

PLOUGH BACK THE FRUITS Campaigning Network

WWW.BASFLONMIN.COM



Europe:

Association of Ethical Shareholders/D

Bread for the World/D

KASA – Ecumenical Services on Southern Africa/D

KEESA – Swiss Apartheid Debt and Reparations Campaign/CH

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation/D

SOLIFONDS/CH

South Africa:

Bench Marks Foundation

Khulumani Support Group

Widows of Marikana

Mission Statement

The mining sector in South Africa is characterized by historically persistent structures, such as “cheap black labour” consisting of migrant workers from former homelands (“labour sending areas”), racism, classism, sexism and not least neoliberal and neo-colonial ways of legitimized exploitation. Lonmin, the South African Police Services and the South African government are directly involved in the Marikana massacre and must be held responsible. But without addressing and challenging the political and economic context, there can be no complete picture of the circumstances that led to the Marikana massacre and hence no “Justice for Marikana”. Aware of this, PLOUGH BACK THE FRUITS understands itself as a contribution within a broader struggle.

The business relation between BASF and Lonmin has existed for more than 30 years. BASF is the main customer of Lonmin Plc. It is a world-leading chemical enterprise and manufacturer of catalysts based in Germany. It purchases more than half of the overall annual PGM (platinum group metals) production of Lonmin. (2014: 450 m. Euro, 2015: 650 m. Euro) BASF itself describes its business as a combination of “economical success and social responsibility” and claims to adhere to an ethical code of conduct along the whole supply chain.

Nevertheless, BASF kept silence about Marikana until the massacre was for the first time addressed by Bishop Jo Seoka at the company’s annual general meeting of 2015 in Mannheim/Germany.

About the campaigning network

PLOUGH BACK THE FRUITS is aware of the broader context it is acting in.

The initiators of the campaign regard themselves as a research hub and part of a network of progressive forces in Europe and South Africa.

The European initiators of the campaign form a network of German, Swiss and Austrian NGOs and activists, some of them involved in the struggle against the Apartheid regime in South Africa. In 2014/2015 the European participants started to join forces with partners in South Africa. Since then the campaign has been collaborating with the families of victims of the Marikana massacre, supporters and NGOs and strives to strengthen alliances with worker's communities in Marikana, activists, researchers, NGOs and progressive unions in South Africa as well as in Europe.

Goals

In a constructive spirit the campaign examines the work and public announcements of BASF and its supplier Lonmin, two transnational companies with long-term operations in commodity trade and manufacturing in South Africa. In a globalized economy, transnationally operating companies have to comply with internationally acknowledged ethical standards along the whole supply chain. PLOUGH BACK THE FRUITS puts public attention and pressure on companies to implement and adhere to human rights standards. It confronts Lonmin and BASF with the reality of mining and living in Marikana and in the Platinum Belt of South Africa and demands the immediate and sustainable improvement of living and working conditions for mine workers, their families and their communities. How is it possible that the workers who dig out one of the most precious metals in the world live and work under such inhumane conditions?

Demands towards BASF:

- BASF must contribute at least 25 million Euros as an immediate relief payment to a solidarity fund benefitting the families of the killed and injured miners. (This does not release the South African government and Lonmin from their responsibility to provide sustainable reparation for the families of the killed, injured and arrested miners.)
- BASF must contribute, on a large and tangible basis, to the improvement of the working and living conditions of mineworkers and their communities, e.g. via a fixed percentage per each purchased ounce of platinum.
- BASF must put pressure on LONMIN to publish and implement their social and labour plans.
- The campaign wants to underline the necessity for binding legislation on the basis of human rights and transparency of trade activities and financial transfers. It also wants to raise public attention with regard to trade agreements currently negotiated as e.g. the Economic Partnership Agreements EPA between the EU and former colonies in Africa, Caribic and pacific countries.

Activities until now:

Speakers tour 2015

Attendance of BASF annual general meeting 2015

Exhibition "Plough Back The Fruits" Vienna /Austria

Catalogue "Plough Back The Fruits"

Campaign website BASFLONMIN.COM

Speakers tour 2016

Attendance of BASF annual general meeting 2016

Jan. 26 2017, statement at Lonmin AGM in London (in cooperation with London Mining Network)

Contact

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