

URGENT ACTION

INDIAN AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS

On 16 and 21 July, villagers who are under threat from forcible evictions in Govindpur village, Jagatsinghpur district, Orissa state, India, carried out further peaceful protests. Nine people were injured as police charges at protestors with batons twice. India's National Human Rights Commission has asked for a detailed report on violations committed against the protestors since June.

Nine people, including seven women, sustained injuries as police charged at peaceful protestors twice on 16 and 21 July. Awareness is growing about the protests of the villagers and India's National Human Rights Commission has asked for a detailed report from the Orissa authorities to be submitted to them before 27 July. The report is to examine the human rights violations that have been committed against the protestors against land acquisition since the recent round of protests commenced in June (please see our previous Urgent Action for details <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/028/2011/en>).

Also, the Orissa high court has completed hearings of petitions filed by protesting villages against acquisition of common lands in Dinkia and Govindpur.

Please continue to write to the authorities in English or your own language:

- Urge the authorities to stop all forced evictions in Jagatsinghpur district and to ensure that any evictions are carried out in accordance with international human rights standards, including genuine consultation to identify alternatives to evictions, due process safeguards and the provision of adequate compensation and adequate alternative land for farming;
- Urging them to provide all the families who were forcibly evicted with access to effective remedies;
- Calling on them to put measures in place to ensure that the authorities carry out a comprehensive human rights and environmental impact assessment of the POSCO project, in consultation with the local communities;
- Asking them to ensure that no work begins on the project until these steps are taken and the communities' human rights are protected

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO:

Prime Minister
Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister's Office
152, South Block, New Delhi 110 001, India
Email: manmohan@sansad.nic.in
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Chief Minister of Orissa
Naveen Patnaik
Naveen Nivas
Aerodrome Road
Bhubaneswar 751001, India
Email: cmo@ori.nic.in
Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 147/11. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/028/2011/en>

Name: Villages of Jagatsinghpur district in Orissa state
Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 147/11 Index: ASA 20/038/2011 Issue Date: 22 July 2011

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