



**To: President Jacob Zuma, South Africa**

Cc: COSATU, NACTU, NUM, AMCU

PSI affiliates: DENOSA, HOSPERSA, NEHAWU, NPSWU, NUPSAW, POPCRU, SADNU, SAMWU

20 August 2012

Dear Mr. President,

It was with the deepest shock and dismay we learned that, on 16 August, 34 workers were shot dead and 78 others injured by the police at the Lonmin Marikana platinum mine in South Africa. This follows on the 10 deaths due to violence in the previous week at Marikana. We understand that families are still trying to determine the whereabouts of hundreds more people who may be held in detention.

Our hearts grieve with the families who have lost their loved ones and we are concerned for those who are injured or imprisoned. We raise our voices in solidarity with all South Africans and comrades around the world who lament this tragic situation.

Mr. President, we look forward to justice and answers resulting from the official inquiry you have committed to holding into this terrible event.

Public Services International is the global advocate for quality public services for the common good. We believe that investment in quality public services – including affordable, accessible public water, waste, healthcare, education, housing and transportation services – is essential to reduce poverty and inequity. Public ownership and oversight of public resources is also vital to building just, sustainable and democratic societies.

It seems incomprehensible that so many poor and desperate mine workers - performing some of the most brutal work, along with their communities, should not be sharing in the wealth of one of the richest industries in the world. Decent wages and safe working conditions must be provided as a basic human right.

PSI will be holding our World Congress in Durban, South Africa in late November this year. Union leaders from around the world will be joining with South African union leaders to discuss how public services can most effectively work in the people's interest to build strong, healthy, equitable communities.

We support all efforts for peace, justice and healing in the Marikana situation so that such a tragedy will never happen again.

*In solidarity,*

Peter Waldorff  
General Secretary