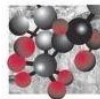




Associação
Brasileira do
Expostos ao
Amianto



ASSOCIATION
Henri Pèzerat
Travail • Santé • Environnement



Sanitary Surveillance of Santos Port
Labor Public Prosecutor's Office
São Paulo Health Authorities
São Paulo, Brazil

March 10, 2021

Re: Brazilian Asbestos Exports, A Global Concern

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to you in our capacity as organizations involved in the struggle to protect human beings from deadly exposures to asbestos.

We congratulate you on your ongoing efforts to prevent illegal asbestos cargo from the Sama Minerações Associadas (SAMA) chrysotile asbestos mine in Minaçu being shipped overseas.

We are aware that some of SAMA's deadly cargo was intended for customers in Andhra Pradesh, India and believe the rest was destined for Asian countries which have few, if any, measures to protect citizens from toxic exposures to asbestos.

Earlier this month, the United Nations published a document entitled: *Human Rights and Hazardous Substances* which under section 2 headlined "Cooperate internationally to prevent and combat harms from exposure to hazardous substances" stated that:

"The United Nations Charter, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration on the Right to Development and other human rights instruments, impose upon States the duty to cooperate to ensure the realization of all human rights... This is made possible through, inter alia, sharing of experience and information, technical assistance and capacity building, harmonizing monitoring, reporting and assessment methodologies, strengthening the science-policy interface, including input from academia and more effectively regulating the international trade of hazardous substances. **Solidarity requires, at a minimum, that States refrain from permitting the export of hazardous substances for uses in other countries different from those they permit in their own.**"¹

The mining, processing, handling and transport of asbestos was banned throughout Brazil by a 2017 Supreme Court decision. Nevertheless, asbestos vested interests continue their efforts to exploit judicial loopholes and outdated regulations to off-load deadly asbestos fiber to unsuspecting customers overseas. The current situation was summed up succinctly by Brazilian legal expert Mauro de Menezes:

"SAMA's initiative to force the shipment of asbestos for export through the port of Santos is completely illegal and clandestine, creating a risk for the workers involved and subjecting our country to the embarrassment of sending polluting material to contaminate people abroad. In due course, the health authorities of the state of São Paulo accepted a request from public prosecutors about the case and seized the toxic cargo on March 5, 2021, preventing its dispatch. As of today (March 9, 2021), the toxic cargo remains impounded at the port."

¹ UN Environment Programme and the UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. *Human Rights and Hazardous Substances*. March 3, 2021.

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/materials/KMHazardousSubstances25febLight.pdf>

As associations which represent asbestos victims in Brazil and abroad and campaign at grassroots level to secure human rights and protect the environment, we remain at your disposal should you require additional information in your much-appreciated struggle to ensure that in the future no one in Brazil or anywhere else is poisoned by exposures to Brazilian chrysotile asbestos.

Sincerely,

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