



Associação
Brasileira dos
Expostos ao
Amianto



PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 21, 2019

STOP Brazilian Asbestos Exports!

Towards the end of April, 2019, delegates from the Asian Ban Asbestos Mission 2019 are embarking on a historic trip to add their voices to calls for an end to asbestos mining and exporting in Brazil, one of the world's leading asbestos-producing countries. The members of the delegation include representatives of countries, which between them, absorb ~80% of annual Brazilian asbestos exports. They will entreat citizens, politicians, civil servants, decision-makers and corporations to abandon double standards and respect the right to human life not only at home but also abroad.

Since the mid-20th century, asbestos mines in Brazil have produced nine million tonnes of chrysotile asbestos; while much of it was used at home – especially in the early years – recently the majority has been exported, with most shipments going to countries in Asia with few, if any, health and safety regulations. As a result, the lives of workers, consumers and members of the public have been endangered; in a newly published paper, scientists from Brazil and Europe warned that deadly epidemics in asbestos-consuming countries are inevitable.¹ Even when asbestos use is prohibited, the Brazilian asbestos fibers remaining in human organs, in national infrastructures and throughout the environment will remain a potent threat.

Siti Kristina, a member of the Asian Ban Asbestos Mission, has come all the way from Indonesia to deliver her message in person:

“I was exposed to asbestos in a Jakarta textile factory for 23 years. If asbestos got under our clothes it was difficult to remove it. After ten years I started coughing. In 2010, I was diagnosed with asbestosis. I am just one and many of my friends are also suffering. 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. **Please stop sending asbestos to Asia.**”

Commenting on the significance of the Asian Ban Asbestos Mission 2019, President of the Brazilian Association of the Asbestos-Exposed (ABREA) Eliezer João de Souza said:

“The Supreme Court decision in 2017 declaring the commercial exploitation of asbestos unconstitutional was a huge victory for all Brazilians. Despite that ruling, the merchants of death wish to continue mining and sending asbestos overseas. That is unconscionable and unacceptable. ABREA members are unanimous in their support for the delegation and are grateful for the opportunity to hear about the reality of asbestos use in their countries.”

¹ Algranti, E. Ramos-Bonilla JP. et al. *Prevention of Asbestos Exposure in Latin America within a Global Health Perspective*. *Annals of Global Health*, 2019; 85(1): 49, 1-15.
<https://doi.org/10.5334/aogh.2341>

Notes for Editors

1. To interview delegation members, Portuguese speakers please contact: Fernanda Giannasi (ABREA) at fer.giannasi@terra.com.br or WhatsApp+55 11 983533131; English speakers please contact: Sugio Furuya (ABAN) by email at 2009aban@gmail.com or WhatsApp +81 8030246210.
2. For background material about delegation members, see the English version of the press briefing documentation: <http://ibasecretariat.org/press-briefing-asian-ban-asbestos-mission-to-brazil-apr-2019.pdf> and the Portuguese version of the press briefing documentation: <http://ibasecretariat.org/press-briefing-asian-ban-asbestos-mission-to-brazil-apr-2019-por.pdf>
3. Information about the groups which issued this press release can be accessed at:
 - Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto
Associação [Brazilian Association of the Asbestos Exposed (ABREA)]
Website: <http://www.abrea.org.br>
 - Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN)
Website: <http://anroev.org/aban>
 - Indonesian Ban Asbestos Network (INA – BAN)
Website: <http://inaban.org/>
Email: Darisman at: mandarisman@yahoo.com
 - Indian Ban Asbestos Network (IBAN)
Email: Pooja Gupta at: poojagupta0202@gmail.com
 - International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS)
Website <http://ibasecretariat.org>