



**FASTENOPFER  
ACTION DE CARÊME  
SACRIFICIO QUARESIMALE**

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

Luzern, 30 March 2016

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

Dear Hon. Minister,

As you might know FASTENOPFER (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund) has 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 thematic priorities in South Africa.

We are shocked to learn of the brutal murder of the chairperson of Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC), Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 in Lurholweni township at Mbizana. As Fastenopfer we know the Amadiba Crisis Committee and his chairman via our 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.

**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.**

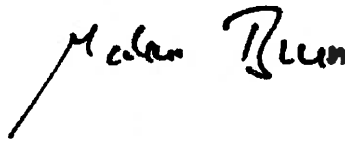
We thank you very much for your support and kindly ask you to keep us updated on your actions in this regard.

yours sincerely,

FASTENOPFER



Claudia Fuhrer  
Programme officer South Africa



Markus Brun  
Head of Department

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