LAUNCH OF NEW VIDEO EMPHASISES LACK OF JUSTICE FOR MARIKANA

At 9h30 on Human Rights Day, 21 March 2017, families of the mineworkers killed at Marikana, mineworkers and members of the Slovo Park Community Development Forum (SPCDF), with the support of the Marikana Support Campaign, will gather in Slovo Park to commemorate the Sharpeville and Marikana massacres.

The event will include a screening of Miners Shot Down and the launch of a new SERI short film, Bringing the Truth Home. Bringing the Truth Home highlights the pain and struggles of mineworkers and the victims’ families in the wake of the Farlam Commission of Inquiry report, which was released in June 2015. These screenings will be followed by discussions between the SPCDF and representatives of the mineworkers and the victims’ families.

The event kick starts a week-long campaign to raise awareness about the slow progress of the state and Lonmin in ensuring that there is justice for the victims of Marikana. The victims’ families have emphasised the depth of the harms done to themselves as dependants and the social fabric in their communities more broadly.

Following the views of the families and their communities, the campaign will highlight the importance of the following:

- a genuine apology from the state and Lonmin;
- criminal prosecution of police officers who were involved in the operation that led to the deaths of 44 people, the injuring of more people and the arrest of approximately 250 people during the events of August 2012;
- civil compensation of the victims’ families for the loss of support from the deceased workers; and
- public education about what happened at Marikana in order to advance the truth and demand openness, transparency and accountability.

This week-long campaign will conclude on 24 March 2017, which also marks the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. On this day, SERI will launch a web-archive which brings together a comprehensive set of exhibits and transcripts from the Farlam Commission in a single, easily navigable and freely accessible location.

- Read more about Marikana here and here.

Contact:
Nomzamo Zondo, SERI director of litigation 071 301 9676 / 011 356 5868 / nomzamo@seri-sa.org