



ASSOCIATION
Henri Pézerat
Travail • Santé • Environnement

Maison du Citoyen et de la Vie Associative, 16 rue du Révérend Aubry, 94120 Fontenay-Sous-Bois. Tél. : + 33 6 76 41 83 46 - assohp@gmail.com

Permanent ban on all asbestos mining and sales in Brazil, including for export

**VICTORY AFTER A HARD-FOUGHT STRUGGLE
BY BRAZILIAN ASBESTOS VICTIMS
AND PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Press Release, 19 September 2026

“In Brazil, the Federal Supreme Court (STF) has finally delivered its ruling, unanimously declaring unconstitutional the exceptional law intended to keep the SAMA/ETERNIT mine in Minaçu (Goiás) operating for export. The STF ordered, by a majority, the immediate closure of this industry of death.” (ABREA statement, 19 September 2026, <https://abrea.org.br>)

It was in these terms that ABREA (the Brazilian Association of People Formerly Exposed to Asbestos) announced, during the night, this long-awaited historic decision.

In 2017 and again in 2023, the STF had already ruled that the state of Goiás’s asbestos law was unconstitutional, while continuing to allow asbestos mining for export. Today, all asbestos mining and exploitation are now prohibited in Brazil.

This is a major victory, the result of more than three decades of civic mobilization. Numerous victims of the asbestos industry, dominated by the multinational corporations Eternit and Saint-Gobain, have sought legal recognition of the harm they suffered from cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other diseases.

The French multinational Saint-Gobain was a pioneer in asbestos exploitation in Brazil. In the 1990s, it boasted of having equipped Brazil’s entire water-supply system with asbestos-based fibre-cement pipes and water tanks. Will the profits it accumulated be used to ensure the complete removal of asbestos from Brazilian infrastructure?

The Ban Asbestos France and Henri Pézerat associations wish to express their solidarity with Brazil’s asbestos victims’ movement and share its relief at seeing asbestos production finally banned in Brazil. We are also open to cooperation between our movements to ensure that polluters pay—not only for victim compensation, but also for the cost of asbestos removal.

Contact: Annie Thébaud-Mony, +33 6 76 41 83 46