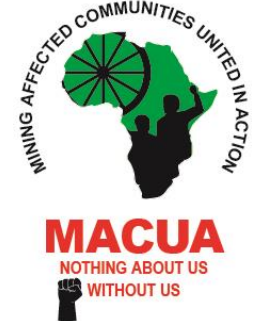


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Harmony Target Mine Refuses to Engage Bronville Community, Instead Send Police to Brutalise and Arrest Our Members

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On the 15th of July, the Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) Bronville branch members in the Free State were subjected to police brutality, rubber bullets and two stun grenades to disperse the community members.

Four people were injured by the police and five others are currently in custody. Before this spontaneous occupation, Bronville and Honey Park branches marched to Masimong Harmony and submitted their memorandum on 3 July. The mine was given two days to respond to the demands, but they failed to respond within the specified time.

Harmony Target Mine later requested a meeting with the community but postponed it twice and held an exclusive meeting last Thursday with the municipality. We later discovered that the mine has opted to deliberately exclude the community members from the discussion. The Mine and connected politicians at the municipality, were talking about the community without them, and this is against our principles as a movement. We Say: Nothing About Us Without Us. As MACUA, we have consistently highlighted how mining companies like Harmony continue to disrespect and sideline communities while stealing the wealth from beneath the community.

As a result, the spontaneous occupation that took place yesterday was motivated by the mine's continued attempts to avoid engaging with the community and instead sent police to the community members. The community's demands include that Harmony must address their non-compliance with the previous Social Labour Plan (SLP) commitments and they need to operate within the law's parameters. They are currently operating without an approved SLP.

Community leaders have reported that Masimong Harmony's tactics to threaten and intimidate the community against fighting for their rights, has led to a heavy police presence in the community of Bronville. Further eyewitness reports have highlighted that police officers have also shot and arrested members of the community indiscriminately. One woman was shot and injured while standing in a queue at the local clinic.

The communities will be holding a mass meeting to discuss a way forward. Leaders in the community have vowed that the Bronville community will not surrender its rights to be meaningfully consulted, and demand that Masimong Harmony satisfactorily attends to all the concerns of the community.

#NothingAboutUsWithoutUs!

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