

Statement from the Turin Courts, February the 14th, 2013

Exactly a year ago to the day , the Turin Courts of first instance sentenced the Swiss defendant Stephan Schmidheiny and the Belgian Louis de Cartier de Marchienne to 16 years jail, the defendants being the owners of the Eternit company, an asbestos cement multinational.

Today is the first day of the appeal trial, and the asbestos victims have gathered from France and Belgium to express their support to the Italians.

As representatives of Afeva, Andeva and Abeva, the three associations that defend asbestos victims in Italy, France and Belgium, we would like to reiterate our support for the Italian victims as well as making the following statement.

We sincerely hope the Italian Court of Appeal and the Justice system will confirm last year's sentence of the court of first instance, which mirrored the severity of the human and environmental catastrophes Eternit caused in Casale Monferrato, Rubiera, Cavagnolo and Naples. We are also asking the Italian Government to help the victims and their families receive the compensation the Courts awarded them.

We ask the French Government to reinstate investigating magistrate, Madame Bertella Geffroy and to supply her with the necessary means to conclude the preliminary inquiries so that the French Justice system can hold the criminal court case the French victims have been waiting for 16 years. Please sign the appeal/petition at the following link which lists all these requests:

<http://www.santepublique-instructionendanger.org>

We also ask the French Justice system to identify and bring to court those who bear responsibility. The Court of Cassation must speak for the victims: it morally unacceptable and unfathomable that nobody should be held accountable for a disaster which causes no less than 3,000 victims a year in France alone. It is unacceptable that tragedies such as the Amisol or the Conde-sur-Noireau one (a large asbestos textile company) should end with the case being dismissed with a non suit and that the people being investigated should be acquitted before being tried.

In the civil asbestos cases in Belgium, Eternit has appealed the sentence inflicted in November 2011. We ask the Belgian Justice to listen to the voice of the victims and convict the multinational which is responsible.

'Afeva, Andeva and Abeva are appealing to the Government and to the Courts to respect the suffering of the asbestos victims and their families. They do not only want compensation. They, we, want justice. They want those who were responsible to be tried, not a vendetta, revenge, but for future generations to learn from these disasters so that it may never happen again, ever again.

Afeva, CGIL, CISL e UIL Casale
Abeva
Andeva

DECLARATION

depuis le Palais de Justice de Turin, 14 Fevrier 2013

Il y a un an, le tribunal de Turin condamnait le Suisse Stephan Schmidheiny et le Belge Louis de Cartier de Marchienne deux actionnaires majoritaires d'Eternit, la multinationale de l'amiantement à 16 ans de prison.

Aujourd'hui, pour le premier jour de leur proces en appel, des victimes de l'amiante sont venues de France et de Belgique apporter leur soutien aux victimes italiennes.

Nous, representants de l'Afeva de l'Andeva et de l'Abeva, trois associations qui defendent les victimes de l'amiante en Italie, en France et en Belgique, faisons aujourd'hui depuis le Palais de Justice de Turin la declaration suivante:

Nous souhaitons de tout coeur que la justice italienne confirme le jugement rendu en premiere instance il y a un an par un verdict a la hauteur de la gravite de la catastrophe humaine et environnementale qu'Eternit a provoque a Casale, Cavagnolo, Rubiera e Napoli.

Nous demandons a l'Etat italien d'aider les victimes et les familles a recevoir les indemnisations qui leur sont dues.

Nous demandons a l'Etat francais de maintenir la juge d'instruction, Madame Bertella-Geffroy en poste et de lui donner des moyens suffisants pour qu'elle puisse teminer l'instruction cette annee et que justice soit rendue aux victimes francaises qui attendent un proces penal depuis 16 ans. Nous appelons a signer la petition qui porte ces demandes:

<http://www.santepublique-instructionendanger.org>

Nous demandons a la justice francaise de rechercher et de juger les responsables; La cour de cassation doit entendre la voix des victimes. Il serait incomprehensible et moralement inacceptable qu'une catastrophe qui fait 3000 morts par an n'ait ni responsable ni coupable. Il serait inacceptable que des tragedies comme celle d'Amisol a Clerd'ont-Ferrand ou de Valeo a Conde-sur-Noireau se terminent par un non lieu et que les personnes mises en examen soient blanchies avant d'avoir ete jugees.

Dans le proces de l'amiante au civil en Belgique, Eternit a interjete appel de la condamnation intervenue en novembre 2011. Nous esperons que la justice belge saura entendre les victimes et condamner la multinationale responsable,

L'Afeva, l'Andeva et l'Abeva demandent aux Etats et aux magistrats de respecter les souffrances des victimes de l'amiante et de leurs familles, Elles ne veulent pas seulement etre indemniees. Elles veulent la Justice Elles veulent que les responsables soient juges, non par esprit de vengeance, mais pour que toutes les lecons de ces catastrophes soient tirees afin que les generations futures ne connaissent plus jamais de telles tragedies.

Afeva, CGIL, CISL e UIL Casale
Andeva
Abeva