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## **Advisory: Rally and Petition Delivery to Demand Justice for Victims of Formosa Plastics Disasters**

WASHINGTON – On January 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the Stop Formosa Plastics Coalition, International Monitor Formosa Plastics Alliance, and Rise St. James will hold a rally in advance of a [petition](#) delivery to White House officials calling on President Biden to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to revoke the permits for a proposed Formosa Plastics facility in St. James, Louisiana. According to Formosa’s proposed [plan](#), the estimated \$12 billion facility would emit 800 tons of toxic air pollution yearly, roughly double the toxic air emissions in St. James Parish.

Often referred to as “Cancer Alley” or “Death Alley,” the area has already subjected its residents to deadly industrial pollution. In addition, the project would disturb unmarked burial sites for formerly enslaved people, degrade wetlands, and deepen the plastic pollution crisis. In 2020, the project was halted after environmental groups filed a lawsuit citing severe public health concerns. A subsequent environmental impact review was ordered in 2021, and a Louisiana court revoked Formosa’s air permits for failing to protect the public from harm in 2022.

Formosa Plastics’ dirty dealings are not limited to Louisiana. In Texas, they were fined \$50 million for discharging plastic pellets into Lavaca Bay, and a steel mill owned by Formosa Plastics caused the worst environmental disaster in Vietnam’s history when they released toxic waste into the sea. To this day, adequate compensation for over 7,000 Vietnamese fishermen affected by the marine catastrophe is yet to be seen, resulting in higher rates of unemployment and poverty and a human rights crisis. Calls for independent investigation, oversight, and transparency have been suppressed mainly through intimidation and imprisonment.

We are currently organizing a second petition calling President Biden to exert pressure on the Vietnamese Government, urging them to cease their retaliation against victims seeking justice through legal channels. This will enable these individuals to complete the necessary paperwork for Taiwan and U.S. courts freely. Additionally, we are advocating for the release of all individuals unjustly imprisoned due to their advocacy for the victims.

Join the leaders of the fight to hold Formosa Plastics accountable for their pollution worldwide. Members of the press are encouraged to attend.

**WHO:** Stop Formosa Plastics Coalition, [International Monitor Formosa Alliance](#), and [Rise St. James](#)

**WHEN:** January 12<sup>th</sup>, 11am EST

**WHERE:** The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue side

**SPEAKERS:**

- Sharon Lavigne, Founder and Executive Director, RISE St. James, 2021 Goldman Environmental Prize recipient, Laetare Medal recipient
- Nancy Bui, Founder and VP of External Affairs, Justice for Formosa Victims
- Diane Wilson, Founder and Executive Director, San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper, 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient