

Brussels, 8 April 2016

Minister of Mineral Resources
Mr. Mosebenzi Zwane
Department of Mineral Resources Trevenna Campus
Private Bag X59 Building 2 C
ARCADIA, Pretoria
South Africa

**Assassination of the chairperson of Amadiba Crisis Committee,
Sikhosphi Bazooka Rhadebe**

Dear Hon. Minister,

As you might know, several members of CIDSE, the international alliance of Catholic development agencies, have been supporting development initiatives in South Africa for many years. Rural development, sustainable and secured livelihoods as well as promoting human rights and civil society are among our members' thematic priorities in South Africa.

CIDSE is actively engaged in the United Nations inter-governmental process towards developing an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises, a process under the leadership of Ecuador and South Africa.

We are shocked to learn of the brutal murder of the chairperson of Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC), Sikhosphi Bazooka Rhadebe on March 22nd 2016 in Lurholweni township at Mbizana. As CIDSE we know the Amadiba Crisis Committee and his chairman via several of our members' longstanding support for the Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC).

According to Amadiba Crisis Committee: "The hitmen came in a white Polo with a rotating blue lamp on the roof. Two men knocked at the door saying they were the police. Mr. Rhadebe was shot with 8 bullets in the head."

Our partner organisation AIDC sees a clear link of Mr. Rhadebe's assassination to his work in supporting local communities in their years-long non-violent struggle against an Australian mining company, Mineral Commodities Limited, which seeks to extract titanium in Amadiba's communal lands along the Wild Coast. AIDC also reminds that this is not the first case of intimidation or violence against those who have opposed mining in the area and sees pattern of criminal attacks on civil society formations, especially by those in townships, informal settlements and rural areas.

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We therefore call the competent authorities to use all necessary measures of investigation that are appropriate for a rapid arrest and successful prosecution of the murderers of Mr. Rhadebe.

We also demand for immediate protection for all members of the Amadiba Crisis Committee and their families

We further call on the Human Rights Commission to investigate the systematic process of intimidation against those who are opposing Mineral Commodities Limited's mining operations in the said area.

We also support the civil society's demand to the Minister of Mineral Resources to suspend all mining applications until there has been a full and independent investigation of Mr. Rhadebe's murder.

We thank you very much for your support and kindly ask you to keep us updated on your actions in this regard.

Sincerely yours,



Bernd Nilles
Secretary General

cc: Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources: Mr. Godfrey Oliphant
Acting Director-General, Department of Mineral Resources: Mr. David Msiza

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