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Robert Coombe
Chancellor
University of Denver
2199 S. University Blvd
Denver, CO 80208

Dear Chancellor,

PETITION AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD TO MR WAYNE MURDY, THE CEO OF NEWMONT

We have become aware that the Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Denver would honour Mr Wayne Murdy, the CEO of Newmont Mining Corporation with the award of the International Bridge Builders Award in August 2007.

We are compelled to draw your attention to the fact that it was during the tenure of Mr Wayne Murdy's office that Newmont expanded its operations to Ghana and established the Ahafo mine in Kenyase, which became operational in June 2006. Although Newmont is only one year in its operations, there had been many community protests against the operations of Newmont Ahafo Mine. In some of the cases, Newmont had used its strong influence to use the Military and Police to beat and shoot poor defenceless people. We wish to mention a few of such community protests as follows:

- In 2004, there was a demonstration by the Youth of Kenyase No1 and No 2 against Newmont on loss of employment and unemployment created by operations of the company.
- In 2006, the Military beat up people of Ntotroso who demonstrated against Newmont on loss of livelihood resulting from Newmont's operations. The Military went on rampage and entered the homes of the citizens of Ntotroso and beat up many people including the aged and a blind man
- On 2nd September 2005, ex employees of Newmont who were laid off by Newmont demonstrated against the company for non-payment of redundancy award. The Police shot at the demonstrators and wounded some of them.
- There was a demonstration in February 2007, against Newmont by the displaced people who had been resettled by Newmont.
- There was demonstration by the youth of Kenyase against Newmont in July 2007, on the day of commissioning of the Ahafo mine.

In 2005, WACAM and community people complained about the disposal of faecal waste into River Asuopre by Newmont. The river served as the drinking water for some of the

communities located downstream of the river especially Asuopre community. Newmont paid compensation of about \$ 14 and a hamper comprising a bag of rice, a gallon oil, and 4 tins of corned beef to the affected people.

Mr Wayne Murdy implemented the expansion of Newmont's operations in Ghana to mete out all these pain and other problems including the payment of very low compensation to poor Cocoa farmers. For example, Newmont made a one-off payment of about \$ 8 for a Cocoa tree, which can yield Cocoa beans worth about \$20 each year for an economic period of 40 to 50 years. By the payment of low compensation to affected farmers, Newmont increased its profits but worsened the poverty of the poor farmers.

In addition to the Ahafo mine, Newmont is seeking to develop the Akyem project in the Ajenua Bepo Forest Reserve. Ghana is losing its forest cover at an alarming rate and many Ghanaians including Traditional Rulers and NGOs have expressed concern about the attempts by a few mining companies including Newmont to mine in the forest reserves of Ghana. The National Coalition on Mining (NCOM), which is a coalition of about 20 Human Rights and Environmental NGOs, has campaigned vigorously against companies that want to mine in the Forest Reserves of Ghana.

Our organisation and other partners had in the past engaged in campaigns to draw the attention of Mr Wayne Murdy to the problems faced by the communities affected by the operations of Newmont but the company had not been sensitive to the plight of the communities. Instead, Newmont intimidates activists in Ghana and the company had been linked to the arrest of 5 community people, activists and an official of Oxfam America who were having a meeting with community people in Yamfo, a community affected by the operations of Newmont Ahafo Mine in Ghana in preparation for a meeting between WACAM, Oxfam America and the management of Newmont Ahafo Mine . The five community people and activists of WACAM were arraigned before a Circuit Court in Sunyani on a framed up complaint by officials of Newmont to the Police that the activists and the official of Oxfam America convened the community meeting with the name of Newmont in addition to a strange charge that the conveners of the Yamfo community meeting did not obtain a Police permit for the meeting. Under the Public Order Law of Ghana, NGO meetings, social / community meetings are not special events for which Police permits are required. The trial Judge in an open court requested the community people and activists to plead guilty and when they refused, the trial Judge committed them to 2- week Prison custody and stated in the open court that the community people had been disturbing foreign mining companies and the prison custody was to serve as a deterrent to others. Many people in Ghana condemned the infamous Yamfo arrest as barbaric and WACAM was able to collect over 3000 signatures of Trade Unionists, University Lecturers and Students, Nationalists, Community people, Youth, UNESCO clubs, media etc to condemn the intimidation of the community people and activists.

Mr Wayne Murdy has presided over the operations of Newmont to inflict pain on about 10,000 affected farmers who had been displaced by the operations of the first phase of Newmont Ahafo mine and another 10,000 people who would potentially be affected by the second phase of the mine's operations.

We do not think that Mr Wayne Murdy built an international bridge to advance the interest of poor people in the communities affected by its operations in Ghana. On the contrary, the operations of Newmont in both Ahafo mine and Akyem had resulted in conflicts, human rights

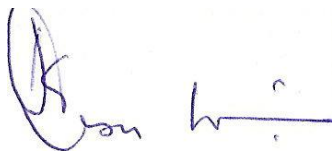
abuses, pollution of streams etc. In the Annual General Meeting of Newmont in April 2005, Mr Wayne Murdy in his response to a question by an activist from Indonesia as to when Newmont would stop dumping mine waste into the sea (Submarine Tailings Disposal) Mr Murdy stated, "After extracting gold from rocks, the rest is sand". Mr Wayne Murdy's belief that when gold is extracted from rocks, only sand remains, underlines the company's bad waste disposal policy globally. By awarding Mr Wayne Murdy, the International Bridge Builder award your prestigious University would be complicit to the corporate crimes committed by Newmont Corporation against the thousands of poor community people affected by the company's desire to look for gold at all costs.

We are therefore protesting against the award of the International Bridge Builder Award to Mr Wayne Murdy.

We are hopeful that your University would demonstrate its sensitivity to the concerns of mining communities and not become complicit to the apparent abuses that had affected the dignity of thousands of community people affected by the operations of Newmont in Ghana.

We count on your co-operation in this regard

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Owusu-Koranteng". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Daniel Owusu-Koranteng
(Executive Director)