

4 February 2019

Export Credit Insurance Corporation of South Africa
PO Box: 7075
Centurion 0046

Attention: Mandisi Nkuhlu

Dear Mr Nkuhlu

We, the undersigned groups, would like to bring to your attention an issue regarding the Italian risk assessment and auditing firm, RINA. The Export Credit Insurance Corporation of South Africa has informed us that the export credit agencies of Italy, South Africa, Japan, and China have hired RINA to conduct a risk assessment of Anadarko's Mozambique Liquefied Natural Gas project.

We would like to provide you with information about RINA, which directly challenges its credibility and legitimacy as a risk assessor. If you are using a company that is not a credible assessor, the risk assessment for the Mozambique LNG project will not be credible either.

We specifically want to make you aware of an incident that was widely publicised in the media in 2012. A clothing factory in Karachi, Pakistan, burnt down in a fire which killed 250 workers. RINA was the risk assessor for this building, and a mere three weeks before the fire, RINA had approved the safety of the building, awarding it an SA800 certificate, deeming the building safe and free of fire-hazards.

It transpired soon after the fire that no RINA employee nor their Pakistani subcontractor had actually done a physical inspection of the building, but had instead made the assessment through a telephone conversation. The subsequent investigation of the debris further confirmed these allegations. Anybody who had visited the building should have noticed the obvious defects and fire risks.

In November 2018, the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights, Clean Clothes campaign, and a coalition of victims and trade unions filed a formal complaint with the OECD about the incident and the way in which no one has been held accountable even though responsibility has been well researched and documented.

According to the ECCHR:

“Responsible for the audit and the certification was Italian company RINA, which not only failed to visit the factory itself, but whose Pakistani subsidiary RI&CA (Regional Inspection & Certification Agency) allegedly also did not set foot in the factory.

This subcontractor's audit failed to notice a range of infractions on the international standards it was upholding (SA 8000) and Pakistani safety standards regulations that would prove fatal, including an illegally constructed floor, and defunct fire alarm system, as well as the presence of child labour and structural excessive overtime.

The auditing report even falsely claimed the presence of multiple, safe and freely available emergency routes and sufficient firefighting materials, whereas in reality doors were locked, routes were blocked and the only available fire extinguisher did not work.”

[\[https://www.ecchr.eu/nc/en/press-release/oecd-complaint-against-italian-auditor-rina/\]](https://www.ecchr.eu/nc/en/press-release/oecd-complaint-against-italian-auditor-rina/)

[Find case report & press release attached]

As organisations concerned with the safety, wellbeing and protection of human rights of people who will be affected by the gas industry in Mozambique, we believe the ECA's considering involvement in the industry must contract a different company to assess the risk of the project in order to protect lives and maintain legitimacy.

Sincerely,

Ilham Rawoot
Justica Ambiental/ Friends of the Earth Mozambique

Anabela Lemos
Director
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Friends of the Earth US
Re:Common (Italy)
Gastivists (Global)
groundWork/ Friends of the Earth South Africa
Afrika Kontakt (Denmark)
Milieudefensie (The Netherlands)
Les Amis de la Terre (France)
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (South Africa)
Amigos de la Tierra/ Friends of the Earth Spain
NOAH/ Friends of the Earth Denmark
Friends of the Earth Ghana
ZERO (Portugal)
Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina