

**COMMUNIQUE/ OPEN LETTER FROM CONCERNED COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS OF NEWMONT AKYEM PROJECT AREA ON THE CAMPAIGN  
BY WACAM, FIAN AND OTHER ANTI-MINING NGOs AGAINST THEIR  
SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS**

**Addressed to the  
UN COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Geneva, Switzerland.**

**The Akyem Kotoku Paramountcy, Chiefs, Elders and People of the  
Newmont Akyem Project Area Support Approval for the Project!**

**New Abirem, August 10, 2009**

WE, the undersigned members of the Akim Kotoku Paramountcy, Stool Lands Owners Association, Executive Committee of the Umbrella Council of Youth Associations in Akyem, Birim North Chapter of the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), Social Responsibility Forum (SRF), Chiefs and Traditional Elders, Local Opinion Leaders and District Assembly Members, do hereby register our greatest distaste and disagreement with Wassa Communities Against Mining (WACAM) and its affiliate Coalition of Anti-Mining NGOs, on their latest stunt, propaganda and lies reported to your Office which is part of the efforts calculated to stop development of Newmont Ghana's Akyem Gold Mine Project.

It would be recalled that at the sidelines of the 2008 World Economic Forum at Davos, WACAM nominated Newmont Mining Company (NMC) for the notorious "Public Eye Award". According to WACAM and its sister anti-mining NGOs, they nominated Newmont for the 'world's worst award' because 'the company is ignoring the environmental and social damage the project will create'.

Of course, given the negative record of some mining in many developing countries, their watchdog and advocacy activities can only be applauded, especially if the objective is to keep the mining companies on their toes in terms of their obligations to local populations. But even noble and well-intentioned advocacy work must be based on facts. In this particular case, we the affected people disagreed with WACAM at that time because we knew they were lying! We also know, from their pronouncements and actions that WACAM and its coalition NGOs are against mining as an economic activity, period. We, the people of Akyem are not against mining in toto. ***Rather we would support and encourage, and where necessary demand of, NMC to reduce to the barest minimum all likely negative consequences of mining through fruitful engagement and partnerships.*** We also trust the mandated national and international regulatory bodies to demand of them strict adherence to their responsibilities and best practice.

Given the Akyem project communities' reaction to their 2008 'Public Eye Award' tactic, one would have expected WACAM to seek and appreciate the genuine feelings and concerns of people they purport to be working for through some engagements. But no, they really did not care what the so-called oppressed 'farmers whose livelihoods and human rights are been trampled upon' really feel or think about the project. Perhaps, WACAM leaders are convinced that we the people of Akyem are so rural, uninformed and ignorant that we do not know what is good for us. So they have raised the stakes higher by sending the packaged lies to the Office of the UN Human Rights Commissioner in Geneva. The project must be stopped, by all means. WACAM and its affiliates would stop at nothing to achieve their plan, including insulting the dignity of the Government of Ghana and the intelligence of people of the Akyem project area.

But beyond that we believe strongly that WACAM and its affiliates have a much bigger and sinister agenda. ***These NGOs are against progress and development in our District, pure and simple.*** But we do not know their motivation for this. Their actions and tactics show clearly that they are against the potential rapid socio-economic development of the Akyem project area and, by extension, the Birim North District. All the facts and evidence support our view that the

project would assure the rapid development of the District. In 5-10 years after the project starts, we envisage the development of a Municipality encompassing all the nine mine communities. We, as Akyem project-affected communities, are also preparing ourselves to make the best of all business opportunities expected to emerge. Even where WACAM and its Coalition see only damage, such as the pit likely to be filled with water after mine closure, we have identified an opportunity to develop a lake for eco-tourism, and a fishing industry.... But these anti-mining NGOs are not interested in these development opportunities.

The WACAM/ Coalition agenda is simple: ***Newmont must abandon the Akyem Project or else...*** With this as their true agenda, as stated clearly in the 2008 'award' citation, and implied in the letter to the UN, WACAM/ Coalition compel us to ask in whose interest are they fighting? If anti-mining NGOs' real aim is to raise issues on how to deal with environmental damage and social disruptions associated with the mine, why are they not interested in the Company's engagement activities, or better still in EPA organized engagements and discussions? Why are they not interested in open engagement with community members, potential project-affected farmers, chiefs and opinion leaders, youth groups, other key stakeholders, etc in a transparent manner? How can they claim to represent the interests of citizens and community members in the area when they do not care to meet us for us to know each other and share ideas, our concerns, etc? It is quite disingenuous and arrogant for WACAM and its coalition NGOs to claim advocacy on the people's behalf, while insulting the same people, their chiefs, elders and opinion leaders.

It is clear that the allegations to the UN Human Rights Commissioner are based on statements which ***were intended not only to distort the facts, but to significantly ignore all the positives associated with the mine project.*** If the WACAM Coalition and its foreign sponsors were really interested in how the gold deposits could be harnessed for the benefit of the people of Akyem and Ghana as a whole, they would offer constructive inputs into ongoing engagements and discussions aimed at dealing with expected negative impacts. We believe that once gold has been discovered at Akyem, it would be mined by some persons or company, no matter what. ***But we also believe that Newmont has the capacity and commitment to deal with these environmental and social impacts better than most mining companies.*** We know that the Akyem project has been the subject of thorough environmental impact studies, public consultation processes, independent expert review processes and many regulatory reviews during the past 5 years. The project has also engaged directly with numerous community representatives, NGOs, government agencies and international organizations on literally hundreds of occasions. These processes have demonstrated Newmont's respect for the people and its commitment.

***We are therefore calling on you, the UN Human Rights Commissioner to ignore the agitations and lies of WACAM, affiliate anti-mining NGOs and their sponsors, and rather support the approval and construction of the Akyem mine project. We strongly believe that the project would be a blessing to the Birim North District.*** We are convinced that the expected positive benefits of the project far outweigh the negatives. This conviction is based on three things: firstly, on what Newmont has already done at Ahafo; secondly on what we have learnt through our engagements with the company; and thirdly, the expert advice and technical information shared with local people at the three Ghana EPA public hearings. At the final hearing held in July 2008, the Akyem communities demonstrated overwhelming support for the project and this was widely reported in the media. We, the local people are convinced that Newmont has demonstrated its credentials as an industry leader in Ghana, bringing innovation and high standards in its environmental practices, safety measures, and commitment to social responsibility. Relative to compensations, Newmont has dealt fairly with all farmers who were affected during exploration in a transparent manner through the Compensation Negotiation Committee (CNC). The 46 elected community representatives on the CNC work hard to assure fair and adequate compensation to all project-affected farmers and others who lose their assets to Newmont mining activities with always signing a memorandum of understanding.. Negotiated rates for all crops are agreed annually, and promptly paid to affected community members.

We believe that communities and people of Akyem project area would enhance their expected benefits, given the company's investments in community development partnerships and capacity building even before the project starts. The Social Responsibility Forum (SRF), which consists of elected community representatives, District Assembly and Newmont members, over the past months been engaged in planning the development of the area in terms of capacity-building and

employment, education and health, alternative livelihoods and sustainable improvements, water and sanitation, infrastructural and business development. The essence of the SRF concept is a partnership for sustainable engagement and development so that Akyem can maximize its benefits from the mining project both in the short- and long-term. The commitment of all partners in the SRF is being anchored in three operational Understandings and Agreements: Community-Newmont Relations Agreement, Local Citizens Employment Agreement, and, Akyem Development Foundation Agreement.

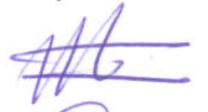
Even as we wait for the project to start, specific developmental results have been achieved. These include the formation of a functional Chapter of the Chamber of Commerce, the first in the Eastern Region of Ghana; an Umbrella Council of Youth Associations, an Apprenticeship Skills training programme for the youth; Tradesmen and Women Associations' training scheme; all under the capacity-building activities of OLIVES with Newmont's support. Investments in schools, water and sanitation are already visible in our communities. These are positive signs, even before the project starts, and we plan to build on these assets as partners in our own development. Indeed, our vision of Akyem is a 'Johannesburg', not some 'Wassa shanty-town'. For the record, WACAM was formed to fight against social and environmental damage from gold mining in Wassa communities in Western region of Ghana. We are not sure of their success record there. But whatever it is, we certainly do not need their help. After all, our strategic goal of sustainable development through partnerships and collaborative engagements is at odds with their anti-mining agenda and its attendant combative, cantankerous tactics.

***We the people of Akyem trust Newmont, and support the Newmont Akyem project given the company's excellent commitment to its social responsibility. We once again appeal to you to ignore the lies and propaganda from WACAM and its affiliates and sponsors. These organizations do not represent our interests, and cannot speak on our behalf, especially since their presentations are based, not on facts, but on lies and fabrications. Thank you.***

### List of Signatories

**CONCERNED FARMERS**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOWN/VILLAGE</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1) JAMES KWAA AHEAMPONG	HWEAKWAE	FARMER	
2) D. D. Yeboah	✓	✓	
3) ERIC ANYAAH	✓	✓	
4) Andrews Okyere	✓	Farmer	
5) Lucia Omsu-Ansah	Hweakwae	farmer	*
6) Rose Ama Kiti	Hweakwae	Farmer	
7) AKOSUA ADLAE	Adausara	Farmer	
8) Yaw Wiife	Adausara		
9) Yaa Manu	Adausara		
10) Kwadwo Oppong	Adausara		
11) Samuel Anko Mensah	New Abirem		
12) Kwame Owusu	New Abirem	Farmer	
13) Stephen Tetteh	New Abirem	Farmer	
14) Bernard Omsu-Boabeng	Hweakwae	farmer	
15) Nana Owusu Ansaako	Adausara	Farmer	
16) ESTHER GIMAH ABIREM		FARMER	
17) Ayesu Wilson	Saw - New Abirem	<del>Farmer</del> farmer	
18) Gladys Otoo	New Abirem		

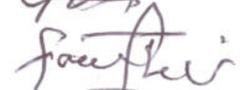
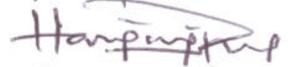
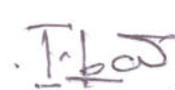
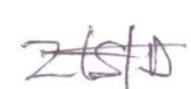
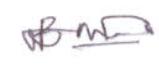
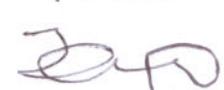
NAME	TOWN	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Kingsley Agere	Afesu	Farmer	
Comfort Asantewee Nana		Admin	
Nomica Opare Nana		Admin	

BIRIM NORTH CHAPTER OF GNCCI MEMBERS

Name	Town/Village	Designation	Signature
1. Inum BRIMAHANA	NEW ABIREM	MEMBER	[Signature]
2. Nana Asamah Opuni	New Abirem	Member	[Signature]
3. Francis Oppong	Mamanso	Poter/Farmer	[Signature]
4. Kwabena Ampofo Boakye	New Abirem	Member	[Signature]
5. Samuel Mearah	New Abirem	Vice/Chairman	[Signature]
6. Hana Kwaku	Afosu New Abirem	member	[Signature]
7. Nana Owusu Amoako	Adansena	Member	[Signature]
8. Nana Asiedu Akonaa	Ntrouang	member	[Signature]
9. Nana Kofi Keyi	Afosu	Organiser	[Signature]
10. Rolanda Awopolimage	New Abirem	Treasurer	[Signature]
11. George Owusu	Afosu	member	[Signature]
12. KWAME OFORI AFOSU		member	[Signature]
13. Katskyio G. LIP. AFOSU		Member	[Signature]
14. Evans Ofori Amaing	New Abirem	Member	[Signature]
15. Kenu Adelberg (Awarade Kasa)	New Abirem	Member	[Signature]
16. NICHOLAS KEYEI	New Abirem	Member	[Signature]
17. RICHMOND ABOTSI	NEW ABIREM	MEMBER	[Signature]
18. Anane Boateng	Mamanso	Member	[Signature]
19. Samuel Ayasu	Yayaso	Member	[Signature]
20. Mary Boakye	New Abirem	Member	[Signature]
21. KEY CONTRACTOR	"	"	[Signature]
22. Kofi Tawiech	AFOSU	"	[Signature]
23. Collins Anani Bompoh	Afosu		[Signature]

- 24 Florence Amuzie (Mrs) New Abirem *Florence*
- 25 Dasebere Agya Co Ltd Afosu *Dasebere*
- 26 Kwadwo Osei Ventures Afosu *Kwadwo*
27. Asuopra Kwame Bank Afosu *Asuopra*
- 28 Adok Interpris. New Abirem Member *Adok*
- 29 Blessedfuel Co. Ltd " " *Blessedfuel*
30. TOP OIL Co LTD NEW ABIREM member *TOP OIL*
- 31 PAVUKAM LTD NEW ABIREM MEMBER *PAVUKAM*
- 32 GUFA COMPANY OLD ABIREM MEMBER *GUFA*
- 33 Selgy Ltd Afosu member *Selgy*
- 34 Y.N.O. Ltd Afosu ✓ *Y.N.O.*
- 35 Kingsley Above Afosu member *Kingsley*

# BIREM NORTH UMBRELLA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VILLAGE/TOWN</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>SIGN</u>
Ibrahim Osman	Afosu	Member	
Hamidu Abdulai	Afosu	✓	
Ganisa Hashiru	Afosu	✓	
Ayishatu Abdulai	Afosu	✓	A.A
Zuleiha Abubakar	Afosu	✓	
Shafaran Ehasu	Afosu	✓	
Abdul Fatah	Afosu	✓	
<del>Nasiru M. Salifu</del>	<del>Afosu</del>	<del>✓</del>	<del></del>
Abdul Bashiru	Afosu	✓	
Ibrahim Osman Yano	Afosu	✓	
Abubakar Arhin	Afosu	✓	
Imisah Sadik	Afosu	✓	
Zaliatu Salifu	Afosu	✓	
Adizatu Salifu	Afosu	✓	
Fauziatu Al-hassan	✓	✓	
Zaini Abideen	✓	✓	
Jibre la Dauda	✓	✓	
Issah Seidu	✓	✓	
Hummu Adams	✓	✓	
Rakiyatu Auudu	✓	✓	
Jusseini Horo	✓	Member	

Al hassam	Musah	Afosu	member <del>M</del>
Abdulai	Ali	Afosu	L <del>J</del>
Mohammed	Muhazu	Afosu	L <del>M</del>
Rukayatu	Abdulai	Afosu	L <del>M</del>
Memunatu	Masaudu	Afosu	L <del>M</del>
Rashidatu	Abduki	Afosu	L <del>M</del>
Edward	Tamon	Afosu	L <del>M</del>
Kwasi	Amaah	Hwealkwae	✓ Kwasi
Sampa	Borteng	Adawson	✓ Sampa

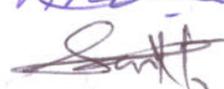
**AKYEM YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS MEMBERS**

Name	Town/Village	Designation	Signature
1. Safia Bala	Mamanso	Secretary	
2. Ntiamoah Alex	Old Abirem	Financial Sec	
3. Charles A. Boateng	Adau Sena	Treasurer	
4. ASare A. Ababio	Mamanso	V-Sec	
5. <del>Bernard O. Boateng</del>	<del>Hweakwae</del>	President	
5. Bernard O. Boateng	Hweakwae	President	
6. Ismaela A. Bala	Mamanso	Member	
7. Nasiru Mohammed Salif	AFSY	Organizer	
9. SATIFU BABA ISSAKA	AFSY	P.R.O.	
10. Saks Emmanuel	Yagisso	V. President	
11. Felix Oppong Gyamfi	Ntronang	Member	
12. Koame Abrokwa	Ntronang	Member	
13. KIWAKU SHAMATA	HWEAKWAE	MEMBER	
14. ASIEDU FRANCIS	HWEAKWAE	MEMBER	
15. JAMES KWASI ALHEAMPONG	HWEAKWAE	MEMBER	
16. GLADYS AMPOROH	—	HWEAKWAE-MEMBER	
17. ERIC ANIYAAH	—	HWEAKWAE-MEMBER	
18. Ofori Aeta	—	Hweakwae-Member	
19. Andrews Okyere	—	Hweakwae-Member	

NAME	TOWN	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
20. GEORGE K. NTI - HWEEKWAE		MEMBER	<del>AKWILL</del>
21. EMMANUEL OPOKI - HWEEKWAE		✓	Amuf
22. EMMANUEL NTIAMOH - HWEEKWAE		✓	Wheo
23. ALBERTINA ASIAMAH - HWEEKWAE		✓	<del>AKWILL</del>
24. DOHNE DAZKO - HWEEKWAE		✓	Hansen
25. PEPRAH PATRICK - HWEEKWAE		✓	<del>AKWILL</del>
26. OSMAN SALIFU - HWEEKWAE		✓	<del>AKWILL</del>
27. CHARLES GOKA - HWEEKWAE		✓	
28. PHILIP DANIKWAH - HWEEKWAE		MEMBER	<u>Dutytutp.</u>
29. LABRAM IBRAHIM - HWEEKWAE		MEMBER	F.M
30. KWABENA OBOES - HWEEKWAE		MEMBER	<del>AKWILL</del>
31. APPAU LAWRENCE	—	✓	Amuf
32. COMFORT KENADU	—	✓	<del>AKWILL</del>
33. BOALONG JOSEPH	—	✓	<del>AKWILL</del>
34. AKUA DREAMENA	—	HWEEKWAE	member //
35. KWAKU OMISI	—	HWEEKWAE	member from
36. MICHAEL LONGUSH	—	HWEEKWAE	member //
37. BONIFACE PINAMONG	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
38. ASANTE ISAAC	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
39. ASIEDU ISAAC	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
40. TERESS FOSUSH	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
41. BOAPPE BERNARD	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
42. TENIAH OPOKU	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
43. ERNEST KWANTONS	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
44. MABEL ADU	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
45. ABENGA BROWNIA	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>
46. EMMANUEL LANGINA	—	ADANSENA	✓ <del>AKWILL</del>

**COMPENSATION NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

NAME                      TOWN/VILLAGE                      DESIGNATION                      SIGNATURE

- |     |                     |            |            |   |   |
|-----|---------------------|------------|------------|---|---|
| 1)  | Nana Yaw Swamina    | Hweakwae   | MEMBER     | - |    |
| 2)  | Acheampong Juliana  | Hweakwae   | ✓          | - |    |
| 3)  | Nana Yaw Kusi       | Hweakwae   | -          | - |    |
| 4)  | Kofi Omsu Afiritie  | Hweakwae   | ✓          | - |    |
| 5)  | Opani Kofi Amoako   | Hweakwae   | ✓          | - |    |
| 6)  | Kwame A Ntoh        | Hweakwae   | -          | - |  |
| 7)  | Samuel Twum Nkansah | Nwa Abirem | -          | - |  |
| 8)  | Kwame Tawiah        | ✓          | ✓          | - |  |
| 9)  | Akwasi Ofori Amomfo | N/Abirem   | Member     | - |  |
| 10) | NANA BIRENU SAKMAH  | ADAUSENA   | TRAD. REP. | - |  |
| 11) | OPAMING NART KWAKU  | ADAUSENA   | MEMBER     | - |  |
| 12) | Kofi Darfour        | ADAUSENA   | ✓          | - |  |
|     | Kwaku Oduro         | Afofyu     | ✓          | - |  |

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FORUM (SRF) REPRESENTATIVES**

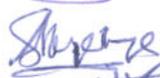
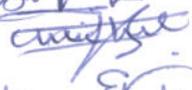
**Name**                      **Town/Village**                      **Designation**                      **Signature**

1. Bernard Omsub      Hwekwe      Member      
2. Lamela A. Bada      Mamanso      Member      
3. Nana Asamoah      Opuni, N/Abirim      Member      
4. Collins Anafi      Sompnel-Afosu      Member      
5. Akwasi Ofori-Amanfo           Member      

STOOL LANDS OWNERS

NAME	TOWN/VILLAGE	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
① Esabarima Owusu Gyamadu in	Oda	PARAMOUNTY Rep	[Signature]
② NANA AKWASI AMOH KYERETWIE I,		ABIREM CHIEF	[Signature]
③ NANA KOJO AMOH II - AFOSU - CHIEF		- offnd =	[Signature]
④ Nana Kerankye Ababio	Adawena Gyawhene	[Signature]	[Signature]
⑤ Nana Asiedu Akora II	Ntronanghene	[Signature]	[Signature]

DISTRICT ASSEMBLYMEN AND ASSEMBLYWOMEN

Name	Town/Village	Designation	Signature
1. Solomon Yeboah	NTRONING	Assemblyman	
2. Samuel Osei Gyekye	Adaasena	Sec. Unit Com.	
3. Taw Ahenkorah	Ntronang	Unit Com. chairman	
4. Hon. ERIC FELIX YAKAH	BIRIM	NORTH DIST. ASSEM.	Assembly member
5. STEPHEN ACHAMPONG	OLD-ABUREN	Chairman Unit Committee	
6. Kwame Nkrumah	Annoo	Sec. Unit Committee	
7. Collins Ananfi Dompah		Presiding Member	B.N. District Assembly

**CONCERNED FARMERS**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOWN/VILLAGE</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
19) Muna Abamocho Amu	New Abirem	Farmer	
20) Evans Darko	✓	✓	
21) Amos Siat	✓	✓	
22) William Nkansah	Abirem	✓	
23) Lydia Boateng	✓		
24) Araba George Georgino		✓	
25) Nana Yaw San Tanyi		✓	
26) Akwasi Ofori-Amankwa		✓	
27) Francis Hodogbe	Abirem	✓	
28) Reuben Adetsi	Yayaaso		
29) Ezekiel Asare	Old Abirem		
30. Acheampong Juliana			
31. Ofori Atta	Hweakwae	✓	
32. Kwaku Dwamena	Hweakwae		
33. Kwabena	Oberu	✓	
34. Kwasi Amah	Hweakwae		
35. Temah Ofori	Hweakwae		
36. Kwabena Akoto	Hweakwae		
37. B. K. Thompson	Abirem		