

The United Nations Presents:

Miners Shot Down



Maeve McClenaghan

Maeve is an investigative journalist living and working in London. In 2011 she was awarded the Bureau of Investigative Journalism's young journalist of the year after submitting an article on funding of Neglected Tropical Diseases.

She subsequently worked at the Bureau across print, online and television. She has written extensively for the Bureau about the Marikana massacre, speaking with victims' families, and exposing collusion between Lonmin and the ANC.

She has also written articles for the Guardian, the Observer, the Independent, Vice UK, Open Democracy, the Justice Gap, the Voice, Barbados Today, Liberal Conspiracy and has been involved in the production of a People & Power documentary for Al Jazeera.



Dima Yared

Dima Yared is a human rights officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional office for Europe (ROE).

Prior to joining ROE, she worked in OHCHR headquarters in Geneva where she was assisting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Previously, she worked on the Universal Periodical Review as well as within the Rule of Law section at OHCHR, and at an NGO engaging armed non-state actors on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

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THE MASSACRE IN MARIKANA

15 August 2012 (one day before the massacre): "Shares in Lonmin tumbled yesterday after deadly violence forced one of its platinum mines to freeze mining operations. The deployment of a thousand police officers, including some on horseback and backed by armoured vehicles, was said to have brought relative calm to its mine in Rustenberg, South Africa, after the deaths of nine people in a dispute between two unions"

Times, London

17 August 2012 (the day after): "We assure the South African people in particular, that we remain fully committed to ensuring that this country remains a peaceful, stable, productive and thriving nation, that is focused on improving the quality of life of all, especially the poor and the working class."

South African President, Jacob Zuma

10 September 2012: "I welcome the establishment by the Government of South Africa of a Commission to enquire into the causes and circumstances of this event. The events at the Marikana mine further underscore that the fulfilment of economic and social rights, enshrined in the South African Constitution, should remain priorities of the Government to ensure that all people benefit from the country's economic growth and to address growing social and economic disparities"

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay

24 November 2013: "A six month investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism found that:

- Lonmin officials and police planned to break the strike decisively after first discussing the 'political connotations' . A transcript of a secret meeting that took place two days before the massacre shows the group discussing the rise of a new mining union, and the political impact of a previous strike
- Analysis of statements, commission testimony and unaired recorded footage shows Lonmin's 500-strong private security personnel worked closely with the police. The security team supplied CCTV surveillance, helicopters, jail cells and ambulances to the police operation.
- A photographed plan from the police's operational command centre appears to show Lonmin security were armed with live ammunition and deployed around the site on the day of the massacre, though there is no evidence to suggest they were actively involved in the shootings.
- Evidence from a series of letters and emails reveals top Lonmin executives lobbying politicians and police chiefs to increase police presence at the mine.
- The London listed company was facing intense financial pressures in the months leading up to the massacre, with profits and production down. Any work stoppages threatened the company's bank covenants which were linked to profit margins and were due to be tested in September 2012.
- Lonmin declined to comment on the allegation that they met with police to plan how to break the strike, saying they have committed to waiting for the findings of the official commission of inquiry into the events. The Farlam Commission, set up to explore the massacre, has faced severe delays but is due to finalise its findings in April next year"

15 May 2014: "Top lawyers have expressed dismay about changes made to the commission of inquiry into the deaths of 34 South African mineworkers at Marikana in 2012, which they say mean key participants including government ministers, are now unlikely to be properly probed"

Maeve McClenaghan, Bureau of Investigative Journalism

11 August 2014: "South Africa's Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has been heckled at an inquiry into the shooting dead of 34 striking miners by police in Marikana. At the time of the shooting , he was a director of the Lonmin firm which owns the Marikana mine. He was not a member of government and was accused of putting pressure on police to take action against strikers. 'Blood on his hands, Ramaphosa must go,' a crowd chanted inside the packed room, leading to a brief adjournment. "

BBC News