



Associação
Brasileira dos
Expostos ao
Amianto



June 10, 2021

Open Letter to Global Ban Asbestos Community

To: All those fighting for the rights of asbestos victims,
the remediation of toxic infrastructures and research
into deadly asbestos-related diseases,

Re: Congratulations to our Esteemed Colleague Eliezer João de Souza

Dear Colleagues,

This month our respected Brazilian comrade Eliezer João de Souza will mark a milestone birthday. Although our plans for a gathering in Osasco, Brazil to mark this event have been shelved temporarily due to the global pandemic, even Covid-19 couldn't stop us from expressing our gratitude and affection for this truly wonderful individual.

For nearly 20 years, Eliezer has been the President of the Brazilian Association of the Asbestos-Exposed (ABREA). In that capacity he was at the forefront of the down and dirty ban asbestos battle in Brazil. He confronted corporate liars, union bullies and government lackeys to give a voice to the voiceless: the thousands of asbestos victims whose lives had been sacrificed for the asbestos industry's profits.

He travelled throughout Brazil – and Brazil is a very big country – often by bus, on outreach work to far-flung communities impacted by asbestos exposures. He listened to their stories and supported their efforts. No detail was too small to escape his attention and no stone was left unturned in his efforts to counter industry's propaganda, reach out to local politicians and mobilize medical support for the injured. Under his tenure ABREA has grown from local groups in Osasco and Rio de Janeiro to eleven regional groups covering populations from Rio Grande do Sul to Pernambuco, from São Paulo to Bahia. ABREA has become a well-recognized participant in Brazil's asbestos dialogue and has taken part in high-profile events and forums as well as grassroots discussions.

Internationally, Eliezer is a key member of the global network of ban asbestos activists and his input to the Asian Ban Asbestos Mission to Brazil 2019 was fundamental in bringing the voice of Asian asbestos victims to the attention of Brazilian decision-makers. Members of the Mission petitioned Supreme Court Judges, trade unionists, federal and municipal politicians and others, asking them to ensure that no more Brazilian asbestos was exported to Asia.

We are grateful to our colleague Indonesian artist Ajat Sudrajat for translating our admiration and esteem for Eliezer into a work of art. Until we are able to meet up once again in person, please accept this small gift as a token of our admiration. Happy Birthday, Eliezer.

Signed,

Fernanda Giannasi, on behalf of the Brazilian Association of the Asbestos-Exposed (ABREA)

Sugio Furuya, on behalf of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN)

Mohammed Darisman, on behalf of the Indonesian Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-Ban)

Laurie Kazan-Allen, on behalf of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Eliezer João de Souza

