

# National Alliance Of People's Movements

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Press Release

10.Dec 2006

- **Human Rights day- not for celebrations but for rejuvenating struggles.**
- **Most serious threat to our Human Rights from the State.**
- **Yes to Human Rights, NO to Displacement.**

This is no time to celebrate Human Rights Day. When the State, usurping people's resources, transferring those in the most crude and cruel way, to the giant corporate is on one hand impoverishing the resource- rich, more or less self reliant communities of farmers, fisher people, also artisans and other workers, poor yet self employed hawkers and small traders in the urban areas... it can't be looked forward to, cannot be begged at, nor can be relied upon to grant us, the 'citizen human beings' our basic rights to life, to livelihood, to human dignity and social justice, to democratic system and our space within. On this day, therefore, we all must only assert our rights, take a pledge to attain those and challenge violations of human rights may it be at the hands of the State or any section of civil society itself.

The struggles are on. Special Economic Zones, unjustified, unconstitutional concession to loot the naturally gifted communities and emptying the state exchequers as well as natural reserves of coal, minerals, oil and gas is challenged in state after state. In Singur, as in Narmada, the State's design to take away farmers-laborers resource base with no alternative for livelihood and no consent sought to the Plan for displacement along with a game to scare or lure people is itself being challenged. Saying NO to vulgarly iniquitous wage policy, no level playing field in development planning and policy making when the State itself is captive and subservient to the corporate powers and undemocratic processes with valueless alliance politics, cannot just remain a local and agitational response. Every party in power is seen compromising on the fundamental duties and rights... only to allow and even facilitate serious violations of Human Rights.

Today on the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN charter on human rights, we strongly condemn the State's role in depriving people, the state's failure in protecting our rights as witnessed during the atrocities against Dalits and perverted versions of minority status, coming from communal forces, thoroughly exposed by Sachar Committee Report. It's a people's struggle in every situation that takes an oath and jump into the battlefield without compromise, with commitment, when the electoral politics is bereft of sensibility and sensitivity to the Constitutional values, duties and the mandate,. We, members of the peace loving, empowered sections of the society have to take up the task which is both human and political, through struggle and reconstruction, with a common vision.

With the struggle on in Singur (West Bengal) having witnessed the totally unwarranted use of brutal police force and party cadres to snatch away people's land, we realize the challenge, which is worse In Orissa, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and much intense at the 'dialogue' or 'no dialogue' situation in Kerela. We cannot wait till the rulers suo moto recognize our rights as unorganized sector workers, forest dwellers, adivasis, women or farmers, artisans, Dalits, minorities. We have to act here and now. The UN charter to conventions in themselves, can only be the tools, not dream about those being the ends.

But everything can't wait anymore. The upcoming year of 2007 cannot pass the same way all old and some new actors expropriating our resources further denying us democratic space and manipulating democratic processes (even the panchayati raj and local self government) and changing laws or bringing new acts which are anti people.

**WE MUST THEREFORE, ACT AND ACT NOW!**

Today, with a slogan: **Yes to human rights and NO to Displacement**, we pledge to take the State by horns, from March 2007 through indefinite action. We take pleasure and privilege to remain committed to the transformation.

We support, human power, human communities, human rights and human struggle on 10<sup>th</sup> of December, as also every other day.

Ulka Mahajan      Sukendu Bhattacharya      Rajendra Ravi      Medha Patkar