Press release:

**Marikana Solidarity Campaign calls for immediate investigation into the death of Paulina Masuhlo, yet another victim of police brutality in Marikana**

18 September 2012

We have learnt today with shock and sadness of yet another death as a result of police brutality in the Marikana-Lonmin wage dispute.

On Saturday, 15 September 2012, Paulina Masuhlo, an ANC councillor and activist in Marikana, was out shopping in the informal settlement of Wonderkop during the time of the police raid, allegedly to disarm striking workers, on the settlement of Nkaneng. At approximately 9am she was with a group of women in the vicinity of the Never Die Tavern, when she and others were shot at with rubber bullets from a speeding Nyala.

As far as we can ascertain from other people present at the time Paulina sustained rubber bullet wounds to her right knee and abdomen. Several other women were also injured. She was taken by ambulance to Rustenburg and hospitalised in Job Tabane hospital and died today.

The Marikana Solidarity Campaign sends it heartfelt condolences to Paulina Masuhlo’s family and friends, and to the besieged community of Marikana/Nkaneng/Wonderkop as a whole.

We call on the Minister of Police to immediately initiate an urgent investigation into Paulina’s Masuhlo’s death and for the immediate identification and suspension of the police officers involved in her murder. Given what is known of the time and place of this attack this should not be difficult. Witnesses are available and willing to provide evidence if their safety can be guaranteed.

We are also extremely unhappy that, to date, none of the police officers involved in the massacre on 16 August 2012 has been identified or suspended – this is totally unacceptable and unlawful. Even though much further investigation will need to take place through the Farlam Commission of Inquiry and the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) processes, there is no doubt about the FACT that policemen and women pulled the triggers that killed 34 people that day.
We call on all peace-loving women to join a peaceful demonstration with the women of Marikana on Saturday, 23 September at 11h00 in Marikana. The demonstration had already been planned to protest against police brutality. Tragically, Paulina’s death makes it more urgent and relevant.

People of South African: we need to act together to end police brutality and to ensure that we have a police service that protects people from criminals rather than brutalizes them for campaigning and striking for decent lives.

For more comment, please contact Mark Heywood on 083 634-8806; Rehad Desai on 083 997-9204; Samantha Hargreaves on 083 384-0088

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