



## Marikana Event Host Guide

*This year marks the 10th anniversary of South Africa's first 'post-apartheid' massacre. This is an opportunity to remind our communities and our leaders what happened and to stand with the families, workers and community of Marikana as they continue to demand justice.*

We are all Marikana. The majority face poverty and brutality across Mzansi. We live in a place where people died asking for R12,500 a month while a CEO made R1.2 million a month [1].

The rich may have the money, but we have the numbers. That's why they have even used our own government and police against us. But if enough of us keep organising our communities, it becomes harder for our leaders to ignore our demands for justice.

Mining companies, the police and our leaders are hoping people's memory of Marikana will fade. But the 10th anniversary of the first 'post-apartheid' massacre is only months away. This is our opportunity to reignite our demands for justice.

We must not only remember Marikana because some families are still waiting for compensation, but because the capture of our democracy and government by the greedy is just as relevant today as it was in 2012.

To dismantle inequality and brutality, the people, not profit, must govern. The rich and big companies must be forced to pay a minimum wage that is a living wage. They must pay tax properly so that a Universal Basic Income Grant will help ensure everyone can live a dignified life. Our police, government as a whole and big companies, must serve the people, not work together to brutalise us.

[1] *The great 1.2m divide. News24. 25 August 2012.*

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## **Not sure what kind of event to organise, or how to do it?**

Over the years 100's of Marikana events have been run across Mzansi and the world to demand justice and remember Marikana. In this guide, we share what we have learned including:

- Different ideas for events to stand in solidarity with Marikana.
- Steps for organising a successful event.
- How to get support and resources

## **Ideas for events**

### **1. Documentary screening**

Many people still don't know what happened in Marikana. That's why documentaries about Marikana help ensure people's stories are heard and why we need to keep demanding justice. Hold a screening of a Marikana documentary in your home, community centre or place of worship.

Below is some information about some Marikana documentaries. All of them are online, but if data is an issue, we do have copies of *Miners Shot Down* and *Strike a Rock*, and we can organise for these to be sent to you on a USB or DVD. Contact [zintle@amandla.mobi](mailto:zintle@amandla.mobi) with your contact number so we can organise how to get the USB or DVD of the documentaries to you.

- [Miners Shot Down](#) is an Emmy award-winning documentary that tells the stories of three strike leaders, Mambush, Tholakele and Mzoxolo. The film exposes how a mining company was able to mobilise a politician and our police to protect their profits at the expense of the people.

The documentary is available online [here](#), but you can also request we send you a copy. You can also download a resource pack [here](#) to facilitate a discussion after the documentary.

- [Strike a Rock](#) tells the story of the incredible women of Marikana and the women's organisation Sikhula Sonke. The documentary follows Primrose and Thumeka, two activists, grandmothers, and best friends, as they take on the mining company, Lonmin.

The documentary is available online [here](#), but you can also request we send you a copy.

- [Imbokodo](#) is a 13 min short documentary by the Socio-Economic Rights Institute (SERI), which documents the experiences of the families of the mine workers killed at Marikana. You can watch it [here](#).

- [Voices from the Platinum Belt](#) is a documentary series by Media for Justice. The series explores how mining affects women and broader issues facing mining communities. You can watch the series [here](#).

Here is a picture that shows an example of a documentary screening by previous Marikana event organisers.



## 2. Public art project

A public art project catches people's attention and is a reminder of what happened in Marikana.

In the past, groups have painted public murals on busy roads or spray-painted an image of Mambush, the 'man in the green blanket' who has become a symbol of the Marikana Massacre. Others have printed out or drawn Mambush on paper and stuck it in a public place.

Tokolosh has provided a free image of Mambush you can use [here](#). If your public art project involves sticking up paper, the best glue can be made at home using wheat flour. [Here is a recipe for wheat flour](#).



Other examples of public art projects include using paper and wheat paste to rename street signs with the names of some of the people who lost their lives in Marikana. Others have hung banners in public places. A really powerful art project is making and putting crosses in a public place with a banner or sign mentioning Marikana. Or you could put miners' helmets or names on the crosses to make the crosses connection to Marikana clear.

Examples of banner slogans include WE ARE ALL MARIKANA, REMEMBER MARIKANA, AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL, 10 YEARS SINCE MARIKANA etc.

Getting permission for your public art project can be a good idea. For example, a school might permit you to paint a mural on one of their walls, or a place of worship might agree to let you hang a banner. What is important is that your public art project is seen by as many people as possible. Remember, whatever your public art project is, make sure doing it does not risk your safety or anyone else's safety.



You might not be able to get permission to do your public art project and/or your public art project may break your local by-laws. It is up to you whether to proceed. The organisers of the 10th

Anniversary of Marikana, including amandla.mobi, do not condone or take responsibility for the actions of any events organised, including public art projects.

### 3. Protest/ picket etc

Your protest or picket could be somewhere a lot of people gather in your community. You could also organise a protest or picket outside a location that has an indirect or symbolic connection to Marikana. For example, you could do a picket outside your local police station and the local offices of different political parties. Just be safe and ensure you don't put your life or the lives of others in danger. Communicate in advance with the place you want to protest outside of. Make it clear to your local police station and local political party office that you are asking them to pass a message to the heads of their organisations that we want justice for Marikana.

Depending on where you live and transport, you could also look at organising a protest or picket outside the following locations where there are decision-makers who need to be reminded of Marikana:

**Gauteng:** Union Buildings, Department of Justice and SAPS head office in Tshwane, Sibanye-Stillwater bought Lonmin, and their offices are in Roodeport. Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg. Johannesburg Stock Exchange in Sandton.

**Western Cape:** Parliament

**North-West:** Marikana, specifically the offices of Sibanye-Stillwater

Our right to protest is constantly being challenged. You may be told you can't protest unless you have permission, or that your protest is illegal etc. [The Right 2 Protest](#) provides a number of resources, including a hotline you can call if you have questions or need assistance: 080 0212 111



### 4. Candlelight vigil

Bring your community together, [light 44 candles and read out some of the names of those who lost their lives](#). Talk to your community about issues around a living wage and police brutality.



Credit: Barry Christianson



Credit: Barry Christianson

## 5. March/ rally

Similar to a protest or picket, a march or rally involves marching from one location to another, so as many people as possible see your banners, signs etc. Just like organising a protest or picket, make sure you, participants and members of the public are safe. Appoint safety officers to help you keep everyone safe.

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## 6. Seminar/ lecture/ talk

Organise an event where there is a discussion or presentation. It could be about the Marikana Massacre or talking about why Marikana is relevant to your community today. There is so much to discuss, worker exploitation, a living wage, mining companies exploiting resources and corrupting our democracy, police brutality, the right to protest etc. There might be a representative from a mining-affected community who might be able to talk or be on a panel. There may also be other people who could speak. Your community, school, college or varsity may have a venue that could work for a lecture or seminar.



## 7. Media stunt or local radio chat

- Organise a public commemoration with 44 white crosses and green blankets to show mining companies, politicians and the police leadership that we will not forget Marikana. Don't forget to invite the media and promote the event far and wide.
- Approach your local radio station, especially if they have a social issues segment, and pitch an idea to them to discuss Marikana.



## 8. Workshop/ community meeting

Organise a community meeting to discuss the relevance of Marikana to your community and what your community can do to help address police brutality, protect the right to protest, and ensure companies and government are held to account by the people.



## 9. Art event/ activity

In the past, events like art exhibitions, poetry readings, rap battles and plays have been done. Other activities include making green felt badges and white crosses for a public art project, protest or march.

Flashmobs in a public place is also a useful event. Get a group of people together, rehearse and plan to do your flashmob once or a few times in a crowded place such as a train station, taxi ranks etc., to draw attention. Don't forget to talk to the crowd after your flashmob.





## 10. Religious/ Faith event

Your local church, mosque or temple could show solidarity with the widows, family members and surviving miners of the Marikana Massacre. Talk to your religious leaders about what your faith community can do.



Credit: Niren Tolsi & Paul Botes



Credit: Greg Nicolson

## 11. Other

The above list are just ideas. You can be as creative as you like and you might come up with a completely new idea for an event. Whether big or small, each event helps build our collective power.

**If you want to talk to us about your idea for an event and get advice, send a Please Call Me, SMS, WhatsApp to 0673660498 with the word "event" and Zintle will call you back. You can also email Zintle at [zintle@amandla.mobi](mailto:zintle@amandla.mobi)**