

# › Better Living Conditions for South African Miners ‹

On 16 August 2012, the South African Police Service fatally shot 34 men at Marikana in South Africa's North West province. The men were employees of the British-South African mining company, Lonmin, and had been engaged in a strike and protest action over pay and conditions at the mine.

At the edge of the Marikana platinum mine many of the 33,000 miners live in corrugated iron huts with smelly lavatories. It's a slum where water and electricity supply often fails for days. The company had, under its 2006 Social and Labour Plan, committed to construct 5,500 houses for workers by 2011. By 2016 it had built just a third.

Lonmin has also failed to compensate the victims of the Marikana massacre to allow the widows, orphans and injured survivors a dignified existence.

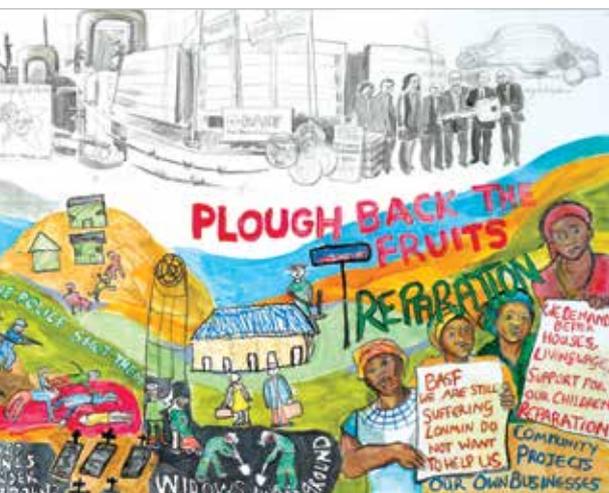
© Amnesty International



**Johannes Seoka**, Anglican Bishop of Pretoria

"We know that except cosmetic measures nothing was done to improve the living conditions sustainably for the mine workers, who were on strike in 2012 and again 2014 because of these very living conditions. The bereaved relatives were not compensated, the call for higher wages were not met and the living and the inhumane working conditions have not been changed."

"My visit to UK and attendance at Lonmin AGM is to expose the lie that Lonmin has fulfilled its obligations of meeting workers housing needs, their living conditions, or a living wage. That the investors are as guilty as the company in failing to ensure ethical practices in their investments and we will not rest until justice is achieved for the massacred, injured, arrested and the widows and orphans."



Catalogue of the Exhibition PLOUGH BACK THE FRUITS The Struggle for Justice and Restitution. The Bodymaps of the Widows of Marikana

## Plough Back the Fruits

Plough Back the Fruits (PBTf) is an international campaign network. PBTf engages with BASF, the world largest chemical company, and its platinum supplier. In a globalized economy companies have to comply with internationally acknowledged ethical standards along the whole supply chain. The campaign network aims to put public attention and pressure on companies to implement and adhere to these standards.

### Ethical Shareholders Germany

The Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany supports the campaign network Plough Back the Fruits. It was founded in 1986 by environmental, human rights and anti-Apartheid groups. Currently 28 member organizations belong to Ethical Shareholders Germany.



## The platinum supply chain

LONMIN



BASF  
The Chemical Company



80 percent of world platinum are extracted in South Africa's "Platinum Belt".

The British-South African mining company Lonmin plc is the world's third-largest platinum producer and one of the key/important suppliers of BASF.

The German global leader in chemicals BASF needs the metal to produce vehicle catalysts. Customers are Volkswagen and many other car manufacturers.

## Ethical Shareholders Germany at Lonmin AGM

The Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany will attend Lonmin AGM in London on 26th January and will request the Management Board to fulfill their promise: "Build more houses for the mine workers. Ensure decent living and working conditions for your employees!"



## This said Marikana commission of enquiry

The South African investigative commission of the Marikana massacre stated in its report that Lonmin has not adhered to their social and work guidelines.

*Marikana Commission of Inquiry (2015)*

## This says Lonmin CEO Ben Magara

"I believe that all our employees and their families have a right to dignity and respect.

As Lonmin, we are committed to the wellbeing of our employees and have made significant strides into providing our employees with decent accommodation."

*"Lonmin plc clarifies position on housing", Press Release 19th August 2016*

## Mr. Magara, my husband was shot in the Marikana massacre



### Ntombizolile Mosebetsane

"My name is Ntombizolile Mosebetsane. My husband was killed at the Marikana massacre. I am now working in a job at Lonmin cleaning their yard, working outside in the hot sun, windy, breathing that polluted dust blowing around, for the very company that made sure my husband died. I am learning no skills doing this work that will make my life better. Lonmin tells me that this job is a kind offer so that I can earn the money that my husband worked for in their mines, so that I can feed my children." (From the speech at BASF AHM 2016)



### Agnes Makopano Thelejane

"I, Agnes Makopano Thelejane, am one of those widows who have been excluded. Lonmin did pay for us to bury our loved ones, after Lonmin and the police killed them. But when I went to Lonmin and asked them for reparation, they said they had already paid for the funeral, they do not owe me anything more. I ask myself, did I ask Lonmin to kill my husband? Paying to bury him does not answer this question." (From the speech at BASF AGM 2016)

Would you like to get in touch with Ethical Shareholders Germany?

Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany

P.O.Box 30 03 07  
D-50773 Köln  
Office: Pellenzstr. 39  
D-50823 Köln  
Phone: 0049-221-599 56 47  
Fax: 0049-221-599 56 47  
Email: dachverband@kritischeaktionaere.de

Dachverband  
**KRITISCHE**  
**AKTIONÄRE**  
www.kritischeaktionaere.de