

2nd December 2014

Mr. R. Raghunathan
Consul General
Consulate General of India
1 Kingsmead Boulevard (2nd Floor),
Kingsmead Office Park,
Durban 4001,
South Africa

By hand and e-mail: officeofcg@cgidbn.com

Dear Sir

Bhopal: Action delayed is human rights denied!

We, the undersigned community, non-government organisations and individuals demand immediate action by the government of India to ensure that those that suffered and continue to suffer as a result of the tragic Bhopal disaster that occurred in the early hours of December 3rd, 1984 are given the justice they rightfully deserve, and that those responsible for the disaster, Dow Chemicals, are held accountable in the Indian legal system, and internationally, immediately.

We will gather together peacefully in a candlelit vigil at the Consulate at 23:30 today until 00:02 tomorrow, the exact time that this tragedy took place 30 years ago.

Some of us have visited Bhopal over the last decade and we are shocked that successive Indian governments have failed to deal with this human rights disaster, that people in Bhopal are still seeking justice and that peoples' environments continue to be polluted from the toxic waste present on the rehabilitated industrial site. As community members and NGOs who live and work in areas throughout South Africa alongside polluting industry we recognise the lack of justice and disrespect that Bhopal's communities continue to endure. We endure this as well in our neighbourhoods. The disrespect toward those in Bhopal is a global phenomenon we experience daily.

We stand in solidarity with those that continue to live in Bhopal and fight for justice. We join the global movement of people who this evening will remember Bhopal.

We call on the Indian government to act to ensure environmental justice for the people of Bhopal by taking action that will lead to:

1. Clean up the Bhopal factory site using science, public participation and polluter pays as the guiding principles;
2. Work with the Madhya Pradesh Government to facilitate their intervention in the Appeal being filed by 17 Bhopali plaintiffs in the Second Circuit Court of

Appeals against the unjust dismissal of their plaint seeking environmental remediation and related compensation.

3. Aggressively pursue and expedite the ongoing criminal case against Union Carbide Corporation for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

4. Honour the commitment given to Bhopal survivors on November 15 to file an amended application containing accurate and science-based figures of dead and injured in the ongoing curative petition in the Supreme Court seeking additional compensation from Union Carbide Corporation and Dow Chemical.

Furthermore, we support the demands on all fronts made by Rashida Bi, Nawab Khan, Balkrishna Namdeo, Satinath Sarangi, Rachna Dhingra, and Safreen Khan who represent the local organisations in Bhopal demanding justice (see attachment). We urge the Indian government to make this a matter of national importance and to seek to deliver on the attached demands and/or to facilitate processes that will deliver these demands.

In solidarity and for justice with all those in Bhopal.

In struggle,



S. (Bobby) Peek, groundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa

Organisations that endorse this letter and its demands:

350.org (Africa-Arab Region)

Amigos da Terra Brasil/Friends of the Earth Brazil (Brazil)

Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign - Stop the Wall (Palestine)

Beyond Copenhagen Collective (India)

Diakonia Council of Churches (South Africa)

Federation for a Sustainable Environment (South Africa)

Friends of the Earth Africa

Right to Know Campaign (South Africa)

South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (South Africa)

Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance (South Africa)