

**INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE IN BHOPAL**  
[www.bhopal.net](http://www.bhopal.net), [www.studentsforbhopal.org/MarchToDelhi.htm](http://www.studentsforbhopal.org/MarchToDelhi.htm)

**Bhopal Survivors Jailed in New Delhi, Protestors Harmed**  
**Over 200 Bhopal survivors arrested and 35 children under 12 taken into police custody**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: **INDIA media liaisons: Nityanand Jayaraman** - + 91 (11) 9811138987  
**Pragya Vats** - + 91 (11) 41652451 or 41652452 or 9868424692.  
**US based support groups: Diana Ruiz 415 999.9074 (PT)**  
**Aquene Freechild 617 524.6018 (ET)**

**New Delhi 28 March 2006:** Survivors of the 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster where over 15,000 people died, have now been arrested. They marched 800 kms from Bhopal to New Delhi, in a group that included hundreds of victims of the worst industrial accident in the history of the world. The group is protesting the American multinational chemical corporation, Union Carbide, now known as Dow Chemical. They occupied the pavement outside the Ministry of Chemicals in New Delhi today amidst intense police security. The police resorted to use of force upon women and children, without any provocation from the protestors. Two women, Bano 55 and Ashraf 75, fell unconscious after the police violence.

"Our Prime Minister does not care for the Indian people. He prefers kowtowing to American corporations rather than redress the long standing demands of the survivors of the world's worst industrial disaster", said Syed Irfan, a survivor and activist for justice in Bhopal.

The Ministry of Chemicals oversees the Bhopal issues committee and convenes the group of ministers on Bhopal. Its responsibility is to address all issues emanating from the 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster. After 22 years more than 20,000 people are forced to consume hand pump water contaminated with mercury and other cancer causing chemicals that have leached out of the thousands of tonnes of toxic waste that still lie exposed to the environment in and around the Union Carbide factory site. Despite the fact that Union Carbide is a criminal absconder in the eyes of the Indian Govt., the Prime Minister has been meeting with Carbide's owner Dow Chemical's CEO and has initiated steps to facilitate the company's business expansion in India.

"The Prime Minister is ultimately responsible for the welfare of the Union Carbide's victims in Bhopal, his refusal to address the demands exposes his insensitivity to the plight of the poor", said Shahid Noor an activist - survivor who heads an organization of youth who were orphaned by the disaster. "This time we will not accept empty promises. We are resolved to go on an indefinite hunger strike till all our demands are met", he said.

The Bhopal survivors are demanding clean water, environmental remediation at the cost of the polluter, setting up of a National Commission to oversee medical and economic rehabilitation, blacklisting Dow's business in India and setting up a memorial in Bhopal.

More than 20 members of the United States Congress have written to the Indian Prime Minister urging him to address the demands of Bhopal Survivors and take action against the errant American multinationals Union Carbide and Dow Chemicals. The Parliamentary Committee on Public Grievances has last week summoned the Indian Govt. to explain why the Bhopal disaster remains an unresolved issue.