



Chaupe Land Case Information Update: May 3, 2017

Background

As outlined in our [previous updates](#) regarding the ongoing land dispute between members of the Chaupe family and Yanacocha, we believe it is important to be truthful and transparent about the facts. This includes providing factual information regarding Yanacocha's efforts to protect its property rights in light of ongoing attempts by members of the Chaupe family to illegally acquire additional property through adverse possession.

In August 2011, Yanacocha filed a criminal complaint on 'aggravated usurpation' with the Peruvian court in Celendin after members of the Chaupe family illegally invaded and occupied land parcels lawfully purchased by the company in 1996 and 1997. In 2012 and again in 2014, Peruvian courts confirmed that the Chaupe family illegally and criminally trespassed upon the land parcel in question.

In a separate ruling in December 2014, the Cajamarca Criminal Court of Appeals ruled that there was insufficient evidence of "acts of violence" by the Chaupe family, on the initial day of their illegal trespass, to warrant criminal charges. The ruling did not make a finding that the Chaupe family had any ownership or possession rights to the land parcel in dispute. Yanacocha then filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Peru in 2014.

Supreme Court Decision

The Supreme Court was expected to 'read' its final ruling on 12 April 2017 and deferred its ruling on the criminal case involving charges of 'aggravated usurpation' until 3 May 2017, indicating the court needed additional time to reach a decision.

The Peru Supreme Court today dismissed Yanacocha's appeal of the Superior Court of Cajamarca's 2014 ruling acquitting members of the Chaupe family of 'aggravated usurpation' when they occupied land parcels owned by the company in August of 2011. The Court stated that there was no evidence specifically identifying members of the Chaupe family as having exercised violence when they entered the property at Tragadero Grande.

This particular court ruling did not address the issues surrounding ownership and possessory rights of the disputed land parcel. In fact, the Court declared in its ruling that the possessory rights of the parties involved in the land dispute should be resolved through the civil court process. We respect the ruling in this criminal case and we will continue defending the company's ownership rights through the civil cases still pending before the courts. Yanacocha initiated two civil cases in 2015 to ultimately resolve issues associated with land ownership and possession of the land parcel in dispute. These cases are still awaiting hearings and decisions by the respective courts to rule on ownership and possession of the disputed property.

Summary

Our goal is to always be respectful of our neighbors, while lawfully protecting our property rights, avoiding confrontation and respecting human rights. We continue to invite the Chaupe family to join us in a direct, good-faith dialogue to reach a fair and durable resolution and also ask the Chaupe family to act in good faith and not illegally occupy other lands adjacent to the disputed parcel.

We recognize the ongoing distress this dispute creates for the Chaupe family and Yanacocha continues to seek measures to reduce tensions and prevent conflict as the various judicial processes run their course. We are optimistic that a platform for dialogue can be established and we will continue to update our stakeholders on significant developments as they occur.