

Workshop of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and partners
“Global treaty and national laws: Protecting communities’ rights!”

Pressure from civil society organizations and (mining-affected) communities in the last few years has led to advanced political developments. The "UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights" introduced in 2011 should be mentioned as offering minimum requirements for states and companies. However, present policy frameworks and political papers such as the Africa Mining Vision do not translate into law. Furthermore, these 'codices' and 'principles' are voluntary and merely demand more corporate responsibility. Reality reveals that voluntary standards are insufficient and are not changing the situation on the ground. Therefore, next to governments, transnational companies, which are very often far more influential, are at the core of many campaigns and community struggles.

Especially within civil society the notion prevails that legally binding standards along the entire supply chain for companies set up through national and regional regulations or a global UN treaty are the prerequisite for changing and improving the participation and living standards for communities. The case of the Amadiba Crisis Committee against Xolobeni mine will be one example to illustrate legal struggles.

Aims of the workshop are:

- a) To provide an overview on the current approach of mandatory agreements and highlight South Africa's intention of promoting actively the UN-Treaty on business and human rights;
- b) To learn about the situation within communities, working and living conditions and participation rights, also from a gender perspective
- c) To assess the current approaches, describe challenges and expectations by bringing together perspectives of academia, mining-affected communities and civil society;
- d) To discuss how the currently debated agreements can be influenced and which topics have to be prioritized.

Speakers:

- Akhona Mehlo (Centre for Applied Legal Studies, CALS)
- Judy Seidman (Khulumani Support Group)
- Nonhle Mbuthuma (Amadiba Crisis Committee-Spokesperson)

Date: 6th of February 2018 (Tuesday)

Time: 6:30h to 8:30h

Venue: Double Tree Hotel, Central 1, a satellite venue.

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