

**WORLDWIDE
RELAY HUNGER
STRIKE FOR
JUSTICE AND
DIGNITY IN
BHOPAL**
June 10, 2008 - ???
TOOLKIT



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Introduction

Welcome! Thank you for taking the first step towards organizing an effective and successful solidarity fast event.

The Hunger Strike Relay Toolkit is designed to help you organize the most effective fast or group of fasts you can possibly plan. We hope using this toolkit will make it easier for you to raise awareness and generate the most amount of action in support of the Bhopal survivors as you can.

Make sure that you have signed up at www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html. There, you will also be able to add daily entries to your personal fasting statement. And please upload photos of your fast (use the fun speech bubbles in this toolkit) onto the flickr account – Username: bhopaldisaster@yahoo.com, password: 1984nomore.

The Goals of the Hunger Strike Relay are:

- 1) **Generating action for Bhopal**
- 2) **Raising awareness about Bhopal**
- 3) **Getting as many people to fast in solidarity as possible.**

To generate as much awareness as possible, if you are able to fast or protest outside a consulate or in a major public place, please do so. Further, if it makes sense to coordinate your actions on Saturday June 14th or Saturday June 21st, please do, so we can make all of our events more newsworthy by clubbing them together into a “Day of Action.”

REGARDLESS OF WHEN you plan to do a public event, please email afreechild@environmentalhealthfund.org to let us know you are planning an action. This allows us to accurately report what we are doing to the press and facilitates organizing.

The difference between victory and many more years of suffering in Bhopal is made by the actions of a few individuals to step up and coordinate an event like this. By leading a public action, we refuse to allow the implicit endorsement of corporate crime and injustice that abandonment of the Bhopal survivors implies.

Health Information

Before fasting, consult your doctor. Do not fast if it would damage or cause any risk to your health. Fast at your own risk.

Fasting for short periods has several health benefits. Read about them here <http://www.healthpromoting.com/Articles/articles/benefit.htm>.

A good article about the pros and cons of fasting. Read it [here](http://www.steadyhealth.com/articles/Fasting_Pro Pros_and_Cons_a139_f0.html) http://www.steadyhealth.com/articles/Fasting_Pro Pros_and_Cons_a139_f0.html.

You can prepare for your fast by eating only fruit and steamed vegetables for couple of days prior to fasting. On the day(s) of the hunger strike, you can start the day by drinking a glass of lime juice (no sugar) with three to four teaspoons of honey. End the day with a similar glass of lime juice.

PLEASE DRINK plenty of water through the day, and electrolytes at some time during the day.

Even moderate activity during a water-only fast can double energy use. Allowable quiet activities include reading, listening to music, and watching videos.

Avoid smoking during the fast. Don't take any alcohol.

Break your fast gently, with fruit juice. Eat light meals, soup, dal, fruit, steamed vegetables, etc, until your body is ready to receive more solid food.

There is a good article about the medical benefits obtained by water-only fasting under medical supervision: <http://www.healthpromoting.com/335-339Goldhamer115263.QXD.pdf>.

Dear Friends and Family,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to fast for ___ hours/days in solidarity with the survivors of the Bhopal gas disaster. After marching more than 500 miles from Bhopal to Delhi, these survivors, ranging from 6 year old Nagma to eighty-plus year old Gulabo Bai, have been sitting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi for over 70 days now, braving dust storms and heavy rainfall.

The survivors asked for a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh long before they began their march to Delhi. They are demanding the formation of a Special Commission on Bhopal, and for legal action to be taken against Dow Chemical Company, the company liable for the ongoing disasters in Bhopal. Despite having made their plea public, the Prime Minister remains deaf to their needs. As a result, nine of the survivors and supporters began an indefinite hunger strike in Delhi on June 10. You can read more about the march, sit-in, and campaign at www.bhopal.net.

I am joined the International Hunger Strike Relay. To show my support, I will be fasting for ___ hours/days.

I am doing my part to express my support with the survivors. I am writing to ask you to help in whatever capacity possible. **Here are some of the ways that you could support me and the Bhopal Survivors:**

1. **Join the International Hunger Fast** and sign up to fast for a day or more at <http://www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html>.
2. **Donate to the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal.** Please send the money that you would spend on a day's worth of food to support the Bhopalis' struggle by going to <http://www.panna.org/system/onlineDonationBhopal.html>
3. **Send an online fax to the Prime Minister's office** at http://www.boston4bhopal.org/write_fax.php.
4. Call the Prime Minister's office to express your disappointment in the leaders that are supposed to help us at +91-11- 230-189-39 or +91-11-2301-1166. If you need a calling card (US+Canada) Dial: 1 800 745 4065; Enter PIN: 865 184 7979
5. Spread the word - awareness is the first step - action follows.

If you have any questions, feel free to let me know. You can always visit www.bhopal.net for more information.

Thank you,

Yourname

ACTION ALERT FOR LISTSERVS

Subj line: **Bhopal Survivors begin Hunger strike - URGENT HELP NEEDED!**

JOIN THE GLOBAL RELAY HUNGER STRIKE - FOR JUSTICE IN BHOPAL 10 June, 2008 to -----?

SIGN-UP NOW TO FAST FOR A DAY OR MORE – www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html

SEND A FAX TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA - http://www.boston4bhopal.org/write_fax.php

Nine Bhopal activists, including supporters, survivors of the 1984 Union Carbide disaster and victims of water contamination, **have begun an indefinite fast in Delhi starting noon today (10 June)**. Booker Prize -shortlisted author Indra Sinha will join them and fast from his residence in France. This extreme step is being taken after numerous attempts to gain the attention of the Prime Minister to the grave situation in Bhopal failed.

JOIN THE GLOBAL HUNGER STRIKE RELAY TODAY! Register your email to make the biggest impact, we'll send you a **kit with letters for friends and family** to explain your fast, **fax action sign up sheet** and **handouts** to explain what you are doing. If at all possible plan to spend part of your fast in a public venue, where you can collect signatures and **raise awareness! Sign up at <http://www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html>.**



Since February 20, 2008 -- when 50 Bhopalis set off on foot to cover the 500 miles from Bhopal to New Delhi -- Bhopal survivor organisations have faced numerous hardships to achieve their demands for a Special Commission for rehabilitation in Bhopal and for legal action against Dow Chemical and Union Carbide. Last month, the PM conveyed his “in-principle” agreement to a commission. But neither details nor timelines were provided. And nothing was said on the matter of legal action against Dow and Carbide.

The Bhopalis have been once again pushed into a hunger strike. **In this important hour of our struggle, we need your solidarity and participation.** If you are in Delhi, please join us for a day or more at our camp near Jantar Mantar. **If you are elsewhere, please join the hunger strike by signing on the following page www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html.**

Send this to friends and family who may not have heard about Bhopal:



Rupesh's mother was gas exposed and his family relied on the poisoned well water in Bhopal for several years. He was born with cerebral palsy, which is all too common in Bhopal, and died this spring just before his 10th birthday.

The Indian Government is denying basic human rights to the children of Bhopal, the survivors of the world's worst industrial disaster and among the worst of corporate crimes.



In Bhopal, Union Carbide began poisoning the water in 1982, the Government looked the other way.



After gassing more than 12,000 within a few days in 1984, Carbide fled India and refused to show up in Criminal Court. The government has not reissued an extradition request for the company or its CEO in four years. Thousands continued to die in Bhopal.



Dow bought Carbide, but is avoiding the toxic waste in Bhopal and the Indian courts, preferring to talk to the Prime Minister's Office.



In 2006, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh promised to meet the welfare needs of the survivors and follow all legal avenues to hold Dow Chemical accountable.



25,000 people are drinking that poisoned water today. Dow Chemical Corporation has still not shown up in court.

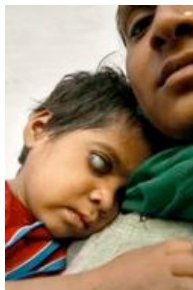


After walking 500 miles, and sitting on the pavement for over 70 days the Bhopali's including children as young as 6 were beaten.



Nine Bhopal survivors began an indefinite hunger fast on Tuesday, June 10th.

THEY NEED YOUR HELP.



Sarmil was born blind and growth retarded, to parents drinking Dow/Carbide's poisoned water. She is tiny for her 6 years and intelligent.

For the child being poisoned in Bhopal today, we must stop this denial of the right to basic clean water, health care and justice.

Please forward this message to your friends and family.

JOIN THE GLOBAL HUNGER STRIKE RELAY TODAY!

Register your email to make the biggest impact, we'll send you a **kit with letters for friends and family** to explain your fast, **fax action sign up sheet** and **handouts** to explain what you are doing. If at all possible plan to spend part of your fast in a public venue, where you can collect signatures and raise awareness – **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!**

www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html

SEND A FAX TO THE PRIME MINISTER:http://www.boston4bhopal.org/write_fax.php

CALL THE PRIME MINISTER and ask him to meet with the Bhopali's and give clear commitments to meet the Survivor's demands for clean water, health care and justice with deadlines, funding and legislation.

+ 91-11- 230-189-39 or +91-112301-1166

If you need a calling card (US+Canada) Dial: 1 800 745 4065 Enter PIN: 865 184 7979

DEMANDS

-
1. Set up a Commission to oversee economic, social and medical rehabilitation, environmental remediation and provision of clean drinking water.
 2. Take legal action against Dow Chemical and Union Carbide, including:
 - (a) Pursue the Ministry of Chemicals' application seeking money for toxic clean up in Bhopal from Dow Chemical
 - (b) Revoke approval given to Reliance for purchase of Union Carbide's Unipol technology
 - (c) Cancel registration for all four pesticides, including Dursban, obtained by bribing Agriculture Ministry officials
 - (d) Extradite Warren Anderson and produce the legal representative of Union Carbide in India to face trial.

The survivors have marched
500 miles, for 35 days
for basic needs and justice
their birthrights, denied to them
by criminals, and the silent majority

For more information, please visit www.bhopal.net

Action Planning Checklist

Make sure that you've signed up for the fast at <http://www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html>, and email afreechild@environmentalhealthfund.org for more ideas and to let us know what you're planning. The following is a helpful checklist, of some of the things you should do before, during, and after a public event.

AS EARLY AS YOU CAN

- Choose your site, date, and time for the event.
- Discuss and decide what message and image you want to create and what elements can create that.
- Set a specific meeting-place for the event.
- Speak at meeting, table at events, call allies, and generate lists of interested volunteers
- Call social justice and other interested groups in the area and invite them.
- Find supporters online in your area on meetup.com, facebook.com, etc...
- Send out an invitation to e-mail lists.
- Have an action-planning party.
- Make all props and prepare materials like signs, speech bubbles, etc.

THE WEEK BEFORE

- Call those who said they were interested and ask them to attend your event.
- Create visibility around your event by postering and chalking.
- Finalize specific roles such as media spokesperson, chant leader, mcee, props manager, etc.

TWO DAYS BEFORE

- Call and confirm all the people who said they'd be there.
- Coordinate transportation to and from event.
- DO A SITE CHECK! Scout out the area and determine where people should park, stand, where signs should be held, etc.
- Develop a back-up plan in case of unexpected problems for your action, such as if you get kicked off the site.
- Finalize your own program and schedule.
 - Are you petitioning for the entire time? Do you have any drummers to add music to the event?
 - Do you have a press conference planned? Have you rehearsed your skits? Whatever it is—decide what you're doing, and tell people when they arrive.
- Print out chants so all can be involved.

THE DAY OF THE ACTION

- Have enough petition to sign/materials to hand out (at least 200-250, depending on how busy the area is).
- Bring clipboards for petitions.
 - If you don't have enough or any clipboards, then bring pieces of cardboard with rubber bands wrapped around them – they work just as well.
- Have water, sunscreen and anything else you'll need to be safe and comfortable.

AFTER THE EVENT

- Send details and pictures to us right at <http://www.bhopal.net/2008hungerstrike.html> so we can get them up on the website to maximize the action's impact.
- Write letters to and call the Prime Minister's office, telling them all about your event.
- Submit Letters to the Editor and Opinion-Editorials in your local paper about your event.

MEDIA Checklist:

AS SOON AS YOU CAN

- Make or get a media outlet list for your area
For TV and Radio, all you need is the main switchboard number. For print, go for the environmental reporter or assignment desk.
- Prepare media advisory and press release – you can use the sample advisory and release in this toolkit.

TWO DAYS BEFORE EVENT

- Call reporters about the event, and email/fax the advisory.
In your phone calls, you'll have about 30 seconds to tell them the WHO-WHAT-WHEN-WHERE-WHY of the event, and check their email address or fax number to send them your advisory. Call back to make sure they received it. Ask them if they are planning to cover the event; try to get a commitment. Don't get discouraged, they probably won't commit!
- Call the AP and get the event in their "Daybook"
The Associated Press of your state circulates to all the media outlets in your area a schedule of events for each day. Find their number in the phone book or information, and tell them you have an event for the daybook. Fax or email them your media advisory and call to follow-up.
- Prepare press packets
Include your media advisory, press release, and fact sheets. This packet should be distributed to the press at your event.
- Designate a media liaison and greeters, and have a set of people prepared to deliver the message to any reporters that come. Practice fielding questions from the media and role-play sound bites and answers.

MORNING OF ACTION

- Call through media contacts once again. Email and fax reporters your press advisory. Try to get a commitment that they will attend.
- Bring press packets and a sign-in sheet for reporters who attend

AFTER THE ACTION

- After your event, and follow up with all reporters who attended the event. Make sure they have all of the materials they need. If you took digital pictures, offer to e-mail them the pictures. Use this time to thank the reporter and build a relationship with the reporter.
- Upload your pictures on Bhopal.net
- Post your event to your local Indymedia website.
- Look for coverage of your event on the news or in newspapers. Record and clip articles.
Contact reporters who covered the event to thank them.
- Write Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

PRESS ADVISORY

[Organization's Name] International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal

Contacts: [Name, title, organization, phone number, email]

Title: SOLIDARITY HUNGER FAST IN [TOWN] TO SUPPORT BHOPAL GAS SURVIVORS

Subtitle: Activists in [town] join International Hunger Fast Relay to support Bhopal gas disaster survivors who are on indefinite fast in New Delhi.

When: [Date and Time]

Where: [Location including address]

Who: [name of organizations involved, and general – for example: AID chapter, Students for Bhopal, and concerned local citizens]

What: [Short description of your event – for example: Protest with a diverse group of Bhopal supporters, including 4 who will be fasting for the day, chants, and great visuals, including graphic posters.]

Why: In February Bhopal survivors walked 500 miles from Bhopal to Delhi to demand the right to live free of chemical poisons and to demand justice for their families. They are drinking water laden with poison and their children are being born with horrific birth defects. They have been sitting in the heat for over 70 days, building international solidarity and political support for their cause. Because the Indian government has not properly responded to their demands, nine Bhopal survivors recently began an indefinitely hunger strike, and will be fasting until the government agrees to all of their demands. This is one of hundreds of International solidarity actions.

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, June 11, 2008

[Organization's Name] International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal

Contacts: [Name, title, organization, phone number, email]

Title: SOLIDARITY HUNGER FAST IN [TOWN] TO SUPPORT BHOPAL GAS SURVIVORS

Subtitle: Activists in [town] join International Hunger Fast Relay to support Bhopal gas disaster survivors who are on indefinite fast in New Delhi.

[Location]: Activists in [town] joined the Global Hunger Strike Relay today by having a public fasting event at [address of action]. [ADD DETAILS OF YOUR EVENT INCLUDING WHO WAS THERE, WHAT HAPPENED, ETC]

Activists in [town] have joined the Global Relay, which is being supported by hundreds of activists many countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada and India. Actions are being planned in cities across the US, from Boston to San Francisco.

Activists participating in the Global Relay are in solidarity with the nine activists, including supporters and survivors of the ongoing disasters in Bhopal, who began an indefinite fast Tuesday in Delhi. Author Indra Sinha, a 2007 Booker Prize finalist, has joined the indefinite fast from his home in France. The brave yet perilous decision to begin an indefinite fast has been undertaken only after numerous unsuccessful attempts to focus the attention of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh toward the grave situation in Bhopal.

QUOTE FROM YOUR CONTACT PERSON, FOR EXAMPLE: "We extend unwavering support to the survivors who are bravely standing up to the oppressive force of India's government," said NAME from ORGANIZATION, "These global actions display tremendous unity toward the common end of justice in Bhopal."

Survivors are demanding the establishment of a special commission to deal with the issues that still plague the people of Bhopal. They are also demanding that the Prime Minister hold Dow Chemical legally liable, following Dow's purchase of the initial disaster offender, Union Carbide, in 2001. Though survivors have gained support from many influential lawmakers, as well as the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the Prime Minister Singh has not budged from his ongoing support of this rogue chemical company.

Nearly half a million people were exposed to poisonous methyl isocyanate during a runaway chemical reaction at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal on December 3rd, 1984. Since then, more than 22,000 people have died and 150,000 survivors continue to be chronically ill, as the Indian government and Dow have repeatedly failed to address their liabilities in the atrocities of the world's worst industrial disaster.

To view who has signed up for the fast worldwide, visit www.bhopal.net/2008hungerfast.html.
www.bhopal.net · www.studentsforbhopal.org · www.thetruthaboutdow.org

I'm Fasting Today for Justice & Human Rights in Bhopal, India

You can help by sending a free fax and/or making a donation at www.BHOPAL.net





**I am Fasting
for Justice
in Bhopal**



**Prime
Minister:
Walk your
Talk**

<p style="text-align: center;">Students for Bhopal Support Bhopalis on the Hunger Strike</p> <p><i>Call the Indian Prime Minister's Office expressing your anger at the Prime Minister's response to Bhopalis.</i></p> <p>If you need a calling card , here is a number and the pin: Dial: 1 800 745 4065 Enter PIN: 865 184 7979</p> <p>Prime Minister Office's Contact Numbers: 011 91 11 2301 1156 011 91 11 2301 2312</p> <p>Talking Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bhopalis have been forced to go a 3rd hunger strike in 3 years 2. We urge Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to meet with Bhopali survivors as soon as possible 3. Campaign Demands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Provision of clean water, and medical care (b) Social and Economic Rehabilitation (c) Pursue the Ministry of Chemicals' application seeking money for toxic clean up in Bhopal from Dow Chemical (d) Revoke approval given to Reliance for purchase of Union Carbide's Unipol technology (e) Cancel registration for all four pesticides, including Dursban, obtained by bribing Agriculture Ministry officials 	<p style="text-align: center;">Students for Bhopal Support Bhopalis on the Hunger Strike</p> <p><i>Call the Indian Prime Minister's Office expressing your anger at the Prime Minister's response to Bhopalis.</i></p> <p>If you need a calling card , here is a number and the pin: Dial: 1 800 745 4065 Enter PIN: 865 184 7979</p> <p>Prime Minister Office's Contact Numbers: 011 91 11 2301 1156 011 91 11 2301 2312</p> <p>Talking Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Bhopalis have been forced to go a 3rd hunger strike in 3 years 4. We urge Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to meet with Bhopali survivors as soon as possible 3. Campaign Demands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Provision of clean water, and medical care (b) Social and Economic Rehabilitation (c) Pursue the Ministry of Chemicals' application seeking money for toxic clean up in Bhopal from Dow Chemical (d) Revoke approval given to Reliance for purchase of Union Carbide's Unipol technology (e) Cancel registration for all four pesticides, including Dursban, obtained by bribing Agriculture Ministry officials
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