



BURIAL OF AN UNKNOWN CHILD

This unknown child has become the icon of the world's worst industrial disaster, caused by the U.S. chemical company, Union Carbide, now Dow Chemical. No one knows his parents, and no one has come forward to 'claim' this photograph.



THE MORNING AFTER

Survivors of the disaster from the nearby Jayaprakash Nagar colony in front of the Union Carbide factory the day after it leaked 40 tons of toxic gas into the city. Their eyes and lungs have been badly damaged by exposure to the gas.



BURIAL OF YOUNG LEELA

This victim was identified as Leela who lived in the Chola colony near the Union Carbide factory. Had her body not been recognized and claimed, she would have joined thousands of others on the mass cremation pyres.



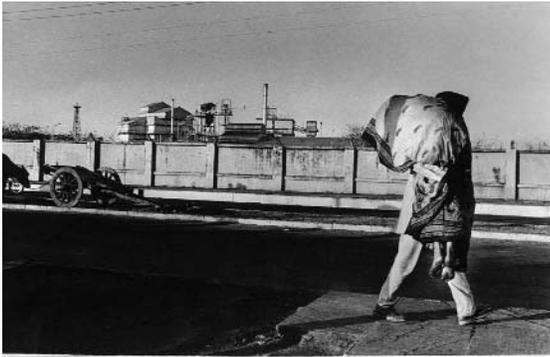
BHOPAL, INDIA

On the night of December 2/3, 1984, 40 tons of lethal gases leaked from Union Carbide Corporation's pesticide factory. Within the first three days, 8,000 people died as a result of exposure.



LONE SURVIVOR

This elderly woman was badly injured when exposed to the poisonous gas, but survived. Everyone else in her family died. Suffering from her injuries, she has an uncertain future.



MAN CARRYING HIS DEAD WIFE

A man carries the body of his wife past the deserted Union Carbide factory, the source of the toxic gas that killed her the night before.



HAMIDIA HOSPITAL

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, thousands of sick children who had been exposed to the gas were brought to the state government-run Hamidia Hospital, their parents too ill to take care of them properly.



MASS CREMATIONS

Mass cremations were held alongside the communal graves. "The bodies were strewn all over and the stench of death was overpowering" recalls 76-year old Amar Chand Ajmera, a social worker. "The dead were brought to the cremation grounds in heap after heap, loaded in a pick-up vans. We did not have enough fire-wood to burn separate pyres. I remember, we cremated



ZUBEDA BI

An estimated 20,000 people have died and tens of thousands have lived with debilitating illnesses since the gas leak. A week after this picture was taken in January 2002, Zubeda Bi died. She lost all her relatives in the disaster and lived in an out-building of someone's house in the Chola colony, where she was affectionately known as "Amma" (mother).



REHANA BI AND HER SON

Rehana Bi has carefully preserved the picture of her with bandages around her eyes that appeared in an international magazine after the disaster. The eyes of her son, Chand, then a year old, were also damaged.



MASKED PROTEST

After the disaster, the Indian Council of Medical Research, reportedly conducted scientific research into the effects of the toxic gas, but none of the results have ever been published. Union Carbide and its new owner, Dow Chemical, also refuse to release information about the gas composition or its effects on human health, making it difficult for doctors to treat the sick.



JAMILA BI AND SHAHEJAHAN

Jamila Bi and her friend Shahejahan work in a stationary center run for gas victims by the state government. Neither is married. "No one wants to marry a sick gas-victim girl," says Aliya Bi.



GRIEVING FATHER

Mohammad Khan in the cemetery where his son, who was exposed to the gas, is buried. He is a daily visitor. "Here lies my son," he says, pointing to his heart. "I spent everything I had on his treatment. One day the doctors asked me to take him home, and the next day he died."



PROTEST

There is no official memorial to the 20,000 people that have died or the tens of thousands that have lived with debilitating illnesses in the years since the disaster.

This statue of a mother and child by Ruth Watermann stands by the gate of the abandoned Union Carbide factory.



SACKS FULL OF SKULLS

Skulls discarded after research at the Hamidia Hospital. Medical experts believe that the Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas inhaled by the people of Bhopal may have affected the brain.



THE DEATH DOCTOR

"I must have performed more than 20,000 autopsies so far. No relative of a gas victim can get a compensation claim for a death without my certificate. It has been a nightmarish experience. Especially those initial first days, when we hardly came out of the morgue," says Dr. Sathpathy, the forensic expert at the state government's Hamidia Hospital, the only one functioning on the night of the disaster.



INSIDE THE ABANDONED UNION CARBIDE COMPOUND

Union Carbide abandoned its factory after the disaster, leaving hundreds of tons of toxic waste on the site. Until mid-2001, the factory grounds were inaccessible without special permission from the government. Now the perimeter walls are broken and local children play in the area, which remains dangerously contaminated. The deadly gas storage tank #610 that exploded on the night of the disaster – retained as evidence for the ongoing criminal case



LIVING WITH CONTAMINATED WATER

Studies conducted by Greenpeace found contamination in the soil and groundwater at the Union Carbide factory, as well as stockpiles of abandoned toxic waste. Hundreds of people, such as these residents of the Ayub Nagar colony, behind the factory, still drink and was with the contaminated groundwater.



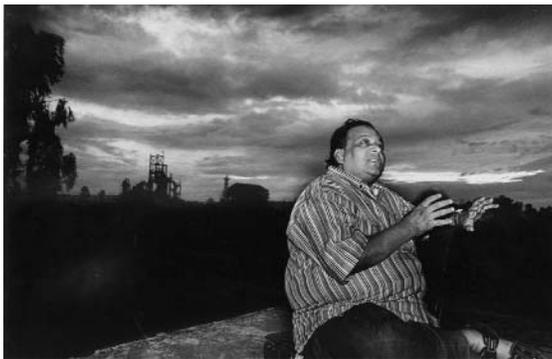
GAS DEVI

Born on the day the toxic gas swept across the city, this girl was named Gas Devi – 'gas goddess' – by her parents.



WIDOWS COLONY

These widows of Bhopal live in one-room tenements in a separate widow's colony on the outskirts of the city. The colony was built by the state government for women who had lost their husbands and relatives in the disaster.



SHAKEEL QUERESHI

Shakeel Quereshi was the shift in-charge at the Union Carbide factory on the night of December 2/3, 1984. "I am one of the witnesses as well as accused in this case. The disaster unfolded before my eyes."



HEART SURGERY AT 18

Mohammad Rehan (18) was just a year old when he was exposed to the toxic gas. He has undergone two heart surgeries and doctors say that his lungs are severely damaged. "We know that the chances of his leading a normal life are slim," says his father.



DR. RASHMI JHA

Dr. Rashmi Jha treats victims of the Bhopal disaster at a clinic she has set up in her home. Her eyes were injured by the gas. "Almost 80 percent of my lungs are also damaged," she says.



THE SHRINKING GIRL

"We have seen her simply shrinking in front of our eyes. Her distraught mother had locked her in the house and gone in search of her other children, never to return. In the chaos and confusion that followed the disaster, she remained locked for three days, and though she did survive the trauma and shock, she has been simply wasting away since then," says Alia Bi about her niece Rehana.



DEVCHAND

Devchand (65) lives opposite the Union Carbide factory. For him to move out of his house into the sunshine is a difficult task. The poisonous gas he inhaled has left him debilitated forever.



MOHAMMAD ARIF

Mohammad Arif has a sick heart and damaged lungs which provoke violent coughing fits that rack his fragile body. Doctors say he has pulmonary fibrosis, a condition that can only be cured by replacing his lungs.



HASAN ALI AND HIS DAUGHTERS

Hasan Ali has seven grown-up daughters. "Our education has suffered because of our father's illness, and the fact that we too have been ill at different times. Because of this, there are several problems related to our marriages," says Kishwar, one of the seven daughters.



DEMONSTRATION BY BHOPAL SURVIVORS, NEW DELHI 2001

Elderly woman with poster draws attention to the contrast between efforts to find Osama bin Laden and those to extradite Warren Anderson, former chief executive of Union Carbide. Anderson is evading justice in the United States and wanted by Interpol for crimes in Bhopal.



GINNORI PRIMARY UNIT

"More than 400 outpatients come here for treatment every day, and there are seven such centers in Bhopal. In case of any serious problems they are referred to the main hospital," says Dr. Sharmila Correra, the chief at the Ginnori primary unit run by the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Center.



ZUBEDA BI

Before she died, Zubeda Bi recalled the night of the gas leak: "We couldn't see anything and were coughing. My grandson was one year old then. I put him on my chest as much as was possible. But his face swelled to twice its size, his eyes were puffed tight. About an hour after I first felt the gas, we left the house. The streets were full of corpses."