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PRESS RELEASE

“Once again French victims of asbestos related diseases and their families look to a criminal trial with hope. We are asking for those who are responsible for the destruction of so many lives to be sentenced as they were in Italy’. This is what ANDEVA, the National Association of French asbestos victims, wrote in their December newsletter.

The French Supreme Court has given the go ahead for criminal proceedings against Eternit France and the Condé-sur-Noireau (Normandy) Ferodo, overturning the decision by the Court of Appeal.

ANDEVA accuses the French Eternit company of having caused 1500 deaths in the past decades and 2500 asbestosis or mesothelioma cases. Unless there are unexpected changes, not just the company managers but also Joseph Cuvelier, the CEO of Eternit France, will be charged with harmful damage and having caused the deaths of the many victims (manslaughter).

Furthermore, the members of the Asbestos Standing Committee (Comité permanent amiante- CPA) are also charged in the Ferodo case. The CPA was a lobby that had successfully fought the ban against asbestos so as to be allowed to use the deadly material in production.

The Deputy Chief Prosecutor of Paris stated: “2014 will be the year of asbestos”.

AFéVA wishes to congratulate France for this decision which we believe is an essential step in the process leading to justice for this vast and criminal slaughter caused by asbestos. Solidarity among victims’ associations is essential: AFéVA and ANDEVA are working to this aim. We believe this will contribute to the fight for a world ban of asbestos, to that justice for victims, to decontamination and to research so that we may find a cure and eliminate mesothelioma.

AFéVA