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Statement re: Cardinal Pedro Baretto Media Interviews

ST. LOUIS (July 13, 2026) – [The Doe Run Company](#) (Doe Run) has the following response to comments made by Cardinal Pedro Barreto in media interviews.

The fundamental facts deserve to be specified in full. First, the Cardinal is mistaken on how Doe Run Peru came to operate La Oroya. Doe Run was invited by the government of Peru to take over the smelter through a Peruvian entity, under an agreement on which the government would remediate the pre-existing soil contamination and Doe Run Peru would invest in modernizing and operating the facility. Doe Run Peru upheld its end of that commitment, providing roughly \$300 million in upgrades and community infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. The government did not uphold its end.

The demonstrable reality is that Doe Run Peru reduced emissions in every category, eliminated pollution from La Oroya's rivers, provided fresh water to the community, built hospitals and schools, and reforested thousands of acres. Despite these contributions, which went far beyond the requirements of Doe Run Peru's agreement with the government, Cardinal Barreto repeatedly insisted that Doe Run Peru make donations to church coffers under his control. Those demands were politely declined in light of the formal and far-reaching community programs that were already established.

Cardinal Baretto's contention that it was 'evident' that purported threats were made by people associated with Doe Run would benefit from evidence and facts rather than conjecture and invective. But these allegations were never substantiated or reported to the police and no legal authority in Peru ever brought them to our attention.

The word justice is being misused in the coverage of this case, so let's set the record straight. In all these years since the facility was shuttered, nobody – not Cardinal Baretto, not the plaintiff's lawyers, nor the government of Peru – has done anything to improve the environmental conditions in La Oroya, or provide medical treatment, or build an economic future that would provide jobs. Those are elements of justice. Instead all that has happened is that plaintiffs' lawyers have been massively enriched. That is not justice, it's a press release attached to somebody else's fee statement.

For more information on these cases, please visit DoeRunResponds.com.