

Bhopal, Hungry for Justice



Rupesh, a little boy in Bhopal, India lost his life to cerebral palsy last year. Prime Minister's empty promises in 2006 did not do anything to save him. Doctors visiting Bhopal have never seen so many cases of cerebral palsy in a population of this size. Specialized care is still not available to any children suffering from disorders as a result of the 1984 gas leak and ongoing water contamination.



Rupesh & his mom

The Union Carbide plant in Bhopal unleashed 40 tons of deadly gas into the air on the night of December 2nd 1984 in Bhopal, India killing 8,000 people in just 72 hours. Today an estimated 23,000 have died and many are still suffering and dying a slow death.

Union Carbide fled India after the tragedy. Its then CEO is still wanted in Indian courts as an "absconder from justice." Carbide's chemical wastes have contaminated a vast swathe of Bhopal with dangerous toxins and chemical compounds and have contaminated the drinking water to alarming levels. Adding to the apathy of the company, the Government of India (GoI) spent years disbursing the paltry settlement from Union Carbide. And the GoI now is trying to strike backroom deals with Dow Chemical Company which owns Union Carbide. Without a decent settlement from the company, proper medical research & facilities from the GoI, and safe drinking water - the Bhopalis will continue to be poisoned daily.

March and Hunger Strike

In 2006, The Bhopalis marched 500 miles to New Delhi and got promises from the Prime Minister (PM) of India for clean safe drinking water and legal pursuit of justice. But the promises were broken. Again on February 20th, 2008 they marched 500mi to meet the PM to ask him to Walk his Talk. For 4 months, the PM has been refusing to meet the renewed demands. So, they have to resort to an INDEFINITE HUNGER STRIKE.

The Bhopalis demand the Indian Government

- I. SET UP A SPECIAL COMMISSION ON BHOPAL
 - a. Medical Care, Research, and Monitoring
 - b. Social and Economic Rehabilitation
 - c. Environmental Remediation
 - d. Safe Drinking Water
- II. TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST DOW CHEMICAL
 - a. Pursue the Ministry of Chemicals' application in the MP High court seeking money from Dow to clean up Bhopal.
 - b. Move for extradition of the authorized representative of Union Carbide Corporation and its former CEO.
 - c. Revoke approval given to Reliance Industries for purchase of Union Carbide's Unipol technology
 - d. Cancel registration of all three pesticides, including Dursban, obtained by bribing Agriculture Ministry officials as established by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Bhopal, quick facts

Day of Disaster: **December 2-3rd 1984**

Amount of MIC leaked: **40 tons**

Number dead in first 3 days: **~ 8,000**

Number dead since disaster: **23,000**

Number of people chronically ill: **100,000**

Initial proposed settlement: **\$3 billion**

Final settlement for tragedy: **\$470 million**

Settlement per survivor: **\$500**

Cleanup settlement: **0 or ZERO**

Dow's Asbestos victim's fund in US: **\$2.2 billion**

Toxins in water: **680 times US EPA limits**

Dow's fine for bribing Indian officials: **\$325,000**

Days without Justice: **8600 and counting**

Distance walked asking for justice: **500 mi**

Days without food: **INDEFINITE**

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. Join the Fast for a Day:

www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html

2. Send a Fax to the Prime Minister of India

http://www.boston4bhupal.org/write_fax.php

3. Call the Prime Minister of India

Int'l call US 1st dial 011, UK first dial 00

+ 91-11 2301 1156

+ 91-11 2301-2312