

April 13, 2006.

Dear Dr. Manmohan Singh

We are deeply distressed that Government of India has failed to resolve the long pending issues facing survivors of the 1984 Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal. It is disturbing that the survivors and other residents have been denied even basic amenities like access to clean drinking water. It is unfortunate that the Government's insensitivity toward the plight of the Bhopalis has forced them to undertake an arduous 800km walk from Bhopal to Delhi to underscore the truth behind their demands. Some of us had written to you when the march began -- around February 20 -- urging you to meet the Bhopal marchers and address their just demands of

1.National Commission on Bhopal: The Government should set up an inter ministerial coordinating agency, with necessary authority and funds to provide facilities for health care, medical research, social support and economic rehabilitation of the people poisoned by Union Carbide/Dow Chemical and their children for at least the next 30 years. This commission must have the active participation of non-government doctors, scientists and representatives of survivors' organizations.

Bhopalis will return to Bhopal when the Government announces the setting up of the agency along the above lines, and commits to funding it with a corpus that will yield Rs. 50 crores per year.

2.Provide Safe Drinking Water: Commit full funds for the implementation of the May 2004 Supreme Court order and provide clean piped drinking water from Kolar reservoir to communities affected by Union Carbide/Dow's contamination.

Bhopalis will return to Bhopal when the Government of India commits to allot at least Rs. 10 crores to the Madhya Pradesh Government for construction of pipeline and other infrastructure to deliver clean water from Kolar Reservoir.

3.Prosecute Union Carbide and Anderson: Set up a Special Prosecution Cell in the Central Bureau of Investigation with representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs for the speedy prosecution of Union Carbide Corporation, Warren Anderson and other accused in the criminal case of the December 1984 disaster.

Bhopalis will return to Bhopal when the Government of India commits to setting up a Special Prosecution Cell in the CBI to focus on the Bhopal criminal case.

4.Make Dow Clean Up and Pay: Ensure scientific assessment of the depth and spread of toxic contamination in and around the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal and make Union Carbide or its current owner, The Dow Chemical Company, pay for the clean-up of toxic contamination and also compensation for related health and environmental damage.

Bhopalis will return to Bhopal when the Government of India commits to performing a comprehensive assessment of cost of clean-up, and use legal and extra legal options to make Union Carbide/Dow Chemical pay for assessment of contamination and clean-up. Legal options for the Indian Government include playing a more active role in the case currently being heard in the New York court claiming damages and clean-up from Carbide. Estimated costs of clean-up range from \$25 million to \$500 million, and highlight the lack of a comprehensive assessment and estimate of costs.

5.Blacklist Dow and Union Carbide: Dow has refused to own up to Union Carbide's liabilities in India, and should therefore not be allowed to profit from Union Carbide's assets. Moreover, Union Carbide is an absconder that has said it is not subject to the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

Bhopalis will return to Bhopal when the Government of India blacklists all products, processes and

technologies that are owned by or have their origins in Union Carbide.

6.Remember Bhopal: Include representatives of survivors' organizations in the creation of a memorial to the disaster, declare December 3 as a National Day of Mourning for Victims of Industrial Disasters and Pollution and ensure that the Bhopal disaster and its aftermath is included in school and college curricula.

Bhopalis will return to Bhopal when the Government of India commits to ensuring that a memorial in Bhopal with the full participation of survivors, and commits to introduce the story of the Bhopal disaster in school and college curricula.

It is now nearly two weeks since they arrived in New Delhi, and you have shown no inclination to meet them, leave alone address their demands. The continued inaction of the Government to the plight of the survivors makes us question whether this is the way the Government, under your leadership, develops India with a human face? Aren't justice and people a more integral part to development than infrastructure and foreign investment?

It is no secret that Bhopal survivors and those consuming contaminated water are suffering from serious health effects. It is also no secret that the Bhopalis will not tolerate the continuing injustice. Now, after their 500 mile walk, and faced with a stoic silence from your office, they have undertaken an indefinite hunger strike. It is distressing to witness a nation whose Government is so indifferent to the suffering of its own people.

It is utterly shameful that the DOW Chemical Company- the owner of Union Carbide which is the architect of the disaster--- is allowed to expand in India without facing liabilities. By permitting such companies, your Government is sending a signal that propriety and justice are not matters of priority, and that the Government will not hesitate to stoop down to punish the victims and reward the accused if it entails increased foreign investment. We are also concerned by news reports[1] which indicate a potential conflict of interest where the Congress party spokesperson was representing Dow Chemicals in a lawsuit in Madhya Pradesh. We strongly urge the government to steer clear of any real or potential conflict of interest situations, and ensure that the government's basic duty towards the citizens is paramount.

Even at this late juncture, we hope that you will accept our appeal on behalf of the Bhopal survivors, and put an end to the fast by offering to address their demands, including the ones about holding Union Carbide accountable for the clean up and its other liabilities in Bhopal.

Sincerely,

Non-Resident Indian Organizations

1. Alliance for Secular and Democratic South Asia - Boston
2. Asha For Education- Austin, Chicago, Seattle, Washington D.C - works to catalyze socio-economic change in India through education of underprivileged children.
3. Association for India's Development works for the welfare of the poor and underprivileged in India.
4. Austin Marathi Mandal
5. Austin Kanada Sangha
6. Earth Economics - Earth Economics is devoted to promoting ecosystem health and ecological

economics and to halting the globalization of unsustainable economic policies.

7. Friends of South Asia - Bay Area, California
8. Greater Portland Telugu Association
9. Indian Cultural Community - Austin, TX
10. Indo-American Foundation of Arizona
11. Geethanjali and ALLGoRhtyms are Seattle based music bands.
12. Pragati - Austin, TX
13. People's Resolve to Act for Justice and Accountability - Network [PRAJANet]- Based in the Silicon Valley, California, their mission is adding power to the multitude of people's movements working to reform the fundamental processes of governance in India
14. Raksha – Based in Atlanta, Raksha's mission is to promote a stronger and healthier South Asian community through confidential support services, education, and advocacy.
15. Sangati - A learning-based organization based in Seattle, WA exploring social and developmental issues, with connected grass-roots action.
16. South Asian Center – Boston
17. South Asian Collective - University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
18. South Asians for Unity – Atlanta
19. Stop HIV/AIDS In India - The Stop HIV/AIDS in India Initiative (SHAI), a Washington - based effort is committed to bringing together groups to coordinate Indian and international advocacy efforts to address the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria pandemics in India.
20. Tasveer is a Northwest not-for-profit group dedicated for promoting south Asian Cinema and is based in Seattle, WA
21. Vibha- Austin. Vibha's mission is to to ensure that every underprivileged child attains his or her right to education, health and opportunity.
22. VishwaVani School of Music – Seattle
23. Young India is an endeavor to affirm the value of human life by mass participation & empowerment through sustainable change at local & national levels and is based in Washington D.C

Non-Indian Groups

24. Basel Action Network - works to prevent the globalization of the toxic chemical crisis
25. Corporate Accountability International- Corporate Accountability International is a membership organization that protects people by waging and winning campaigns that challenge irresponsible and dangerous corporate actions around the world
26. Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/ O De Aztlan (MECHA) (The University of Texas at Austin chapter) - It is an organization that advocates higher education, human rights and Mexican American history/culture.
27. Sierra Student Coalition- It is the student of the Sierra Club whose mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth, practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources, educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural

and human environment and use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

References:

1. Central Chronicle Opinion Editorial - Removing Toxic Wastes from UCC - <http://www.centralchronicle.com/20050822/2208304.htm>