



FIAN INTERNATIONAL
Oral Statement
 8th session of the HRC
 Universal Periodic Review Ghana

Oral statement delivered by Theodor Rathgeber on behalf of FIAN International

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Thank you, Mr. President,

First, let me congratulate the delegation of Ghana for its openness showed during the UPR process. However, in relation to the outcome we have to make that mistake made by

In his statement on May 5th, H.E. Mr. Joe Ghartey, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, reacted to issues raised in a report submitted by FIAN International. This report emphasised that the expansion of mining operations and the related deployment of the military and police to the mining areas has led to serious human rights violations in mining communities in Ghana.

During his speech, the Minister made the following statement: "It is true that at a certain point, joint military and police teams were protecting mining companies driving away illegal miners, but that was a short term measure and we have reviewed it and we don't intend to continue it." *Quote was not been in favour of the state* This was the first time that the government announced the discontinuation of military support for mining companies. It is announcements like this that demonstrate that the UPR process can be a valuable instrument for a state to reflect on the human rights implications of its policies and to make a commitment to the international community as well as its citizens to improve its human rights record. *the state's*

In relation to the outcome of the review process, ~~we regret that the announcement made by Minister Ghartey seems not to be reflected in the report of the working group.~~ *that the state* We consider it of highest importance, first, to include in the report the ~~announcement that~~ *state to its commitment can* the government of Ghana will discontinue military support to mining companies in order to prevent further human rights violations. Second, we

with Ghana held account to the (for)
recommend that the Human-Rights Council explicitly welcomes this announcement,
as well as ^{can} the announcement ^{which has few other} made on the same occasion by the Ghana Commission
for Human Rights and Administrative Justice that it will shortly release a report on
human rights violations in mining communities.

Mr. President, peasant farmers in Ghana have deeply suffered from the loss of
access to land and water because of large-scale mining, many are experiencing the
violation of their economic, social and cultural rights on a daily basis. The outcome of
the ^{VPR} process can thus be crucial for them. Indeed, the discontinuation of military
support to mining companies is important to end the fear that farmers are shot
because they want to access their farmlands or because they are exercising their
right to freedom of assembly. The announcements made by the government of
Ghana are laudable, but only if they are implemented. We believe that the Human
Rights Council can play a role in this.

Thank you, Mr. President.