

AI Index: ASA 20/101/2004

Dear Mr Liveris,

I am very concerned about the devastating consequences to the health of the communities of Bhopal, India, posed by Union Carbide's disused pesticide factory.

For more than 30 years the Bhopal plant has been a source of environmental pollution. After the disaster in 1984, which killed thousands of people, Union Carbide abandoned the factory without decontaminating the site and left behind large amounts of toxic waste. Stockpiles of contaminants continue to pollute the water and soil, on which entire communities rely, affecting the health of those living in the area.

According to numerous reports, contaminants have been found in vegetables grown near the plant and in breast milk samples taken from women in Bhopal. Water has been found to be unfit for consumption but, in the absence of any other source, most local people continue to drink it. The company has never done anything meaningful to clean up the site.

I therefore urge you:

- to ensure that the Bhopal factory site and its surroundings are promptly and effectively decontaminated, that the groundwater is cleaned up, and that the stockpiles of toxic and hazardous substances left by the company when they abandoned the site are removed;
- to co-operate fully with those assessing the nature and extent of the damage to health and the environment caused by improper waste disposal and contaminants at the abandoned factory site;
- to ensure that Dow Chemicals promptly provide full reparations, restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for the continuing damage done to people's health and the environment by the ongoing contamination of the site.

Name:

Country:

To: ANDREW N. LIVERIS  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dow Chemical Co  
2030 Dow Center  
Midland, MI 48674  
U.S.A.

A young protester outside the Dow headquarters in Mumbai, India, 2002. ©Maude Dorr

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