

India has made big strides forward both politically and economically in recent years. As the world's largest democracy, India's Constitution guarantees human rights for all its citizens and many Indians have been lifted out of extreme poverty. Yet millions more still lack full protection of their rights and are struggling to survive.

Invest in a brighter future

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Human rights, based on dignity, equality and respect, are universally embraced as essential in creating secure, democratic societies. A wide range of human rights issues – from political participation, to health, freedom of religion and expression, access to education and non-discrimination are the building blocks for a stable environment in which economies can grow with sustainable markets and a “level playing field” of opportunity.

Your support will fund change in the lives of millions of Indians.

Indigenous people and the marginalized

Although India has passed legislation to prohibit discrimination against minorities and other vulnerable groups, in reality discrimination on grounds of gender, caste, ethnicity and religion persists.

We track developments affecting the Adivasis in Orissa and other areas of central and eastern India, supporting local groups to claim their rights under international law.

We are monitoring corporations around the globe to build a case for stronger international regulation that will support national legislation in India and hold companies to account.

Our research into plans by Vedanta Resources PLC to build an alumina refinery and bauxite mine in Orissa exposed human rights abuses and violations of Indian law. The research is now a cornerstone for local campaigns to stop the UK-based company destroying the environment and the lives and livelihoods of local Adivasi communities.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

For 40 years, Amnesty International supporting and working with local organizations and human rights activists in India to lend its global influence.



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Human rights defenders

An India based on social justice and equality depends largely on the efforts of human rights defenders who are working on behalf of the poor and marginalized. We continue to protect human rights defenders, who brave intimidation, harassment, detention and arrest to further the rights of others.

No security without human rights

Human rights violations routinely occur during armed insurgency and those who commit these crimes often act with impunity, without consequences.

Working with Indian lawyers and other groups, we contribute an international analysis of India's security laws. For example, hundreds of people across India are being held under legislation that allows the state to imprison someone to "prevent" them committing a crime. These vague laws are being increasingly used to detain leaders of social movements, peaceful human rights defenders and political opponents. We identify international standards to support the campaigns of local activists working to improve and enforce national laws.

We supported local groups lobbying for the release of Dr Binayak Sen, a public health practitioner who had been sentenced to life imprisonment in a trial that failed to meet international standards. Dr Binayak Sen, who had been providing health care to poor communities in Chattisgarh state, had been outspoken about human rights violations during government security operations in the area. He was released on bail on 15 April 2011.

“India’s future lies in being an open society, an open polity, a functioning democracy – respecting all fundamental human freedoms, accepting the rule of law and, at the same time, to emerge as a successful, internationally competitive market economy.”

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister

Survivors of the Union Carbide factory leak at a vigil on the 25th anniversary of the disaster at Shahjahania garden, Bhopal. (December 2009)

© Indranil Mukherjee/AFP/Getty Images

Human rights – the key to development

Underlying the new position of India as a global influence is an expectation that international mechanisms for human rights will be upheld and internal legal systems strengthened. By protecting the rights of all its citizens, India can become a shining model of development on the international stage.

When 40 tonnes of lethal gas leaked from Union Carbide’s pesticide factory in Bhopal in December 1984, more than 3,000 people were killed. In the years that followed another 15,000 died. Despite an order by the Madhya Pradesh High Court to clean up the site, the government has not yet complied. We are supporting victims to fight their cases through the courts.

Please support Amnesty International in India

India boasts a solid civil society and a healthy tradition of critical journalism and social and political activism. Together, with your help, we can do much more.

**Amnesty International (India)
Foundation
D41 Defence Colony
New Delhi 110024**

(Registered as a public charitable trust.
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Please send contributions to:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
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Front cover: Children running down the main street, Kathputli Colony, northwest Delhi. (August 2008)

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ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of more than 3 million people who campaign in over 150 countries and territories for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected for everyone. Amnesty International is an autonomous organization, independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion.

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