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((Introduction: improvised))

2015, after my first visit here you started an Audit by Lonmin. According to your own interpretation of the results everything was fine except some small environmental issues, which could be easily fixed in the future.

During our second visit in 2016 we drew your attention on the fact that reality and the results of your audits speak two different languages. And we invited you again to come to South Africa so you can get in touch with the reality for yourself.

Last year you accepted our invitation and sent a delegation to South Africa in May 2016, which also went around Marikana. Since then you have been in the country several times and you organized different conferences, dialogues and round tables. Our campaign network has been informed about those activities. One would think that it looks like you are willing to take steps in order to make a contribution towards a solution to the problems people are facing in the Platinum Belt.

And there are a lot of opportunities to undertake concrete steps to support your long-term supplier Lonmin and the South African mining communities to improve!

Just to mention the initiative by Bench Marks Foundation, the organisation I am again representing here:

Bench Marks Foundation at the moment is negotiating with the chamber of mines and other leaders of business to support a proposal for an independent fund that will help communities to address the challenges they are faced with and secondly to support an independent grievance mechanism to mediate the plights of the workers and the communities to the competent authorities.

Bench Marks Foundation is already in the middle of a dialogue to address the necessary urgent improvements!

But you, BASF, have decided after the first consultations, to exclude us from your dialogue initiatives!

But regardless of any dialogue initiative I have to admit to you here today: Nothing has substantially changed in Marikana since the massacre!

I draw your attention to the fact that there's no real apology to the victims?

Are you maybe aware of the fact that almost half of the workers of Lonmin are outsourced and employed as contract workers who only get half of the salary of regular workers and no benefits even though they do exactly the same jobs?

Or the fact that after every rainfall people take long detours just because the most crucial roads are not tarred and get impossible?

And do you know that the workers get a cheap set of cooking pots as a reward after 100 working days without accident?

I can continue counting those facts for a while.

May be now you can understand why I am here today again, 5 years after the massacre!

It can't be, that you still stick to new dialogues, which could solve the problems somewhere in the future. The point is not to shift the responsibility back and forth and to ask whether the mining company or the municipality has to make the first step.

For us it's about the question, whether BASF takes her proclaimed role seriously when it comes to the supply chain?

Lonmin is obliged to observe the Social and Labour Plan, a binding contract for all companies operating in South Africa introducing social standards and labour laws.

And Lonmin keeps on arguing: „We do not earn enough“

Does Lonmin not earn enough with the sale of platinum?

Doesn't it earn enough to comply with the South African law?

Are you, BASF, not confronted with the accusation or with a legal proceeding in the USA?

You and four major banks have manipulated the platinum price by keeping it very low?

Are you responsible, that Lonmin permanently threatens to dismiss or outsource more workers? That Lonmin doesn't even take the obvious steps to improve the situation of the workers and the people in the communities around the mines? That Lonmin is co-responsible for a massacre against workers who are demanding a decent salary? The first massacre in a „new“ South Africa after the end of Apartheid.

These and other questions preoccupy us. And as long as we don't get a convincing answer, we won't be tired to come here, regardless of how many dialogue initiatives you engage in.

Just for the record we wish to put it clear: We are not here as beggars but for justice. This is about human dignity and your integrity and credibility!

What we request is a clear indication of your willingness and commitment to contribute to a sustainable development programme in the affected areas.

I thank you.