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Casale Monferrato, November the 23rd, 2011

Press release

On Monday the 21st of November the court held the last hearing of the maxi-trial against the top management and ownership of the Eternit multinational. The trial has lasted two years, 65 hearings as well as the 18 preliminary hearings.

Chief Justice, Mr Casalbone, informed the court that the verdict will be read on February the 13th (*the ruling as the details of the grounds will be made public after a few months – Translator's note*)

The three thousand workers and members of the community, victims of Casale, Cavagnolo(Turin) , Rubiera (Reggio Emilia) and Naples are waiting for justice in hope.

In the meeting held on November the 22ndm AFEVA with the Trade Unions CGIL, CISL and UIL examined the developments of the situation and agreed to convene a public GENERAL MEETING to inform and to take the appropriate decisions on:

- participation on the 13th of February
- Health and Research: the lack of any answers and the interruption of contacts especially with the (Health) Department of the Region Piedmont.
- decontamination of the area.
- educational projects on environmental awareness

The meeting voiced its strong concern about the news of the defendant Schmidheiny's 'offer' of 18-20 million euro to the Municipality of Casale, in exchange for the City withdrawing from this and any future trials which it might be involved in.

AFEVA, CGIL, CISL and UIL (the Trade Unions) agree that such an offer must be rejected, as the Mayor of Casale Monferrato had rightly stated when a comparable 'transaction or settlement' had been accepted by the Mayor of Cavagnolo, and to quote him at the time: 'It is clear that a proposal such as that (ref Cavagnolo) could never be even considered by a city like Casale'.

Were the Municipality of Casale Monferrato – the symbol of the world struggle against asbestos, a martyr city with its 1,800 victims among the workers and residents – to withdraw from the trial, suffering would be turned into financial gain.

In practice. The withdrawal of the City of Casale from the trial would mean the most important Authority involved no longer seeks Justice, which is especially damaging given the lasting and relentless horrendous slaughter.



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Compensation is a major issue and it is due: we are aware of the difficulties there are in actually getting such compensation paid out if awarded but still maintain the Justice comes first.

There is nothing is stopping Mr Schmidheiny from making 'philanthropic' donations without asking for anything in exchange.

Regards

AFEVA:

CGIL

CISL

UIL

Romana Blasotti Pavesi

N. Pondrano

L. Bortolotto

L. Ferrando

Bruno Pesce