

# **South Africa: Condemn the murder of Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe, leading campaigner from Amadiba Crisis Committee against the Australian-owned Xolobeni mine**

Sunday 27 March 2016, by [Amadiba Crisis Committee](#), [Movements](#) (Date first published: 23 March 2016).

**March 24, 2016 — *Links International Journal of Socialist Renewal* — Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe, chairperson of the Amadiba Crisis Committee and a leading campaigner against the Australian-owned Xolobeni mineral sands mine in South Africa was shot dead in his home on March 22. Below we republish statements by the Amadiba Crisis Committee and one signed by 82 civil society organisations condemning the assassination of Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe and asking for international support to ensure his murderers are brought to justice. There is also an online petition you can sign onto at the bottom.**

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## **Amadiba Crisis Committee: Our chairman brutally murdered**

We are shocked to tell the public that the chairman of Amadiba Crisis Committee, Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe from Mdatya village in Amadiba, was brutally assassinated tonight outside his house in Lurholweni township, Amadiba area, Mbizana.

Our beloved Bazooka made the ultimate sacrifice defending our ancestral land of Amadiba on the Wild Coast.

He was murdered at about 7.30 in the evening. 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. He died defending his young son, who witnessed the murder. His son and his wife are now in hospital.

After one year of threats and attacks, we have been waiting for something like this to happen: Ever since the shootings in Xolobeni 3 May last year, led by mining director Zamide Qunya, and ever since the Christmas shootings in Mdatya village. But since the four gangsters from the Christmas shootings were released on bail in January, police have been intimidating the Amadiba community and leaders in nightly raids, determined to look in the wrong direction. For one year the local police has refused to cooperate with the Umgungundlovu traditional authority of the coastal Amadiba area to stop the violence against our community which says no to mining.

The Australian mining company MRC and all the criminals in high positions who are eager to cut their piece of our land and fill their pockets with blood money, shall know this:

The Amadiba coastal community will not be intimidated into submission.

*Imining ayiphumeleli!*

We appeal to democratic South Africans to support our community and stand by us in this terrible moment.

2016-03 22

Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC):

Mzamo Dlamini 072 194 0949; Nonhle Mbuthuma 076 3592982

The Umgungundlovu Traditional Authority and the ACC are represented by Richard Spoor Inc. in Johannesburg and LRC in Cape Town and Pietermaritzburg. For legal issues in the coastal Amadiba community struggle against mining: Henk Smith 0832661770, Thabiso Mbhense 0711099340 and Richard Spoor 0836271722.

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**Statement: 82 civil society organisations condemn the assassination of Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe, chairperson of Amadiba Crisis Committee!**

We are shocked and outraged to learn of the brutal murder of the chairperson of Amadiba Crisis Committee, Sikhosiphi Bazooka Rhadebe. As chair of the ACC, Bazooka Rhadebe was helping lead the struggle of Amadiba residents on the Wild Coast in opposing open-cast titanium mining by the Australian mining company MRC.

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."

This is not the first case of intimidation or violence against those who have opposed mining in the area.

Our hearts go out to Bazooka's family and community.

The assassination of Bazooka is a painful reminder that from abaHlali baseMjondolo to the Helen Suzman Foundation, there is an existing pattern of criminal attacks on civil society formations, especially those in townships, informal settlements and rural areas. For years, poor people's movements in different parts of the country have experienced regular harassment, intimidation, detention and violence against their members. It is worst felt when the media are far away and the victims are poor, black or rural, and when major industries stand to make billions in profit.

We cannot afford to remain silent in the face of any of these attacks. Every one of them is an attack on democracy itself.

1. We call for the speedy arrest and successful prosecution of the killers of comrade Bazooka.
2. We further call on the Human Rights Commission to investigate the systematic process of intimidation that has been orchestrated against those who have stood up against MRC and its lackeys in the area.

3. We demand that the Minister of Mineral Resources suspends all mining applications until there has been a full and independent investigation of Rhadebe's murder!
4. We demand protection for all members of the Amadiba Crisis Committee and their families!
5. We call on all progressive forces to stand up in defence of democracy. End the attacks on our activists and movements!

We will not be bullied and intend to speak out even more strongly than before. The key thing when civil society is being intimidated is to show no fear.

Contribute to the Solidarity Fund: The Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC) urgently requires funds to assist Bazooka's family, for transport, and for continuing the struggle and protecting activists in this dangerous moment. You can make donations to the following bank account. Please include the reference as 'Bazooka Cause'. Please also forward this request for financial assistance on to your networks as well as funding agencies that may be willing to support the ACC.

Sustaining the Wild Coast

☐First National Bank

☐Randburg

☐Acc no: 62157997639

☐Code: 254005

☐Swift: FIRNZAJJ

Physical address: cnr Main Ave/Republic Rd, Randburg

Reference: 'Bazooka Cause'

What else can you do: Appeal to your networks and to the general public to contact the highest offices of the DMR and inundate them with demands to intervene to stop the mining right application process and to protect the anti-mining activists and communities. Here are the contact details of the highest offices of the DMR:

Minister of Mineral Resources: Mr Mosebenzi Zwane

Tel: 012 444 3999

Fax: 012 444 3145

Email: Queen.Poolo dmr.gov.za (PA)

Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources: Mr Godfrey Oliphant

Tel: 012 444 3956

Fax: 012 341 2228

Email: Kefilwe.Chibogo dmr.gov.za (PA)

Acting Director-General: Department of Mineral Resources: Mr David Msiza

Tel: 012 444 3000

Fax: 012 341 2228

Email: david.msiza dmr.gov.za / Nwabisa.Qwanyashe dmr.gov.za (PA) /

Khayaletu.Matrose dmr.gov.za (Director: Office of the DG)

#StandWithAmadiba #StandForDemocracy

**Endorsements:**

350Africa.org

□ActionAid SA

□African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

□Alternative Information & Development Centre, (AIDC)

□Bench Marks Foundation

□CATAPA

□CEE-HOPE Nigeria

□Centre for Civil Society (CCS)

□Centre for Environmental Rights (CER)

□Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

□Co-operative and Policy Alternative Center (COPAC)

□Coalition for Environmental Justice (CEJ)

□Coastal Links

□Colombia Solidarity Campaign, UK

□Common Frontiers - Canada

□Community Media Trust (CMT)

□Democracy Works Foundation

□Democratic Left Front

□Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA/AMI

□Ekogaia Foundation

□Equal Education (EE)

□Food Sovereignty Campaign

□Fossil Free South Africa

□Global Afrikan People's Parliament

□Global Justice Forum

□Health of Mother Earth Foundation

□International Socialist Movement (SA)

□Johannesburg Anglican Environmental Initiative (JAEI)

□KeepLeft (Socialism from Below)

□Khanyisa Education and Development Trust

□Kingston University, London

□Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR)

□Left Students' Forum

□Marikana Support Campaign

□Masifundise

□Media Monitoring. Africa (MMA)

□MEJCON-SA

□Mineral Policy Institute

□Ndifuna Ukwazi

□Network of Eastern Cape Rural Organisations (26 organisations)

□Noordhoek Environmental Action Group (NEAG)

□OilWatch Latinoamérica

□Open Secrets

□Operation Khanyisa Movement (OKM)

□Oxfam South Africa

□Oxford Women for Justice and Peace

□Pan Afrikan Reparations Coalition in Europe

□Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG)

□People's Assembly

□Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM)

□Right2Know Campaign (R2K)

□Salva la Selva /Rettet den Regenwald

□Social Justice Coalition (SJC)

□Socialist Group

□Socio Economic Rights Institute (SERI)

□South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

□Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)

☐STEPS

☐Sustaining the Wild Coast

☐SWC

☐The Gaia Foundation

☐Thembelihle Crisis Committee (TCC)

☐Treatment Action Campaign (TAC)

☐Unemployed People's Movement

☐Unemployed people's organisation KZN

☐United Front

☐United Front Western Cape

☐War on Want

☐Women's Legal Centre

☐WoMin African Gender and Extractives Alliance

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**P.S.**

\* <http://links.org.au/node/4649>