



Associação
Brasileira dos
Expostos ao
Amianto



URGENT APPEAL TO BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Supreme Court Justices
Supreme Court
Brasília, Brazil

August 22, 2019

Dear Ministers:

We understand that on September 4, 2019 the Supreme Court will issue its ruling regarding a request for an exemption to allow asbestos mining operations to recommence for export purposes in contravention of the landmark Supreme Court decision (2017) which declared the commercialization of asbestos unconstitutional throughout the country.

Earlier this year, members of the organizations listed above took part in the Asian Ban Asbestos (ABAN) Mission to Brazil to inform citizens – including the President of the Supreme Court Jose Antonio Deas Toffoli, Justice Rosa Webber, Federal Prosecutors, Federal Deputies, Federal Advisors, trade union leaders, union members, asbestos victims and municipal politicians – of the daily reality of asbestos use in India and Indonesia, formerly the largest markets for Brazilian asbestos, where asbestos is regarded as just another raw material and sacks of SAMA chrysotile asbestos fiber are supplied with warnings in Portuguese and English, languages not understood by many workers in India or Indonesia.¹

Siti Kristina, a member of the ABAN delegation, is an Indonesian textile worker who contracted asbestosis as a result of occupational asbestos exposure. During her visit to Brasília, she informed Supreme Court Justices that:

“In Indonesia, there is widespread ignorance about asbestos; most workers do not have access to information about asbestos. Medical testing is expensive and out of reach for most workers so people live and die with asbestos conditions. This is the situation for many of my friends. They cannot be here so I am representing them when I call for solidarity from our brothers and sisters in Brazil who know very well about the human sacrifices demanded by asbestos stakeholders; our deaths are the price paid for their profits.”²

According to Pooja Gupta, Coordinator of the Indian Ban Asbestos Network, 120 people with asbestos-related diseases have been identified in one Indian city where Brazilian asbestos was being used; they had never worked with asbestos, but had been exposed to toxic dust brought home on the work clothes of family members.

¹ Kazan-Allen, L. *Report from Asian Ban Asbestos Mission to Brazil April, 2019*. April 29, 2019.

<http://ibasecretariat.org/lka-status-report-from-asian-ban-asbestos-mission-to-brazil-apr-24-2019.php>

² Press Briefing. *The Asian Ban Asbestos Mission to Brazil 2019. No More Asbestos Exports to Asia!* April 2019.

<http://ibasecretariat.org/press-briefing-asian-ban-asbestos-mission-to-brazil-apr-2019.pdf>

Commenting on the impending Supreme Court decision, delegation leader, ABAN Coordinator Sugio Furuya said:

“Brazil is the world’s fourth largest democracy and the Supreme Court is widely esteemed and respected throughout the world. We were grateful for the reception we received in April 2019 from the Supreme Court President and Justice Rosa Weber and would urge that the members of the Court reconfirm their 2017 historic verdict and uphold the right of all humanity to live a life free from deadly exposures to asbestos. The world is watching!”

Signed:

Sugio Furuya, on behalf of the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN), Japan³

Eliezar João de Souza, on behalf of the Associação Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto (ABREA), Brazil⁴

Firman Budiawan, on behalf of the Indonesian Ban Asbestos Network (INA-BAN), Indonesia⁵

Pooja Gupta, on behalf of the Indian Ban Asbestos Network (IBAN), India⁶

Laurie Kazan-Allen, on behalf of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), UK⁷

³ Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN). Website: <http://anroev.org/aban>

⁴ Associação Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto [Brazilian Association of the Asbestos Exposed (ABREA)]. Website: <http://www.abrea.org.br>

⁵ Indonesian Ban Asbestos Network (INA-BAN). Website: <http://inaban.org/>
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⁶ Indian Ban Asbestos Network (IBAN). Email: Pooja Gupta at: poojagupta0202@gmail.com

⁷ International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS). Website: <http://ibasecretariat.org>