

BASF, main customer of Lonmin, has to undertake responsibility for its supply chain

Bishop Johannes Seoka and the Ethical Shareholder Germany demand reparation payments for the killed miners in Marikana

The Germany based enterprise BASF, the world's biggest chemical enterprise, is celebrating its Jubilee, 150 years in business. At the annual Shareholders meeting tomorrow in Mannheim/Germany Bishop Johannes Seoka and the Association of Ethical Shareholders, demand reparation payments for the families of the 34 killed miners at the Lonmin-mine in Marikana, 16 August 2012. BASF is the main customer of Lonmin which promises high standards along its supply chain; however, it hasn't issued a statement on the Marikana massacre to date and this we find to be unethical for the business prides itself of high ethical standards.

The Anglican Bishop of Pretoria and chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation, Johannes Seoka, is one of the representative speakers of the mineworkers in and around Marikana. He was and still is constantly fighting for improvements of the working and living conditions in the mining communities. Even on the very day of the massacre he tried to mediate between the management and the striking miners, but Lonmin refused to talk to them.

"Nobody expected that defenseless and innocent workers, while trying to demand better wages, could be shot down by a heavily militarized police force", says Seoka. "I don't think that BASF want to be accused of collaborating with Lonmin who called the police to shoot their own workers instead of talking to them."

"During the Marikana Commission of Inquiry which was constituted by President Zuma several references to the co-responsibility of the British-South African group Lonmin PLC have been laid open", reports the filmmaker Maren Grimm and historian Jakob Krameritsch who cooperate with the Marikana Support Group which promotes justice for the miners.

The Association of Ethical Shareholders has transferred the voting rights for the BASF shareholders meeting to Bishop Seoka, chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation that promotes corporate social responsibility and investment. "We are expecting that BASF will accept the responsibility for its supply chain and will put pressure on Lonmin to do good and compensate the families for their lost bread winners", says Markus Dufner, managing director of the association. "We further call on BASF to seriously consider instituting an independent commission of inquiry and reparation payments for the families of the mineworkers."

Germany is the second largest importer of platinum in the world. And BASF is the worlds' largest producer of catalytic converters for which platinum is needed.

For further information and requests

Maren Grimm: +49 (0) 177 655 10 53, M.Grimm@akbild.ac.at

Jakob Krameritsch: +43 (0) 699 1967 51 31, J.Krameritsch@akbild.ac.at

Markus Dufner, Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany: +49 (0) 174 – 403 88 06, +49 (0) 221 599 56 47,

John Capel: +27 11 832-1743/2 and +27 82 870 8861

See also: basflonmin.wordpress.com, www.bench-marks.org.za, www.kritischeaktionaere.de