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July 5, 2017

Message of Solidarity for Action Mesothelioma Day

We the undersigned groups, having participated in an Asbestos Seminar in Manchester, UK on July 5, 2017 take this opportunity to send greetings to comrades in the United Kingdom and messages of solidarity for the upcoming Action Mesothelioma Day 2017.

All over the world, the actions of greedy asbestos companies has created epidemics of disability, disease and death. The names of Turner & Newall, Eternit, Etex, Johns Manville, Kubota, Nichias, James Hardie, Uralita and others live on in infamy for the deadly impact their operations have had on generations of workers, family members and people in communities where asbestos was mined, processed or used.

The asbestos campaigners in Casale Monferrato, the iconic town at the epicentre of Italy's asbestos scandal, called for the formation of an international movement of asbestos victims. That dream is being realised with the ever closer links amongst asbestos victims' groups in countries on different continents and in different time zones. From Australia to Brazil via Japan, Korea, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium a single message goes out today: we are united in our condemnation of all those who profited and are continuing to profit from the commercial exploitation of deadly asbestos.

As we remember those whose lives were ended because of their exposures to asbestos, we think of innocent men, women and children in countries where asbestos is still being produced and used; how many more people will die before this industry of mass destruction is finally shut down? The existence of the global asbestos trade is an anathema and an abomination.

We are united in our tribute to the asbestos dead and our determination to prevent further tragedies.

Signed

Sugio Furuya, on behalf of the Japan Association of Mesothelioma and Asbestos-related Disease Victims and their Families, Japan

Graham Dring, Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum, UK

Dr. Greg Deleuil, Asbestos Diseases Society of Australia

Laurie Kazan-Allen, International Ban Asbestos Secretariat, UK

Eric Jonckheere, Association Belge des Victimes de l'amiante (Belgium Association of Asbestos Victims), Belgium

Alessandro Pugno, Associazione Familiari Vittime Amianto (the Association of Families of Asbestos Victims), Italy

María Ángeles Guzmán Merchán, Avida Andalucía [Asociación de Víctimas del Amianto Andalucía/ Asbestos Victims Association of Andalusia] and Macero (Plataforma Málaga Amianto Cero/ Platform Zero Asbestos Malaga), Spain

Marta Barrera and Raquel La Fuente, on behalf of Asociación de Víctimas Afectadas por el Amianto en Catalunya – AVAAC [Catalonia Association of the Asbestos-Exposed].

Jacques Faugeron, Président of ANDEVA (Association nationale de défense des victimes de l'amiante – France)