



Permanent Mission of The  
United Republic of Tanzania

NOTE VEBALE

**Ref. No. NC 291/738/02/67**

The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch and wishes to acknowledge receipt of the latter's letter dated 22 April 2024 concerning allegations on human rights abuses at North Mara Mine.

The Permanent Mission has the honour to communicate the response of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania as attached (Ref. No. CLB 415/833/01 dated 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2025).

The Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Special Procedures Branch in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.

**Geneva, 30 September, 2025**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
Special Procedures Branch,  
**GENEVA.**



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION

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*In reply please quote*

Ref. No. CLB. 415/833/01

9th September, 2025

**Carlos Salzar Couto,**  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group  
on the use of mercenaries as a means  
of violating Human rights  
and impeding the exercise of  
the right of people to self-determination;  
**GENEVA.**

**Robert McCorquodale**  
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group  
on the issue of Human rights and  
transnational corporations and  
other business enterprises,  
**GENEVA.**

**Aua Balde**  
Chair Rapporteur of the Working Group  
on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances,  
**GENEVA.**

**Morris Tidball-Binz**  
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial,  
summary or arbitrary executions,  
**GENEVA.**

**Mama Fatima Singhaten**  
Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation  
and sexual abuse of children;  
**GENEVA.**

**Reem Alsalem**  
Special Rapporteur on violence  
against women and girls  
its causes and consequences,  
**GENEVA.**

**Re: RESPONSES TO ALLEGATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AT NORTH  
MARA MINE**

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 in respect of the above-mentioned subject matter. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to respond as follows:

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, reaffirms its commitment to protecting and promoting human rights as guaranteed under the Constitution, domestic laws, and international obligations. Tanzania remains dedicated to upholding the rule of law, maintaining public order, and safeguarding national security while respecting the rights of all citizens.

**i. Allegation of Killings and Security-Related Deaths**

The Government vehemently denies the allegations pertaining to killings and security related deaths and wishes to state that there was no killing and security related deaths at North Mara incident. In fact, on 22nd April 2024, a group of approximately eighty-five individuals unlawfully entered the Gena pit with the intent to remove gold-bearing materials. They were armed with machetes, bows, arrows, and stones, creating an imminent threat to life and property. Police officers initially deployed attempted to prevent escalation, and reinforcements were called to manage the situation. The officers discharged fourteen tear gas projectiles to disperse the intruders. This was done in accordance with Section 5 of the Police Force and Auxiliary Services Act (Cap. 322, R.E. 2023), Police General Order No. 1(2) (a), Section 22 of the Criminal Procedure Act (Cap. 20, R.E. 2023), and Section 19 of the Penal Code (Cap. 16, R.E. 2023), which authorize the use of reasonable force for the protection of life and property.

The Government further wishes to inform that, law enforcement operations in Tanzania, including at North Mara Mine, are conducted under strict adherence to a well-established legal framework and therefore emphasizes that all actions taken were necessary, proportionate, and lawful.

**ii. Assaults, Torture, and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment**

The Government vehemently denies the allegations pertaining to assaults, torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and wishes to state that no such act transpired at the North Mara incidence. The Government also wishes to recall that Article 15 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Furthermore, all police personnel undergo mandatory training on the use of force, human rights, and professional conduct. As such any allegation of abuse is subject to investigation by the Professional Standards Unit of the Police Force and, if substantiated, results in disciplinary or criminal action.

**iii. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, and Possible Enforced Disappearances**

The Government strongly denies the allegations pertaining to arbitrary arrests, detention, and possible disappearances and wishes to state that no such act transpired at the North Mara incidence. All arrests and detentions comply with the Criminal Procedure Act (Cap. 20, R.E. 2023), which requires suspects to be promptly presented before a court and ensures judicial oversight. Individuals have the right to legal representation, and bail provisions apply where allowed by law. Therefore, the allegations are baseless.

**iv. Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Violence against Women and Girls**

As regard to allegation of sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence against women and girls, The Government refutes the allegations pertaining to sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence against women and girls and wishes to state that no such acts transpired at the North Mara incidence. Furthermore, the Penal Code, as

amended by the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act (1998), criminalizes sexual abuse, exploitation, and violence. Additionally, the Police Force maintains gender and children's desks to provide survivor-centred services, facilitate investigation, and ensure appropriate referral to protection and support services. Specialized officers are trained to assist victims, including children, ensuring confidentiality and safety.

**v. Excessive Use of Tear Gas and Sound Bombs**

The Government refutes allegations pertaining to excessive use of tear gas and sound bombs and wishes to state that the discharge of fourteen tear gas projectiles on 22nd April 2024 were lawfully conducted to disperse armed intruders threatening lives and property. No sound bombs were used by police or private security companies. All measures were proportionate, necessary, and strictly regulated under Tanzanian law.

**vi. Forced Displacement, Loss of Livelihoods, and Inadequate Housing Conditions**

The Government denies the allegations pertaining to forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, and inadequate housing conditions and wishes to clarify that any relocation or resettlement activities are conducted under a national established legal framework, including environmental, land, and compensation regulations. No forced displacement occurred in connection with policing operations at North Mara Mine. Measures are in place to ensure proper consultation, compensation, and provision of adequate housing where resettlement is necessary.

**vii. Bribery, Corruption, and Collusion of Mine Security and Police**

The Government vehemently denies the allegations pertaining to bribery, corruption, and collusion of Mine Security Police. Furthermore, it wishes to inform that all private security companies operating in Tanzania are licensed and regulated under the Police Force and Auxiliary Services Act (Cap. 322, R.E. 2023), and allegations of corruption or collusion are investigated by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB). Any proven misconduct attracts sanctions, including license revocation, suspension, and criminal prosecution.

**viii. Suppression of Human Rights Defenders, Freedom of Expression, and Grievance Mechanisms**

The Government vehemently denies the allegations pertaining to suppression of human rights defenders, freedom of expression, and grievance mechanisms. It further wishes to inform that freedom of expression is upheld in accordance with the Constitution of The United Republic of Tanzania under Article 18 while balancing lawful limitations for public order and safety. Human rights defenders operate in a secure environment, and complaints regarding police or private security misconduct are handled via domestic mechanisms including the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) and the court of law.

**ix. Joint operations by Tanzania Police, Private security (SGA security and Nguvu Moja) and Mine security**

The Government vehemently denies the allegations pertaining to the joint operations by Tanzania Police, private security (SGA security and Nguvu Moja) and Mine security as it holds that Police force responded to North Mara incidence as an extended reinforcement whose primary function was inter alia maintenance of law

and order, prevention and detection crime and preservation of peace as per section 5 of The Police Force and Auxiliary Service Act, Cap 322. Therefore, the said allegation of joint operation by the Tanzania Police and Private security is of no merit.

**x. Use of Heavily Armed State Police Alongside Unarmed but Allegedly Abusive Private Contractors.**

The Government denies the allegations pertaining to the use of heavily armed State Police alongside unarmed but allegedly abusive private contractors and wishes to inform that Police force as reinforcement part responded and was necessitated to use a non-lethal means to disperse armed intruders threatening lives and property to North Mara incidence by discharging fourteen tear gas projectiles. Furthermore, all measures were proportionate, necessary, and strictly regulated under Tanzanian law.

**xi. Lack of Transparency in command, control and rules of engagement**

The Government denies the allegations pertaining to lack of transparency in command, control and rules of engagement and states that all police personnel undergo mandatory training on the use of force, human rights, and professional conduct as per the laws of the land, all allegations of misconduct, whether by police or private security personnel, are subject to investigation. Where violations are substantiated, disciplinary and criminal measures are enforced. Tanzania remains committed to transparency, rule of law, and accountability in all such matters.

**xii. Unclear Domestic Regulation of Private Military/Security Services in Tanzania**

The Government strongly denies the allegations pertaining to unclear domestic regulation of private military/security services in Tanzania and wishes to clarify that the North Mara Gold mining is protected by private security companies and in their normal operational works do not carry firearms. When unsafe situation escalates they call for reinforcement from the Police. Further, in Tanzania, the private security companies are under the guardianship of the Inspector General of Police who vets them as per sections 75 and 76 of the Police Force and Service Auxiliary Act Cap 322.

**xiii. Unclear Vetting, Training and Accountability**

The Government utterly denies the allegations pertaining to unclear vetting, training and accountability of private military/security services in Tanzania and states that all allegations of misconduct, whether by police or private security personnel, are subject to investigation. Where violations are substantiated, disciplinary or criminal measures are enforced. Tanzania remains committed to transparency, rule of law, and accountability in all such matters.

On a call to regulate, control and management of private security military companies, the Government wishes to clarify that it does not permit private military operations. Licensed private security companies operate under strict regulation and are subject to comprehensive vetting, training, supervision, and reporting requirements. Personnel employed by such companies are thoroughly vetted, trained on human rights standards, and operate under the direct oversight of the Tanzania Police Force. Furthermore, their contracts, recruitment processes, and remuneration are closely monitored to ensure full compliance with national laws and ethical standards.

In conclusion, the Government underscores that matters relating to national security remain the exclusive domain of the State. As such, it is considered inappropriate to provide detailed information concerning security matters. This response is therefore provided solely to clarify legal and factual aspects, without disclosing sensitive operational details.

The Government reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the protection of human rights, in accordance with Tanzanian law and its international obligations.

I thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



*Amb. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo*  
**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
EAST AFRICAN COOPERATION**