

Petition to protest against the continued detention of Dr. Binayak Sen (December 2007)

To,
Dr. Raman Singh
The Honorable Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

CC:

- 1) Dr. Manmohan Singh, Honorable Prime Minister of India.
- 2) ESL Narsimhan, Honorable Governor of Chhattisgarh
- 3) Ram Vichar Netam, Honorable Home Minister of Chhattisgarh

Dear Chief Minister,

We, the undersigned, are dismayed and deeply disappointed at the rejection of bail for Dr. Binayak Sen, by the Supreme Court of India. More than 7 months since his arrest on vague and unsubstantiated charges under a draconian law, the State of Chhattisgarh is yet to produce any semblance of evidence against Dr. Sen and continues to drag its feet at every opportunity. This was evident several times during the last 7 months, most notably when the government only brought charges, which at best can be described as baseless, on the 89th day of his arrest, barely meeting the 90 day limit.

Even as the State holds Dr. Sen with no credible case or evidence against him, the actual naxalite problem has only worsened in recent weeks and months. The recent escalation of violence and rise in death toll as well as the security breach in Dantewada prison, being the latest events in an increasingly violent state. Innocent people of Chhattisgarh continue to suffer even as the situation worsens.

Dr. Binayak Sen, besides doing stellar work in the fields of public health, is a strong proponent of peace and has repeatedly condemned naxalism as he did violence of any type.

We demand the following

- 1. That Dr. Sen is immediately released and all cases against him be dropped.**
- 2. That the Chhattisgarh Government takes immediate steps to restore peace and end the violence by the naxalites as well as the Salwa Judum.**
- 3. That the Government ends its support of the Salwa Judum immediately.**
- 4. That the Government looks after the interests of all citizens of Chhattisgarh including understanding the underlying reasons why the naxalite movement is gaining strength in regions of the state.**

In Solidarity,