

MEDIA ADVISORY

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VIGILS IN AUSTIN AND SEADRIFT TUESDAY EVE LAUNCH U.S. MULTI-CITY SUPPORT CAMPAIGN INCLUDING HUNGER STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS TO SUPPORT NEW DELHI HUNGER STRIKE BY BHOPAL GAS VICTIMS OF UNION CARBIDE ALSO BEGINNING APRIL 11TH

NATIONALLY-KNOWN TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST DIANE WILSON OF SEADRIFT TO PARTICIPATE IN TEXAS AND WASHINGTON DC

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

AUSTIN—8AM THURSDAY APRIL 13, DIANE WILSON WILL JOIN DEMONSTRATORS IN AUSTIN TO BEGIN HER INDEFINITE HUNGER STRIKE. She will be in the West Mall area of The University of Texas at Austin campus from 8AM till 6PM.

Last month, Wilson—author of the book Unreasonable Woman about her 25 years protesting environmental pollution of Union Carbide and Dow - completed 150 days in a Texas jail for hanging a "Justice for Bhopal" banner in 2002 off a tower at Dow Chemical's plant in Seadrift, Texas. In 2002, Diane went on a 28-day fast along with Bhopal survivors and managed to mobilize more than 1000 people to fast in solidarity. The Government of India was forced to accede to the Bhopali demands.

TUESDAY APRIL 11

AUSTIN—Supporters, many of them Indians living and studying in Austin, will gather at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 11 at the West Mall on the University of Texas-Austin campus in support of the group of 6 Bhopal Disaster survivors and advocates beginning an indefinite fast in New Delhi, India.

SEADRIFT—7:30 P.M. Tuesday, April 11th nationally known environmental activist Diane Wilson will hold a candlelight vigil in front of the Dow Chemical Union Carbide plant in her hometown (Seadrift, Texas), a plant that has contributed to the destruction of Lavaca Bay and her livelihood as a fisherwoman.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

AUSTIN, SEATTLE , BOSTON, WASHINGTON DC EARTH DAY and many more cities will host public hunger fasts for 24 to 48 hours in central city locations to mark the 10th day of hunger fasting in Bhopal and call attention to the Bhopal survivor's cause.

Bhopal victims launch indefinite fast in New Delhi Tuesday April 11th

NEW DELHI, INDIA -- Six people, including three Bhopal victims of the Union Carbide and three supporters, begin an indefinite fast resolving to end it only when the Indian Government addresses their long-standing charter of six demands. They seek a meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss their demands.

The Bhopalis are demanding clean water (to replace the water supply in Bhopal contaminated by the Union Carbide pesticide plant effectively abandoned since 1984), clean up of contamination, a government coordinating agency with power and finances to implement medical and economic rehabilitation programs, setting up of a special prosecution cell to pursue the criminal case against Union Carbide and Warren Anderson among others, and memorializing the disaster by including the Bhopal story in the educational curricula of schools and colleges.

In 1984, the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India leaked toxic gas killing some 8,000 people on the night of Dec. 3d and leaving some 200,000 others chronically disabled to this day. Many children born in the 21 years since the disaster have chronic medical problems and some are severely neurologically damaged. 20,000 Bhopalis are forced to drink water poisoned with mercury, cadmium and pesticides.

Pressure from the survivors has already blocked a \$1.5 million deal http://www.bhopal.net/blog_pr/archives/2005/07/carbide_legacy.html between Indian Oil and Dow Chemical in July 2005.

The US support campaign, a project of the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal—with many active chapters of Students for Bhopal <http://www.studentsforbhopal.org/> and Association for India's Development (AID) <http://sahyadri.aidindia.org/> include massive fax and email actions and vigils targeting the Indian embassies and government. Already more than 2200 faxes have been sent to the Indian Prime Minister.

"The Bhopalis are starving themselves because their government has condemned them to a living death," said Ryan Bodanyi, Coordinator of Students for Bhopal, an international group supporting the survivors. "The fact that these people – many of them sickened already by Carbide's poisons –walked 500 miles and are fasting indefinitely for their human and legal rights is appalling. It's sad that the Prime Minister of India, a country with a long and proud history, is putting the basic needs of his people behind those of the company that poisoned and killed them."

Already, nearly a 100 hunger strikers have signed on via www.bhopal.net <http://www.bhopal.net/> from India, UK, US, Singapore, Spain, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore and Canada. In India, solidarity protests targeting the unyielding UPA Government are being held in four places in Tamilnadu, in Trivandrum, Pune, Mumbai, Kolkata and Vizag.