



Baarerstrasse 8  
6300 Zug  
Switzerland

January 6, 2024

To: Beatriz Balbin  
Chef  
Special Procedures Department  
OHCHR

CC: Irene Khan  
Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression  
[hrc-sr-freedex@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-freedex@un.org)

CC: Damilola S. Olawuyi  
Chairperson-Rapporteur  
UN Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations  
[hrc-wg-business@un.org](mailto:hrc-wg-business@un.org)

CC: David Boyd  
Special Rapporteur on the Issue of Human Rights Obligations Related to the Enjoyment of a Safe, Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment  
[hrc-sr-environment@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-environment@un.org)

CC: Mary Lawlor  
Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders  
[hrc-sr-defenders@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-defenders@un.org)

CC: José Francisco Cali Tzay  
Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
[hrc-sr-indigenous@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-indigenous@un.org)

CC: Marcos A. Orellana  
Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Implications of the Ecologically Sound Management and Disposal of Hazardous Substances and Wastes  
[hrc-sr-toxicshr@un.org](mailto:hrc-sr-toxicshr@un.org)

United Nations Human Rights  
Office of the High Commissioner  
Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

By email to: [ohchr-registry@un.org](mailto:ohchr-registry@un.org) ; [ohchr-spbquickresponsedesk@un.org](mailto:ohchr-spbquickresponsedesk@un.org)

Your Ref.: AL OTH 128/2023, AL OTH 127/2023, AL OTH 125/2023.

Your Excellencies,

I serve as chief counsel and board member to Solway Investment Group GmbH, a Swiss company that received, along with our affiliated companies Solway Holding LTD and Compañía Guatemalteca de Niquel, S.A., identical letters requesting that we respond within 60 days to complaints of “judicial harassment and the criminalization of the independent journalist and human rights defender Mr. Carlos Ernesto Choc Chub, in relation to his journalist work reporting on Solway [and our subsidiaries] . . . at the Fénix nickel mine in El Estor, Izabel, and the deeply concerning impacts on the health and environment of the local indigenous Mayan Q’eqchi community.”

I am writing to inform that we will provide on behalf of the three companies a highly-detailed response to the allegations in the letters by January 22, 2024.

Our sincere apologies for the delay, but in response to these allegations, we commissioned a major independent investigation into the situation, which is in the process of being finalized. We will shortly be back in touch with you with the results of this investigation.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denis Gerasev



Board Member, Chief Counsel  
Solway Investment Group GmbH