

Topic: Letter Stop buying Dinant.Stop Violence in Aguan.

Updated as of April, 2025

No.	Date and Topic	Complainant	Allegations
Q-005	February, 2025 Letter Stop buying Dinant Stop Violence in Aguan - End Trade With Dinant PDF Open letter to the public denouncing alleged human rights violations by Dinant and calling on global companies to end both direct and indirect business relations with the company, as a response in favor of protecting human rights and promoting sustainable and ethical business practices.	CIR Romero	#1- It is alleged that for decades there have been acts of intimidation, persecution, and killings of peasant groups and social organizations, carried out to seize land by irregular armed groups allegedly linked to Dinant. #2 It is alleged that, despite the government's attempts to establish a tripartite commission since 2022—with no progress, the violence in the area has intensified since December 2024, targeting organizations that defend their lands against Dinant's appropriation. It is alleged that on December 24, 2024, 160 families from the 'Los Camarones' cooperative were forcibly evicted by armed groups in the context of violence and intimidation. #3 It is alleged that on January 2, 2025, Arnulfo Díaz, a member of the 'Las Brisas del Aguán' cooperative, was killed. It is alleged that since January 27, 2025, the Tranvío and El Chile cooperatives have been subjected to renewed intimidation and attempted forced evictions by armed groups. #3 It is alleged that on February 2, 2025, José Luis Hernández Lobo and his partner, Suyapa Guillén, were killed. Both were active members of the Gregorio Chávez Cooperative and leaders of the peasant movement.
Description of the Facts	Allegation #1: CIR Romero has publicly stated that its source of information is the Agrarian Platform, which is also a signatory of the 'Stop Buying Dinant' communication. The Agrarian Platform, the name adopted		

by the group of individuals who forcibly took over Dinant's palm plantations, makes these accusations yet another mechanism to try to maintain the illegal occupation of land, since otherwise, they lack legal support and logical basis.

Since the moment these cooperatives occupied the lands that legally belong to Dinant, the company lost control of the plantations and their harvest, which is now under the control of the groups that have taken over the land.

In 1992, [the “Modernization and Development of the Agricultural Sector Law”](#) allowed farmers who had benefited from the agrarian reform to sell the lands they had been granted. This means that, unlike most land tenure conflicts, the conflict in the Aguán region did not begin with an illegal act of dispossession—neither by the State nor by private third parties, whether companies or individuals. Instead, it arose from a legal reform in secondary legislation, which in 1992 opened the way for the creation of a land market.

Therefore, in its [initial statements the platform](#) It is clear that, among other things, it seeks the repeal of the Law on the Modernization and Development of the Agricultural Sector, which was the reason behind the voluntary sale of the land by the cooperatives. It also refers to the decriminalization of the peasant struggle and the suspension of legal proceedings against 3,081 farmers.

At the time, Dinant legally purchased the land that the cooperatives voluntarily sold, without any coercion, under the following negotiation terms.

- If the land had a plantation, the price factors included the type of crops planted and/or the livestock present.
- In the case of oil palm, more specific criteria were defined based on the physiological condition of the plantation (such as the age and health of the trees).
- Existing infrastructure on the land is to be purchased, such as fences, drainage systems, and internal roads.

The security guards on the plantations have not been armed since 2013, and based on recent events, it was decided that the guards inside the palm oil extraction plant would be equipped with rubber bullets and personal protective equipment.

No guard or staff member of Dinant has been accused in relation to these matters, nor has anyone been accused of acting outside of Dinant's facilities and/or under Dinant's orders.

Allegation # 2: The Camarones, Tranvio, and Chile cooperatives have been in conflict since December 2024 with residents of neighboring communities who have reacted out of fear and the influence of illegal economies fostered by criminal groups that now control part of the territory where these communities reside. We have attached the link to a television video titled [«From 1 to Three»](#), in which a human rights defender from the neighboring communities denounces the threats faced by the communities from organized gangs that have illegally taken over the land.

	He also calls for the government to recognize, just as it recognizes the cooperatives organized in the Agrarian Platform as actors in the conflict, the communities that are the most affected by the conflict. Allegation #3: According to Francisco Fúnez, Director of the National Agrarian Institute (INA) and head of the coordination of the Agrarian Security and Land Access Commission, there are criminal groups, drug traffickers, and politicians involved in an agrarian conflict in the region. A video is attached in which the Director of the INA discusses the security situation in the region and the actions being taken by the government. On the other hand, in 2025, according to information from the director of the INA, the Police Directorate of Investigations (DPI) already has information about the criminal gangs 'Canechos' and 'Cachos.' He also denounced the mayor of the municipality of Iguala and another municipality as promoters of land invasions to gain votes in this fully electoral year of 2025. He also spoke of criminals and mayors in the municipality of Quebrada de Arenas.
Company's Response	Allegation #1: • Dinant has publicly and categorically rejected the baseless allegations made by the Agrarian Platform of the Aguán and the Coordinating Body of Popular Organizations of the Aguán (COPA), which seek to link the company and its president to criminal organizations and activities. These claims have also been echoed by other international NGOs that are not fully informed about the actual situation in the Bajo Aguán. • In February 2025, Dinant, through written communication, invited Mr. Gross to engage in dialogue with other affected parties in the region, including communities, the private sector, the government, and farmers. We believe that this dialogue would provide him and other stakeholders with a broader and more balanced perspective of the conflict. However, to date, Dinant has not received a response. • Dinant has provided the government with all the required information regarding its property titles. These have been reviewed by the competent authorities, financial institutions, certification bodies, among others, with no irregularities found. Allegation # 2 and #3: • What occurred on the specified dates is related to disputes between members of neighboring communities and groups that are illegally occupying the company's land. Dinant is following the legal procedures provided by law, requesting the eviction of its properties. • The company has stated that these false allegations are distractions that conceal a serious situation of violence in the Bajo Aguán region, fueled by the existence of an illegal economy that has been on the rise. • Dinant has made a public call to the government of Honduras to expedite the investigations that will lead to the swift clarification of these crimes and verify the falsehood of the serious allegations made. • Dinant has a policy of respect for Human Rights, which is communicated to all its employees and contractors. • Dinant has established a grievance mechanism for communities to submit their complaints and claims as they see fit, and to receive a

	response within the time frame stipulated in the procedure, with none of the allegations made ever having arisen. • Dinant has established a social team that is constantly meeting with the communities to address any complaints or grievances, with none of the allegations made ever arising. • Dinant is a member of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. In addition, it has not only trained its employees and contractors but also the communities in its area of influence on these principles.
Status	Closed