



## AFEVA: Revoke asbestos magnate's honorary doctorate

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 Stephan Schmidheiny, former owner of the Eternit Company, was sentenced to 18 years of prison by the Turin Court of Appeals, having been convicted of causing an “environmental disaster” by exposing thousands of workers and citizens to asbestos from his Italian plants. The judges on appeal agreed with Chief Prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello’s conclusion that Schmidheiny, who was fully aware of the lethal dangers of asbestos, was guilty. The Appeals Court concluded that the lethality of asbestos was well understood among directors of leading companies in the asbestos industry, including Eternit, years before Schmidheiny took over as chief executive of Eternit.

Before the American public became aware of the dark side of Mr. Schmidheiny’s career, he was awarded an honorary “Doctorate of Humane Letters” by your world-renowned university in 1996. Based on the latest judicial decision, we formally request that Yale University consider stripping convicted criminal Schmidheiny of the great honor you bestowed on him, since his proven misconduct resulted in the death of more than 2,000 citizens in the Casale Monferrato Municipality alone. The day will come when Mr. Schmidheiny will have to serve the sentence imposed by the Italian court; in the meantime we consider this honor highly unacceptable.

We are not interested in the destruction of a human being, but in the pursuit of truth. And the truth of the matter is that there is no “honor” in the conduct of Mr. Stephan Schmidheiny.

Signed: AFEVA, Associazione Familiari Vittime Amianto (*Asbestos Victims and Relatives Association*), Casale Monferrato, Italy