



URGENT APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA
STOP Asbestos Exports to Indonesia!

June 5, 2019

To the Citizens of Colombia,

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we send you warm greetings and congratulations on progress being made in Colombia on banning asbestos, a substance which, we understand, has caused thousands of deaths in your country and contaminated many urban and rural areas.¹

We, the undersigned, represent asbestos victims, trade unions, occupational health and safety bodies and others civil society groups in Indonesia which have been working together to raise asbestos awareness, identify and support the injured, build medical capacity and lobby government agencies, municipal authorities and politicians at local, state and federal levels to take action on the emerging epidemic caused by the widespread and unregulated use of asbestos in our country. According to an Indonesian medical expert: "People working in the asbestos industry, in whatever jobs, have three times the chance of contracting lung cancer as other workers." Individuals who work in asbestos factories are being diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases and at-risk workers are now mobilizing to support injured colleagues.²

Since last year (2018) Colombia has been exporting asbestos to Indonesia; asbestos representatives have said that if Colombia were to ban asbestos, it is their intention to continue exporting asbestos to Indonesia. Indonesia is one of the world's most disaster prone countries. As 90% per cent of the asbestos used in our country is incorporated into asbestos-cement roofing, elevated levels of asbestos are common occurrences in the aftermath of an earthquake or tsunami. A case in point is the hazardous conditions found by emergency responders after the Lombok earthquakes 2018; survivors were using broken asbestos-cement panels to build temporary shelters. As 20% of the roofs in North Lombok were made of asbestos-cement, the situation remains extremely hazardous not only to local people but also to disaster relief workers.

¹ Ramos-Bonill, JP, Cely-Garcia, MF. *An asbestos contaminated town in the vicinity of an asbestos-cement facility: The case study of Sibaté, Colombia*. May 6, 2019.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935119302476?via%3Dihub>

² Firman, B. *Indonesian National Seminar - Asbestos: Poison Scattered in the Disaster Nation*. May 20, 2019.

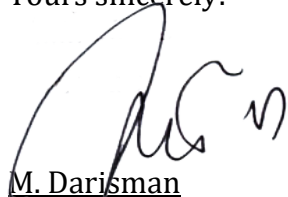
<http://ibasecretariat.org/bf-national-asbestos-seminar-indonesia-may-9-2019.php>

INA-BAN

INDONESIA BAN ASBESTOS NETWORK

On behalf of all Indonesians, we humbly entreat you to ensure that when asbestos is banned in Colombia, the prohibitions enacted will include a ban on asbestos mining and export. We believe that Indonesians have the same right to live a healthy life as do Colombians and hope that you will join with us to protect future generations in both our countries from deadly asbestos exposures.

Yours sincerely:



M. Darisman

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About the INA-BAN Organization :

Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (INA-BAN) establish in 2010. as part of initiation from several organization who had concern in asbestos consumption and industry in Indonesia. INA-BAN, was formed by health and safety activists, environmental campaigners, trade unionists and representatives non-governmental organizations.

Members of Indonesia Ban Asbestos Network (INA-BAN) :

- Local Initiatives for OSH Network – Indonesia
- Balifokus
- the Sedane Labour Resource Centre (LIPS)
- Indonesian Forum for the Environment – West Java (WALHI – Jabar)
- Serikat Pekerja Nasional (National Workers Union)
- FKUI-KSBSI (the Federation of Construction, Informal and General Workers Union)
- F-SERBUK Indonesia (Federation of People’s Trade Union)
- F-SP KEP–KSPSI (Federation of Trade Union Chemical, Electronic and Mining Sector– Confederation of All Peoples Indonesia Trade Unions)-Bekasi
- Forum Pejuang K3 (OSH-Victims Organization)
- FITWORK T&C