

FILE NAME: Eternit (ETER)

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Subject: Re: Mazeltov on your great victory Fernanda & Barry!!!

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> *THE TRANSLATION FROM O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO,*
> *JANUARY 23, 1999*
>
> *headline: JUDGE REJECTS CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BY ETERNIT AGAINST INSPECTOR*
>
> *THE COMPANY REQUESTED A CONVICTION OF ENGINEER FERNANDA GIANNASI FOR DEF.*
>
> *by Arnaldo Galvao*
>
> *The judge of the Second Criminal District of the Pinheiros Forum (Sao Paulo*
> *city) rejected the criminal complaint filed by Eternit against Fernanda*
> *Giannasi, an engineer and inspector of the Ministry of Labor. The company*
> *had brought the complaint for the crime of defamation because she had*
> *claimed in writings on the Internet and in interviews that Eternit*
> *constituted part of an "asbestos mafia" which was "co-opting public*
> *officials" and carrying out "blackmail" and "misleading propaganda."*
>
> *The inspector asserted that ex-employees were being pressured to sign*
> *agreements with Eternit which obliged them to give up the right to sue the*
> *company for liability in the future for health damages. The inhalation of*
> *asbestos for a long time can cause pulmonary fibrosis and cancer.*
>
> *Eternit has already had more than 300 agreements approved by the courts*
> *which stipulate that former employees will receive between US\$5,000 to*
> *US\$15,000 for having been exposed to asbestos, and will be guaranteed*
> *medical treatment for the rest of their lives.*
>
> *Fernando Castelo Branco, the attorney for Eternit, said that he is waiting*
> *to see the publication of the full text of the decision in the Official*
> *Diary of the State [of Sao Paulo] in order to decide, together with*
> *management, the company's next judicial initiative. "We may appeal this*
> *decision, which we consider to be wrong, or ask to be reimbursed for losses*
> *and damages, since the image of the company is being affected by the words*
> *of the engineer," said the attorney.*
>
> *The Press Relations office of Eternit issued a statement which noted that*
> *"despite its well-known reputation in the asbestos-cement sector and the*
> *fact that the company meets all the legal requirements for the exercise of*
> *its activities, the firm has been the target of constant, unfounded*
> *criticism on the part of persons who cite facts which are offensive to its*
> *reputation, with an undoubted intention to defame."*
>
> *Eternit controls the Sama-Mineracao de Amianto S.A., [Sama Asbestos Mining,*
> *Inc.] which employes 610 workers in Minacu, Goais state. Its activities are*
> *also responsible for approximately 300 secondary jobs. According to the*

- > *company press relations office, a tripartite agreement, signed by the*
- > *company, the labor union, and the federal government specifies even*
- > *stricter rules than those required under government legislation for the use*
- > *of asbestos.*
- >
- > *The law sets a limit of two asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter of air in*
- > *the work environment, but the agreement reduced the allowable limit to 0.8*
- > *fibers. The employees can stop production if they are now guaranteed a safe*
- > *environment.*
- >
- > *Antonio Luiz Aulicino, president of Eternit [do Brasil], points out that*
- > *Sama is the first asbestos mine in the world to obtain the ISO 14001*
- > *certificate for environmental management. [Translator's note: I never*
- > *heard of this award!!!]*
- >
- > *In order to earn this certificate of environmental management, the company's*
- > *Sama mine in Minacu replanted 150,000 square meters of vegetation and*
- > *maintains a nursery of 30,000 young trees for replanting. The company is*
- > *also responsible for Project Quelonios, which raises turtles for*
- > *environmental education and study in the community.*
- >
- > *END OF TRANSLATION*