

# Entire correspondence

## ‘mining & communities’ vs. ESBC

### July 2011

#### **m&c 27.07.2011 on Youtube :**

@bocandorra - I'm writing as Managing Editor of Mines & Communities to point out that we have not funded Clive, or any person/group re Bougainville. Our website supports mine-affected communities, and allows them space to publish their views (given the industry has plenty of money to publicize theirs). We have a small budget, a board of international editors, and take our lead and positions from affected communities. We do not seek to influence them, and do not finance them. Andy Whitmore

#### **ESBC 27.07.2011 email :**

Andy,

thanks for your explanations

Please allow me not to believe what you wrote.

In fact: it is hard to believe that somebody like Clive Porabou is able to travel from Honiara (Solomons) to London without any support from abroad.

An economy class ticket from the Solomons costs minimum EUR 4,800 - mostly much more .

See here: <http://www.skyscanner.de/flights/hir/lhr/110809/110816/airfares-from-honiara-to-london-heathrow-in-august-2011.html>

Somebody who hasn't even got the money to visit his family in nearby Bougainville regularly: How is he able to afford spending this amount for a simple appearance on the Rio Tinto AGM? Who provided entrance to him. Is Clive Porabou perhaps a Rio Tinto shareholder? Who provides such expensive technical equipment to him as there are video cam and a powerful computer for editing videos? Who pays the internet access overthere? If it was not you or your friends – who else?

**I guess it was you because you are the only ones to take real profit of this!**

**Sorry, Andy, but your statement is as poor as the reaction of your group to my repeated offers to have an open discussion with you and your friends: you even did not reply!**

**Yes, Andy, we are pro-mining! But we also stand for environmental caring mining and the honest participation of the indigenous people on the ground – in work and money.**

**People like Porabou promote highly poisonous alluvial small scale mining on the ground. He does not even mention these high risks. Furthermore: He “lovingly” calls killers and terrorists on the ground “freedom fighters”. Yes, Andy, this is the sad truth believe it or not! And you and your friends you are supporting these outlaws! So DO NOT pretend to be the saviours of a better and ecologic world! Simply tell the people that you are a left-wing group of people who are based on jealousy and hatred. The indigenous people on the ground are only a compliant tool for you – nothing else!**

**The ESBC works hard to bring progress to the ground in Bougainville. We try to help the people to become independent from foreign aid and to strengthen their self-confidence. The people of Bougainville deserve better friends than you.**

**You should finally think of abandoning to support non-democratic groups like Me'ekamui or do you want to keep them in the Stone Age? The today's situation on Bougainville is easy to describe: Young well-educated Bougainvilleans do not return to the island as they do not see any future for them and their families. Is it that what you want?**

**I believe, once again, I will not receive any reply to this email.**

**Regards,**

**Axel G. Sturm**

**m&c 27.07.2011 email :**

Dear Mr Sturm

First, apologies for not replying to any previous correspondence. I honestly haven't seen any correspondence from your prior to this message. No doubt you'll choose, not to believe that, but it's also true. I'm glad that you have chosen to publish this correspondence on your home page, and trust you'll publish this reply. We will also ensure that any debate is in public, and intend to write on this issue on our own website. So I am happy, time willing, to exchange with you on this subject, but only in public, where hopefully more of our editors can comment.

You can choose not to believe it, but our not paying for Clive is simply a statement of fact. In our organisational accounts for the last few years we have a travel budget of £100 per annum, which has not been fully spent in any year. I personally support the idea of community activists who might not otherwise be given a voice being allowed to raise those protests around company AGMs, but Mines & Communities does not fund people to do this. Giving such people a voice is not creating community opposition, nor is it 'controlling' it. People who have experience of the problems around large-scale mining do not need 'London masterminds' to control them. Do you think we were responsible for the creation of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army?

You explain why you are pro-mining. It seems you are pro-mining because you will profit from the mining process, which is a clear position. You then claim that the landowners and/or people of Bougainville will also benefit. That claim is based on the promise that the mistakes of the past, that created these so-called "terrorists and killers", will not be repeated. That is the point of argument, over whether the benefits a mine brings can now outweigh the costs. The experience of our international board, many from or representing mines-affected communities themselves, is that in practice they don't. That is an argument about equitable and just sustainable development.

You say we are "the only ones to take real profit of this [support for Clive]". I am interested to know how you think we profit?

Andy Whitmore

## **ESBC 27.07.2011 email :**

**Good evening Andy,**

**if you are really interested in our view of things in Bougainville, I am able to offer an appointment in London to you.**

**I will be in London from September 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> (early afternoon), 2011. So, if you like, we could meet and exchange ideas.**

**Best for me would be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon. Would that be OK for you?**

**What concerns Clive: Don't you think that it is quite strange if he is able to come to London if he's even got enough money to see his family in Bougainville?**

**So, if it was not you or your friends: who else is interested in unrest on the island?**

**May I inform you that the European shareholders don't have any profit that comes from Bougainville. That might change if our company pays dividends one day.**

Until now we are making our money on the different stock markets in the world. We earn money by buying and selling securities.

May I also tell you that Panguna had been one of the most modern and environmental caring mines worldwide until it had to be closed due to security problems.

Problems like Jaba River pollution occurred due to the fact that the mine could not be closed correctly – due to security problems as well.

Today's alluvial mining pollutes the environment even much more than BCL ever did. And Clive Porabou is one of its promoters.

If you believe that these people are really environmental caring, sorry, but then you are naïve.

Just yesterday PNG's minister for environment declared that he will be happy if tailing contents would be dumped in the deep sea in future.

A good advice: Please read regularly the ESBC homepage and the local PNG media, I think you will be astonished!

I am absolutely convinced that only big, reputed companies like Rio Tinto or BHP Billiton are able to handle such giant mine leases.

They work in our western philosophy and respect most of the times environmental issues. Chinese, Indian or other companies absolutely do not!

Chinese companies even "import" their own Chinese workers. Locals are rarely admitted.

I would appreciate, to meet you in London, perhaps you will see that the ESBC are not those "scroogy" guys as you believe.

Best regards,

Axel G. Sturm

Escaldes-Engordany, 27.07.2011

## **ESBC 28.07.2011 email :**

Good Morning Andy,

Perhaps I've got some good news for you:

Peter Taylor, the chairman of Bougainville Copper Limited, will also be in London in September.

He just told me that he would be delighted to meet you as well.

He could manage to meet with us on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the afternoon.

**Of course such a meeting cannot be a public hearing, but up to three colleagues of you would be welcome.**

**So please tell me if you are interested. Please propose a convenient time for you and I will confirm the location as soon as possible.**

Regards,

**Axel G. Sturm**

**Escaldes-Engordany, 28.07.2011**

## **m&c 28.07.2011 email :**

Dear Mr Sturm

Thank you for the follow up correspondence & the offer to meet. However, please note I only wrote to you to correct something false you had written about us in a public space, with a desire to do it as publicly as possible. That was primarily done with Clive in mind, given that you then inferred from the allegation that he was being controlled by foreign interests in London, which is from our experience not true. You seem still not to believe that, which is your prerogative, but as long as we have rebutted it in public that is enough for me. Where views were expressed they were personal, as - given Mines & Communities is made up of a large editorial board - I do not claim to speak for them all.

I am afraid I do not have the time to meet, nor even to continue a detailed correspondence. First we cover a large number of issues, and my involvement with Mines & Communities is only one of a number of activities, so my time is limited. Second, I would not want to meet with companies or investors unless I had specifically been asked to do so by the relevant mines-affected people. We really do take the lead from people locally, and not the other way around. Without that mandate, and various pre-conditions to ensure any meeting would not be mis-used politically, I would not meet privately. Even if a public meeting was offered we'd need to take local advice & agree within Mines & Communities that it was a priority.

I'm sure there will still be a public debate in writing, which in my opinion, and given Mines & Communities' purpose is the best place for it to be.

Andy

## **ESBC 28.07.2011 email :**

Andy,

**Sorry, but I have to interpret your refusal of an open dialogue between mines & communities, Bougainville Copper Limited and us as a major lack of self-confidence**

You call yourself “editor” but you do not want to listen to all parties involved. Please, as a former journalist, I would ask you not to call yourself editor. Believe me: you do not deserve this title at all. Obviously you prefer working as a narrow minded progandist who tries to suppress the truth. Brief: you disqualified yourself!

You may falsely believe that your work supports indigneous people on the ground, but you are absolutely wrong! Your work only encourages local unrest, severe pollution and poverty! Enjoy your dirty business!

Axel G. Sturm

Escaldes-Engordany, 28.07.2011

## **m&c (Roger Moody) 28.07.2011 :**

As I anticipated, perhaps only Elsie can expose this man for the insignificant toad he is – fit to rank with Anil Agarwal, judging by the latter’s brain-cracked performance yesterday.

Roger

PS I just asked Elsie if she would come out of her gin-haze to apply her razor-sharp tongue to Mr Sturm’s deluded utterances. She initially said she wouldn’t even deign to dignify him in his fashion, then conceded she had actually come up with a sub-heading for a possible swipe:

“Putting a spoke in Axel’s wheel”.

But I think she might still need an extra case of the Gordons’ before she actually puts pen to paper...