

Southern Africa Campaign



NEWSLETTER: ISSUE 1/ JULY 2016

Permanent People's Tribunal on Transnational Corporations

**First Session:
16th & 17th August**

**Bosco Skills Centre
Manzini, Swaziland**

Hello friends and comrades!

It's been nearly four months since the first meeting to strategise, conceptualise and make concrete plans for the Southern Africa Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, and in particular, to host a Peoples' Tribunal on TNC's under the auspices of the Permanent People's Tribunal.

We want to share with you where we are with the process, provide an update on the planning for the Tribunal and give important information on how you can participate.



So what exactly is the Southern Africa Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power?

The Southern Africa Campaign forms part of the **Global Campaign to Reclaim Peoples Sovereignty, Dismantle Corporate Power and Stop Impunity** (stopcorporateimpunity.org). This Global Campaign is a coalition of 200 social movements, networks, and organizations as well as campaigns against specific corporations or sectors from diverse regions and countries.

It is a peoples' global structural response to unaccountable corporate power, which provides facilitation for dialogue, strategizing, exchanging information and experiences, acting as a space for greater visibility and deepening of solidarity and support for struggles against Transnational Corporations (TNCs).

At the same time, it proposes an **International Peoples Treaty**, which provides a political framework to give visibility and support to international and national movements and communities in their resistances and practices of alternatives to corporate power. It also participates in the campaign for UN Binding legislation to regulate TNCs operations and stop corporate human rights violations. As such, it is a tool for strengthening resistance to TNCs locally, regionally and globally.

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Transnational Corporations will launch the Southern Africa Campaign, and will take place over two sessions of hearings – the first in **August 2016** and the second in **May 2017**. It is a space where communities who have been affected by the actions and operations of TNC's will present their cases, and where they can network and mobilise.



The dates of the first session have been confirmed for the 16th and 17th August, to take place at the Bosco Skills Centre in Manzini, Swaziland.

The Tribunal will form part of the People's Summit, hosted by the Southern African People's Solidarity Network, that meets parallel to the SADC Heads of State Summit.

The Peoples' Summit will take place from 17-19th August, which means that Day 1 of the Tribunal takes place a day before the Summit launches, and Day 2 takes place as part of the first day's proceedings of the Summit.

- We plan to have 300 participants at the Tribunal. We will be bringing 6 people from each community to the Tribunal.
- We are also currently confirming the jurors and expert witnesses, respected individuals based both regionally and internationally.
- The Tribunal will be filmed and a short movie will be made from the footage
- There will be social events in the evenings where communities, organisations and movements can network and further discuss for concrete future collaborations.
- Lunch will be provided at the Tribunal
- We can assist with arranging accommodation for those coming to the Tribunal

DISMANTLE CORPORATE POWER



The following cases have been confirmed for the Tribunal:

The Amadiba Crisis Committee and Mineral Commodities Ltd. (SA)

The Amadiba Crisis Committee will present the case of the struggles of the community of Xolobeni in the Eastern Cape, who have been met with intense hostility for their actions against Australian titanium mining company MRC, and the irreversible damage they are doing to the environment and community. They were most recently thrust into the media with the assassination of activist Sikhosphi 'Bazooka' Rhadebe. The Xolobeni project is regarded as one of the largest undeveloped mineral sands resources in the world, containing more than nine-million tons of ilmenite. MRC also owns the Tormin mineral sands project on the west coast of South Africa.

Mopani Copper Mines (ZAM)

The Centre for Trade and Policy Development will present the case of Glencore's operations in Zambia, and specifically through its subsidiary Mopani Copper Mines, which have contributed to the pollution of land, water and air, particularly due to the uncontrolled emissions of sulphate dioxide, which dramatically affects the local populations causing severe respiratory diseases, and contamination of the fauna and flora upon which they depend almost

completely for their own sustenance. Independent audits have revealed fiscal and tax avoidance by transferring profits to tax havens, robbing governments of the much-needed revenue to meet the socio-economic needs of people.

Glencore Coal in Mpumalanga (SA)

Mining Affected Communities in Action (MACUA) will present on Glencore's notorious coal operations in the Mpumalanga province, a major contributor to South Africa's issues of violations of labour, human and environmental rights. Mpumalanga is home to several coal mines and smelters owned by Glencore as well as its subsidiaries. Recently, striking mineworkers at the Wonderfontein mine were shot at while protesting outside the mining site. The surrounding communities suffer from lung illnesses, live in cracked houses due to blasting, and have no water in what was once large ponds for their cattle, as it is used in massive amounts by the mine. The mine is also operating without having submitted an environmental license and violates several of the conditions in its social and labour plans. The nearby Graspan mine creates the same destructive impacts on the surrounding community and area, with the nearest house less than a kilometer from the mine's entrance.

Some of the sign-ons to the campaign so far:

Action Aid International
Action Aid South Africa
AITEC

Alternative Information
and Development Centre
(South Africa)

Amadiba Crisis

Committee (South Africa)

AZTREC (Zimbabwe)

Benchmarks (South Africa)

Business and Human
Rights Centre (South
Africa)

Centre for Natural
Resource Governance
(Zimbabwe)

Centre for Trade Policy
and Development
(Zambia)

CGT (Spain)

CIPSET (South Africa)

FASE Brazil

Foundation for Socio-
Economic Justice
(Swaziland)

Friends of the Earth
Mozambique
(Mozambique)

Groundwork (South
Africa)

Justica Ambiental (JA!)
(Mozambique)


Penhalonga region, artisanal mining and DTZ- gold mines (ZIM)

The Centre for Natural Resource Governance will present the case of artisanal miners struggling to work in Penhalonga, an area mined by Russian state-owned company DTZ-OZGEO. Deep issues arising from the gold mining operations, which are shrouded in secrecy, include the murder of an artisanal miner and mining in a river bed which has led to devastating effects on the environment. Artisanal miners regularly face violence from mine security.

Anthracite Mines and Coal mines in Somkhele and Fulene, KZN (SA)

WoMin is presenting a case by the women of Somkhele and Fuleni in the struggle against a current anthracite mine and the application for a new mine. Tendele Mining's anthracite mines at Somkhele, bordering the iMfolozi game Reserve in KwaZulu Natal, have led to cracks in the homes of the surrounding community due to blastings, and illness from coal dust, permanently permeating the air. Anti-mining activists are often afraid to voice their thoughts, risking violent attacks from those in the community who have been given outsourcing contracts by Tendele.

Nearby, in Fuleni, the wilderness segment of the iMfolozi Game Reserve, communities are fighting the application for a mining license for iButho Coal, which will cause a water shortage in the area to become even more dire as the mine uses water from the Mfolozi river. The new mine is likely to destabilise a cohesive community and the noise, water and air pollution will threaten the existence of the wildlife.



La Via Campesina
 Southern & Eastern Africa
 (Mozambique)
 Law Association of
 Zambia (Zambia)
 Legal Resources Centre
 Mining Communities in
 Action (South Africa)
 Multiwatch (Switzerland)
 PACSA (South Africa)
 Palestinian Anti-apartheid
 Wall Campaign
 Palestinian Land Defense
 Coalition
 People's Dialogue
 (Mauritius)
 People's Dialogue
 (Swaziland)
 Resistance et Alternatives
 (Mauritius)
 Rural Women's Assembly
 (SADC)
 Southern Africa Green
 Revolutionary Council
 (South Africa)
 Southern Africa People's
 Solidarity Networks
 (SAPSN) (Swaziland)
 Stop the Bleeding
 Campaign (Africa)
 The Rules (USA)
 TCOE (South Africa)
 TNI (International)
 WoMin (SADC)

Parmalat and small-scale dairy farmers (SA)

The Rural Women's Assembly will present a case on major dairy corporation Parmalat destructively undermining the businesses of small scale dairy farmer in South Africa and Zambia.

Chancellor House collieries (SWA)

The Amalgamated Trade Unions of Swaziland will bring a case on the Maloma Colliery owned by Chancellor House and the Swazi government. The mine is responsible for cracked houses from blasting, and pollution of the nearby river leading to illnesses in the surrounding communities.

Jindal and Vale's coal mining in Tete Province (MOZ)

JA! will be presenting a case on Indian company Jindal, which started its operations before their Environmental Impact Study was approved, and has been affecting more than 500 families from the communities of Cassoca, Luane, Cassica, Dzindza and Gulu. Some communities continue to live within the mine concession area subject to inhumane living conditions.

Another case is on Brazilian company Vale, the 4th largest coal mine in the world. 716 families from the communities of Chipanga, Malabwe and Mithete were resettled to Cateme. All families are small scale subsistence farmers and many are now facing extreme difficulties as most plots are unconducive to agriculture. There have been many protests and denunciations from the communities, usually handled with violence and repression from the police and the company.



THE JURORS

The panel of jurors at the Tribunal is made up of 3 jurors from the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, and 3 suggested by the reference group of the Southern Africa Campaign. The jurors that we have proposed are not yet confirmed. However, we are please to announce that we have confirmed 3 jurors from the PPT:

Daniel Feierstein- Argentina

Feierstein is a well known and respected professor of social science at the University of Buenos Aires, and Director of the Center for Genocide studies. He has served as a consultant to the United Nations and helped preparing Argentina's National Plan to Combat Discrimination and the National Human Rights Plan.

Mireille Fanon-Mendes – France

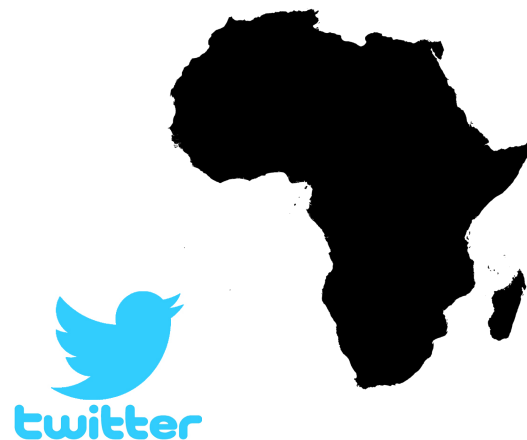
Daughter of Frantz Fanon and President of the Frantz Fanon Foundation. She is chairperson of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; has been involved with the solidarity and struggle of Palestine; and has served as juror on a number of PPT Sessions.

Oysten Tveter – Norway

He is from the background of the Nordic Churches and was actively involved in the solidarity from the WCC and Norwegian Churches in the struggle against Apartheid in South Africa.

We invite you to attend the first session of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Transnational Corporations in Southern Africa on 16th and 17th August in Manzini, Swaziland.

Unfortunately, as we do not have a large budget, we request that those attending cover their own travel and accommodation costs. We will try our best to assist in exceptional cases.



Follow the Southern Africa Campaign:
@StopCorpPower

And follow the Global Campaign:
@StopTNCimpunity

Contact:

Ilham Rawoot
Coordinator of the Southern Africa Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power
[**ilham@aidc.org.za**](mailto:ilham@aidc.org.za)
+27 21 4475770

stopcorporateimpunity.org

