

March 22, 2005

The President,
His Hon'ble Abdul Kalam,
President's House,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Dear Hon'ble President,

We, the undersigned, community representatives from (Bhopal) Madhya Pradesh; (Patancheru) Andhra Pradesh; (Eloor) Kerala; Kodaikanal (Tamilnadu); Paradip, (Orissa) and student community of New Delhi, along with Greenpeace India activists, on behalf of thousands of pollution impacted communities of India and their supporters, appeal to you to take action and put in place systems and processes to stop the environmental disaster unfolding in our water- wells, hand-pumps, rivers, ponds, lakes and other water bodies due to uncontrolled release of hazardous industrial chemical waste streams.

1. Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationary Karamchari Sangh, Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha, Bhopal Ki Awaz, Bhopal Group for Information and Action -
We represent thousands of survivors of the Dow- Union Carbide gas disaster and have run a 20 year campaign for provision of piped clean drinking water to the affected communities; for clean-up of the disaster site, for medical and economic rehabilitation of the victims of the disaster and trial of the guilty Dow- Carbide corporation.

2. Ponds Hindustan Lever Ltd.Ex Mercury Employees Welfare Association- We represent the mercury-impacted ex-workers and communities of Kodaikanal who are facing irreversible health and environmental impacts caused by the malpractices at the Unilever's mercury factory in our shola forests, an important water-shed area for the region and are campaigning for economic and medical rehabilitation, and remediation of our pristine forest by the guilty Unilever corporation.

3. Periyar Mallikarana Viruddha Samiti, Jainikiya Vedi, Peoples' Union for Civil Liberties -
We represent the communities residing on river Periyar in Kerala and have been campaigning for to save the river and the health of the residents from the massive release of chemical cocktails from the Eloor-Edayar industrial estate;

4. United Artists' Association, Orissa Traditional Fishworkers Union, Samudram- We represent the fishermen and agricultural communities from Paradip, campaigning to mitigate the impacts of chemical pollution of our waters from corporations including Oswal & Paradip chemicals and against the skewed and unsustainable approach to development due to rapid uncontrolled industrialisation in our state.

5. Patancheru Anti-Pollution Committee, Gandigudam Youth Group – We represent the pollution impacted communities of Medak district of Andhra Pradesh, where our magnificent lakes and our rivers are still being used to release industrial effluents from chemical industries.

6. We for Yamuna - We are students and youth community of New Delhi that is concerned about the environmental disaster unfolding across our national landscape and the irreversible poisoning of water resources.

7. Greenpeace India – We represent our 22,000 supporters in India and over 2.8 million worldwide who believe that “Enough is Enough”- “*Bahut Ho Gaya*”, the pollution of our water resources by criminal corporations and the inability to act against these unsustainable practices by corrupt and inefficient pollution control boards should be stopped. Now.

Our collective campaigns have resulted in clear-cut directives from the Honorable Supreme court, legitimising our long-standing demands. Unfortunately there has been no action from the government in ensuring that these orders are implemented and the pollution of our water, land and air is stopped.

Clearly this cannot go on, our fields lie fallow, there are no fish in the river; the water we drink, the food we eat, the air we breathe are all poisoned, our water is being privatized, there are chemicals racing through our blood, in mother’s breast milk, in the umbilical cord that sustains life. Water, on this World Water day for us is not about river-linking or water-harvesting or lip-service to Saving Water, but about its life-giving quality, purity and abundance. Both of which are threatened irreversibly, in clear violations of our constitutional rights as Indian Citizens.

We are demanding that the Government should take immediate action and

- Provide piped clean drinking water to the communities whose water resources have been polluted.
- Shut down Polluting Factories violating Supreme Court’s directives on Hazardous Waste management (Order and Judgement dated 14 October 2003 in writ petition 687 of 1995)
- Rehabilitate Pollution impacted Workers, Communities and remediate their Environment and ensure that the guilty corporations take full responsibility and bear liability for the costs of the same.
- Revamp the Pollution Control Boards both at the Center and the State level to ensure transparency, rigor and honesty.

Signed

Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationary Karamchari Sangh
Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha
Bhopal Ki Awaz
Bhopal Group for Information and Action
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