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**Subject: journalist's query**
**Date:** Sun, 10 Jan 1999 13:12:54 -0800
**From:** Reese Erlich <rerlich@csuhayward.edu>
**To:** bcastle@mail.bcpl.lib.md.us

Barry Castleman
bcastle@mail.bcpl.lib.md.us

Dear Mr. Castleman,

Dr. Joe LaDou suggested I contact you. I□m a freelance journalist who covers occupational health issues. I□m interested in getting more background information about asbestos companies breaking Brazilan law as uncovered by Fernanda Giannasi. Mother Jones magazine and NPR have expressed interest in this story.

Joe mentioned that she has been sued for libel by a French asbestos company. What is the status of that case? Will it go to trial anytime soon? Or are there pre-trail events worth attending?

Do you have any English-language background material on what she has done? Have any articles about this issue been published in the US? (I haven□t been able to find any in a data base search)

Joe mentioned that some of the asbestos products from Brazil are sold in the US (brake shoes). Are there others? How widely are they sold?

I hope to visit Brazil in February. So I would appreciate a response soon.

Feel free to send email or give me a call 510/482-4242 (California).

I look forward to future communications.

Reese Erlich
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