



FRAUENVERBAND

COURAGE



Dear women, families of the miners of Stilfontein

We were horrified to read that the South African government is deliberately and inhumanely accepting the death of your husbands and sons.

We are with you with all our hearts and you have our fullest solidarity. We mourn with you the miners who have already died. For us this is murder and the murderers are the police and the South African government who are keeping your men and sons trapped in the mines without food and water.

Your men came to South Africa to earn money and save your families from starvation. They have climbed into the disused gold mines risking their lives. Since when is it illegal and criminal for workers to sell their labour so that their families can survive. Illegal and criminal are those who enrich themselves from the labour of your men, the capitalist buyers and those who help these exploiters. They are the ones who shut down the mines and then force the miners to risk their lives under life-threatening working conditions and for wages that are already far too low. It is also criminal that you women and relatives cannot provide your men with food or water.

We call on the police and the South African government:
Stop the blockade of the Stilfontein shafts immediately!
Immediate help for the miners!
Promise impunity for your men and prosecution of the culprits who put you in this situation.
We will publicise this scandal in our women's association. Let us know what help you need. Stay in touch with us, because we are only strong together, worldwide and across national borders!

With solidarity greetings
for the miners' wives in the women's organisation Courage

Seyran Cenan und Ingrid Dannenberg

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