of excessive use of force by police officers carrying out the operation.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,