

ACB communications and media report

SA People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins and other related work



AFRICAN CENTRE
FOR BIODIVERSITY

Publications



17 March 2023

2,4-D GM MAIZE AND THE REGULATORY ANOMALIES REGARDING GMOs AND ASSOCIATED PESTICIDES

In this briefing, we forward arguments for why 2,4-D is an HHP and should be banned in South Africa. The timing for such banning is opportune, in light that the South African government announced its intention already in April 2022, to phase out HHPs by June 2024.

Press release



17 August 2023

South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins welcomes UN Expert's assessment highlighting human and environmental rights violations

UN Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Dr Marcos Orellana, released his country visit report on South Africa.

Web post



21 August 2023

South Africa's list of highly hazardous pesticides researched and published by the network Unpoison

UnPoison, a South African non-profit organisation and civil society network working to protect public health from the harms of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) commonly used in South Africa while promoting the development of a biological solutions sector for agriculture, published the first publicly available list of HHPs.

Submission



7 December 2023

Call on South Africa to deregister agrotoxin 2,4-D

The ACB, supported by 18 organisations/networks in South Africa, made a substantive submission to the Registrar of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Seeds and Remedies Act 36 of 1947 (commonly referred to as Act 36), to institute a review in terms of section 4 of the Act 36, into the continued registration of the toxic chemical 2,4-D.

Statements



5 July 2024

Stop chemical war on bodies of farm workers, farm dwellers and their children!

Statement rejecting the Draft Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Agents published on 5 April 2024, under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No 85 of 1993)

ACB published a joint statement that rejects the South African regulations on hazardous chemicals.

Publications



1 November 2024

Civil society coalition says: Heads must roll for Terbufos regulatory failure

ACB, as part of a coalition of civil society organisations and unions concerned with the impacts of pesticides, in a joint press release called on the South African government to take urgent, effective action to prevent further tragedies in vulnerable communities following the tragic deaths of six children in Soweto.

Mentions



Read Up. Rise Up



Civil society coalition says: Heads must roll for Terbufos regulatory failure

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NATIONAL / 10 NOVEMBER 2024

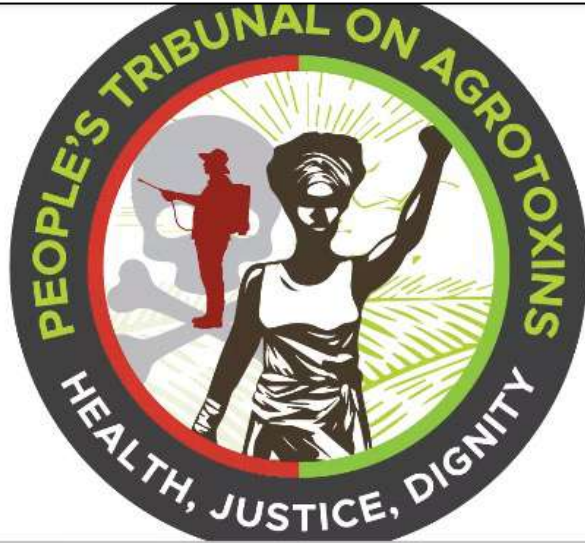
Civil society coalition wants heads to roll over Terbufos deaths

By Sheree Bega

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Petition



22 November 2024

Petition – Reckless endangerment: Hold South African government and chemical industry to account for deaths and serious illnesses from toxic pesticides on the farm and in food

ACB and other partners in the South Africa People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins launched a petition to hold the South African government and chemical industry to account for deaths and serious illnesses from toxic pesticides on the farm and in food. Among other demands, we called for a ban on Terbufos with immediate effect.

Letter of demand



ACB and a group of organisations, academics, and unions sent a letter of demand to Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, requiring him to immediately ban Terbufos. The coalition called on the Minister to indicate his willingness to undertake the steps set out in the letter within 21 days of the date of the letter, but we granted an extension to end of February 2025. A web post of the media coverage is available [here](#).

Letter



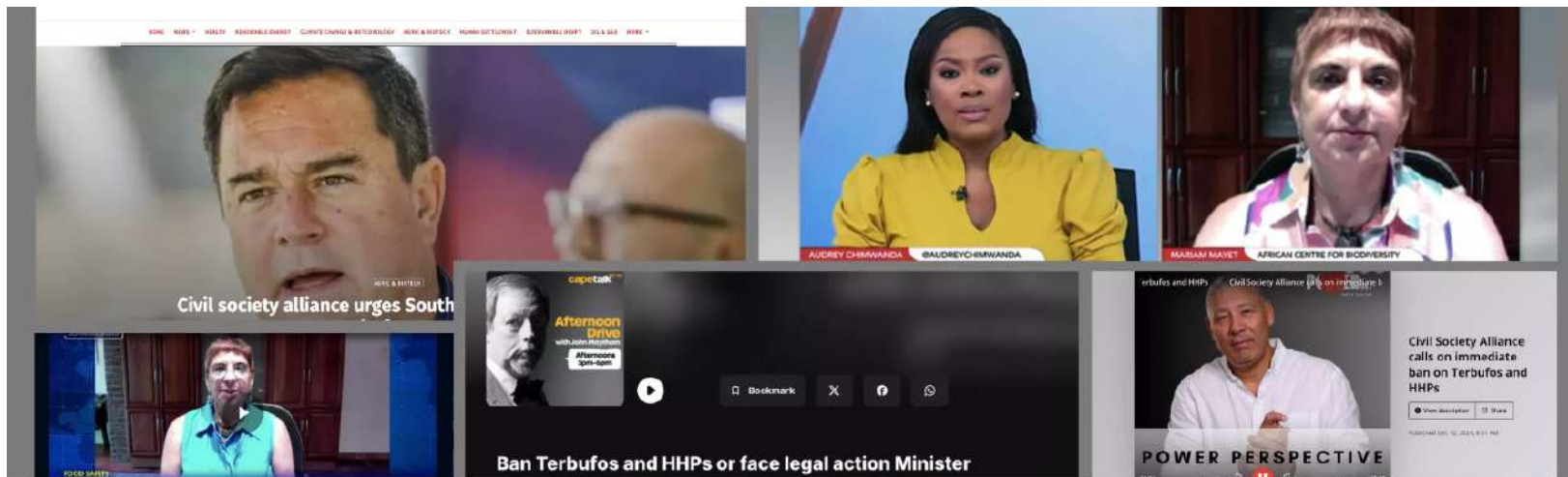
6 December 2024

One year later and no substantive response to our call for a review of 2,4-D

Minister Steenhuisen, when can we expect the Registrar to respond?

With no substantive response forthcoming from the Registrar: Act No. 36 of 1947, Mr Jonathan Mudzunga, after calling for a review of the registration of 2,4-D in South Africa, despite substantiation in a further submission, and persistent follow up for over a year, ACB sent a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, asking him to urgently intervene.

Web post

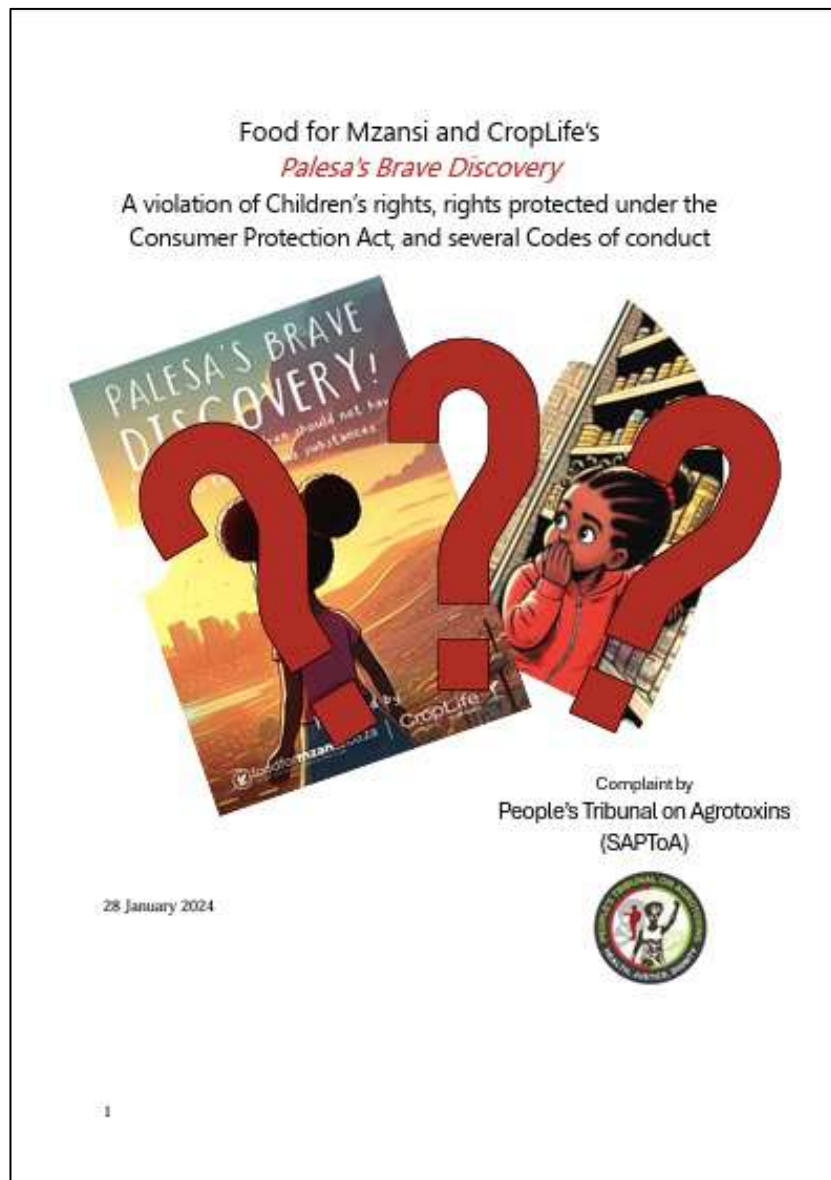


16 January 2025

Media campaign highlights urgent need to ban Terbufos, HHPs

In December 2024, the ACB, alongside a coalition of organisations, academics, and unions, submitted a letter of demand to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen. The urgent appeal calls for the immediate ban of Terbufos — a highly hazardous pesticide implicated in the tragic deaths of six children in Naledi, Soweto, last year. To amplify this call, we launched an extensive media campaign.

Complaint



The South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins (SAPToA) submitted substantive complaints to the South African Human Rights Commission and the Advertising Regulatory Board, calling for the withdrawal of a comic book published by Food for Mzansi and CropLife (representing the agrochemical industry), titled, Palesa's Brave Discovery. A guide to why children should not have access to hazardous substances, because it violates the rights of children and consumers.

Publications



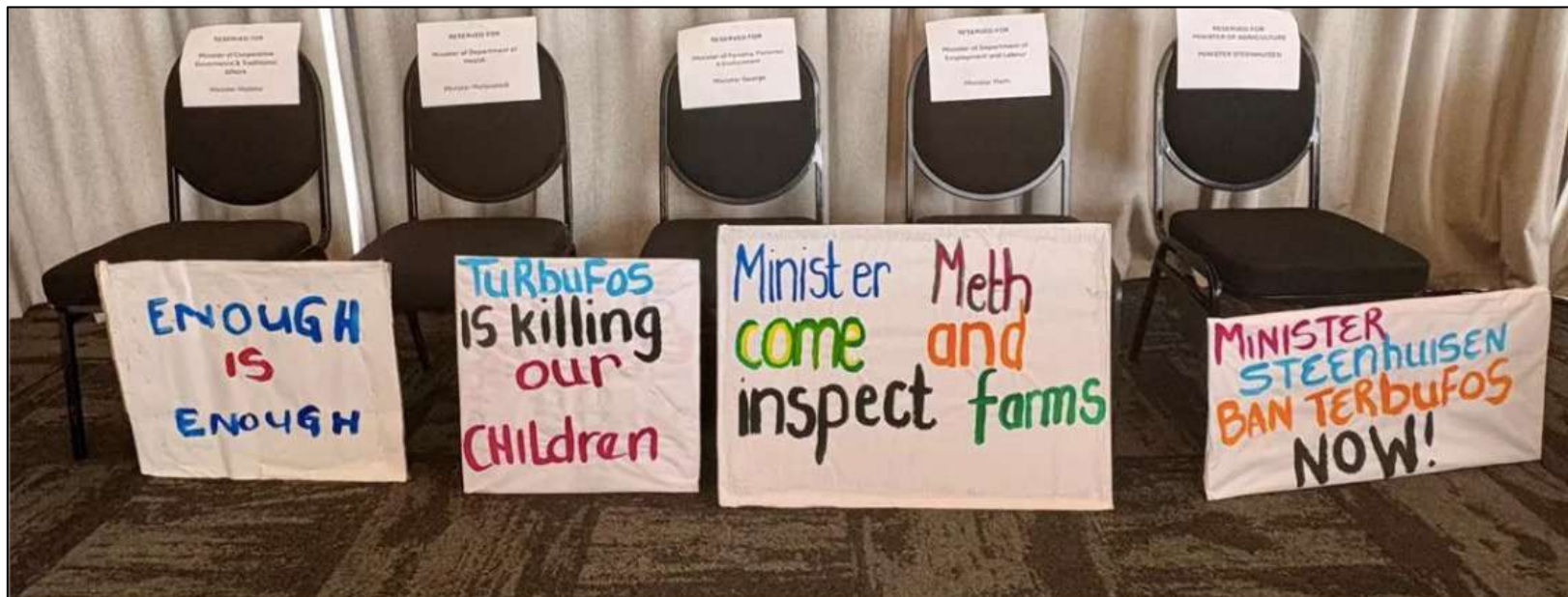
On the 27th of February, the ACB submitted substantive objections to the South African government's attempt to backtrack on its commitments to phase out highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), including glufosinate ammonium (GLA), by way of spurious and potentially unlawful "derogation" regulations.

Press release



ACB and its coalition partners published a press release announcing the details of the South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins which put the government on trial in the court of public opinion for gross dereliction of its constitutional duties to protect the right to life.

Web post



24 March 2025

South African People's Tribunal on AgroToxins exposes government's failure to protect right to life

In this web post, we shared a recording of the opening statement made by ACB executive director Mariam Mayet at the SA People's Tribunal on Agrotoxins, as well as [media coverage of the event](#).

Mentions



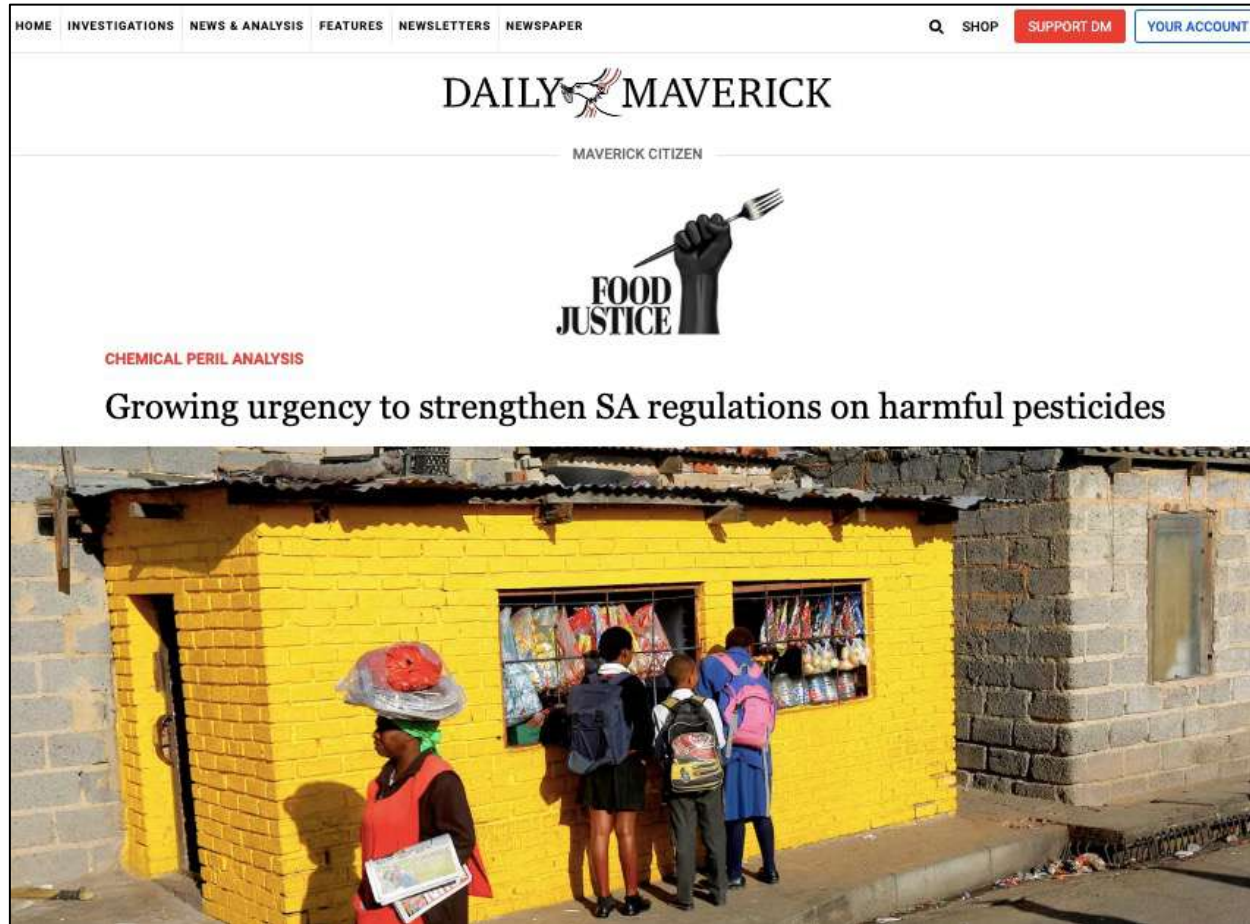
This article covers a coalition of farmworker trade unions and civil society organisations, which have rejected the department of employment and labour's draft regulations on hazardous chemical agents under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Mentions



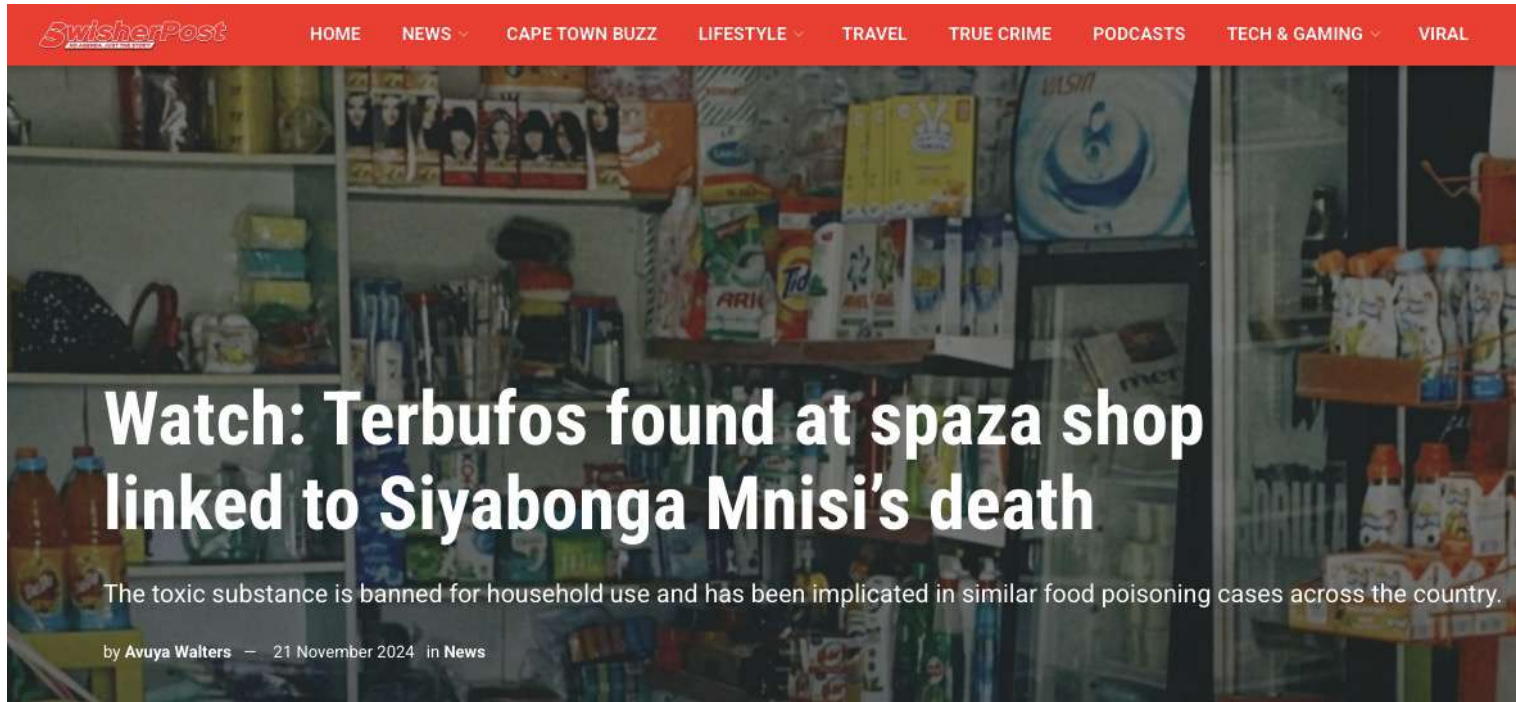
This article links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in South Africa.

Mentions



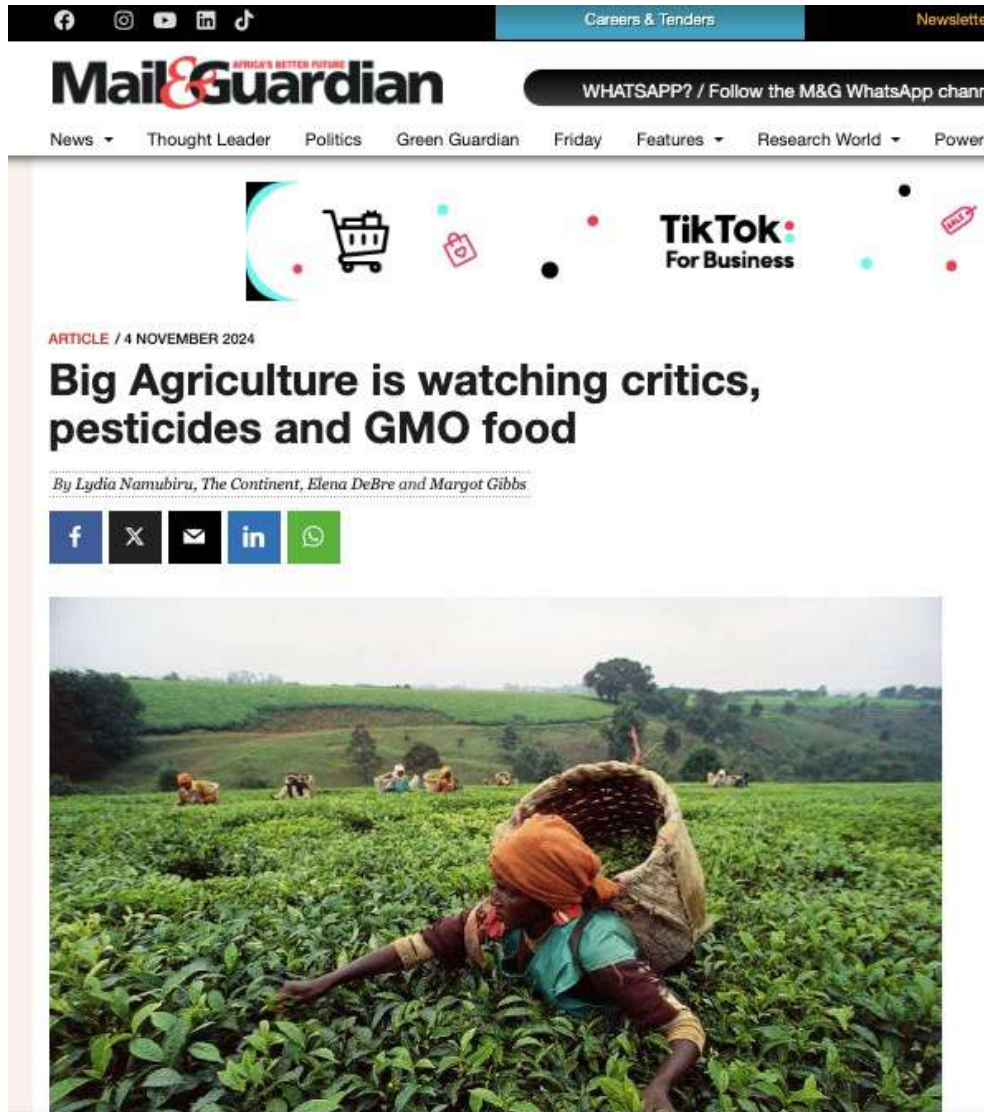
This article unpacks the double standards when it comes to highly hazardous pesticides. It cites the Pesticide Tribunal's press release on the use of terbufos in SA. And links to UnPoison's press release published on the ACB website which provides a list of highly hazardous pesticides still in use in South Africa.

Mentions



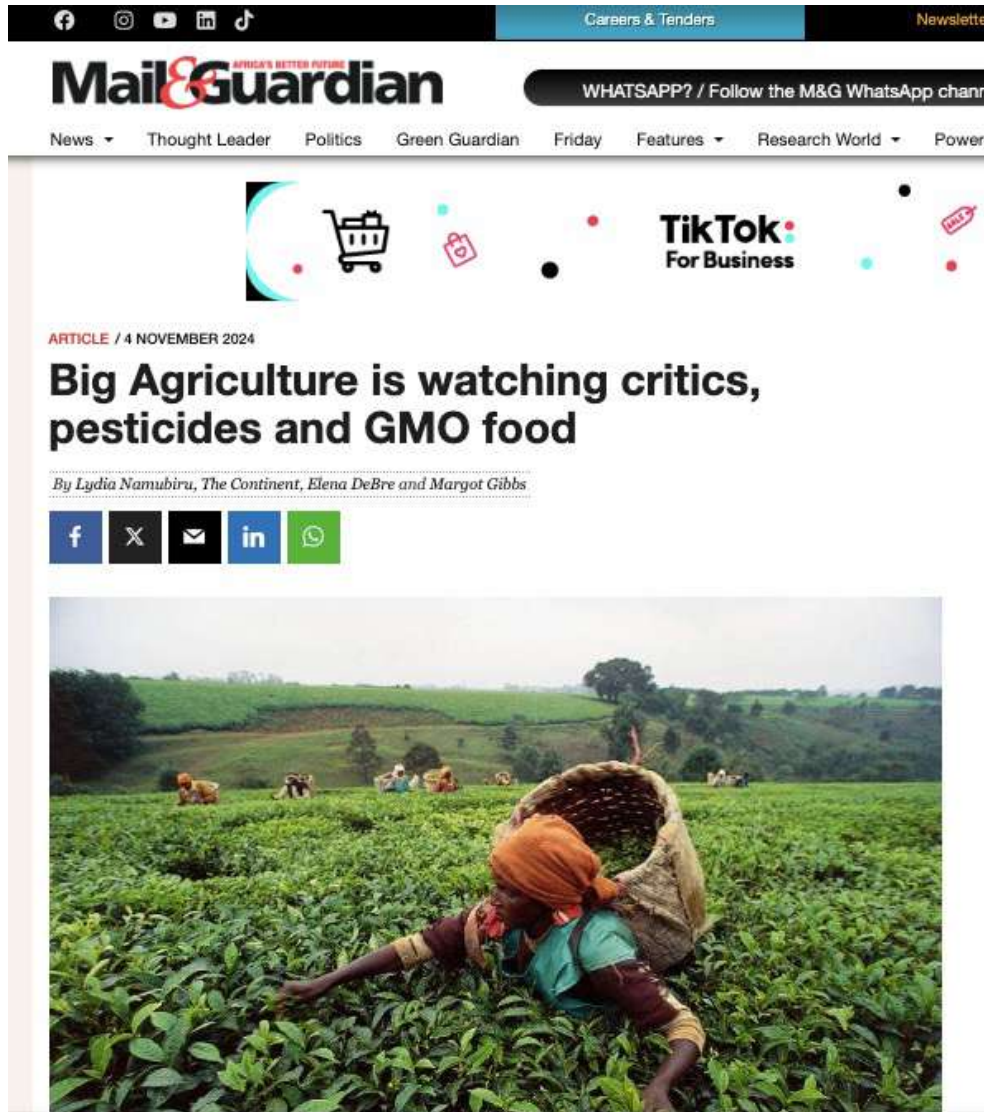
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Mentions



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Mentions



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