

May 2016

H. E President Jacob Zuma

President of the Republic of South Africa

Union Buildings, Government Avenue

Pretoria

South Africa

president@presidency.gov.za

Re: Justice for land and community rights activist, Sikhosiphi Rhadebe

Dear President Zuma,

We write to you as civil society organisations based in South Africa, Africa and around the world urging justice for assassinated land and community rights activist Sikhosiphi Rhadebe. Even though more than a month has elapsed since Mr Rhadebe's brutal murder on 22 March, little progress appears to have been made in the case which was handed over to South Africa's premier investigation agency, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, also known as the Hawks.

We urge you Mr President to publicly condemn the assassination and call for speedy conclusion of the investigation and arrest of the perpetrators. As you know, Sikhosiphi Rhadebe's struggle is a principled one. He along-with his organisation, the Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC) was working to protect local communities from the harmful effects of open cast titanium mining in the Xolobeni area of the pristine Wild Coast in South Africa's Eastern Cape province.

Local communities are deeply concerned that the dust generated by open cast mining will cause severe health problems, use up scarce communal water sources and interfere with agricultural activities. Mining activities could also lead to relocation of the local community from their traditional lands and desecrate their burial grounds. The Amadiba Crisis Committee has raised objections to mine by Australian mining company, Mineral Commodities Limited (MRC) and its South African subsidiaries Transworld Energy and Minerals and Xolco.

Prior to Sikhosiphi Rhadebe's brutal assassination outside his home by multiple gunshots inflicted by two assailants masquerading as police, he had contacted other members of the Amadiba Crisis Committee warning them of a hit list. Members of the Amadiba Crisis have been harassed by local authorities and criminal elements on several occasions for their opposition to mining in the Xolobeni area.

Mr President we call upon you to do the right thing by calling for justice for Sikhosiphi Rhadebe and protection of the Amadiba Crisis Committee. We the undersigned organisations urge your government to:

- 1) Publicly condemn the killing of Mr Sikhosiphi Rhadebe and the on-going harassment of members of the Amadiba Crisis Committee
- 2) Call upon state agencies to speedily investigate the assassination of Sikhosiphi Rhadebe with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice.
- 3) Call upon state agencies to provide protection to the Amadiba Crisis Committee and members of the local community opposed to mining activities in the Xolobeni area.

Signed

South African Civil Society

African and International Civil Society

CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation