

World Health Day, April 7, 2008

Please ask the Canadian government to stop exporting Canadian chrysotile asbestos to India and global south.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Canada:

We urgently request your solidarity with workers in India and the Global South. We appeal to you to please ask your government to stop exporting asbestos.

95% of Canada's asbestos is exported to India and other countries where it is handled by desperately poor workers under dangerous conditions and is creating a public health tragedy of disease and death. Over 100,000 workers are exposed to asbestos daily in India and are falling sick and dying from Canadian Chrysotile asbestos. And it is not just the workers who suffer; their families bear the burden of the disease too by losing their sole bread winner and are left destitute.

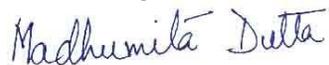
We appeal to you to listen to our plea and support the health and lives of workers in India and the Global South. We have few protections and we need your help.

On 5th February 2008, all the major trade unions of India and labour support groups including the All India Trade Union Congress, Centre for Indian Trade Union, New Trade Union Initiative representing workers in India called for a ban on asbestos. Please listen to the voices of workers in India.

The government of South Africa, which was a major supplier of chrysotile asbestos, has just banned it. If the government of South Africa can put the lives of people ahead of the interests of the asbestos industry, why cannot the Canadian government do the same?

Please tell your government to stop exporting death for profit. Thank you.

In solidarity,



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