

**CONDEMNATION OF ARREST of NON-VIOLENT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST Dr.
Binayak Sen in CHATTISGARH**

15th May, 2007

To,
Dr. Raman Singh,
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh
Fax No: 0771-2221000/2221001

CC

1. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Honorable Prime Minister of India
2. Mr. Shivraj Patil, Union Home Minister, Government of India
3. Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor, Chhattisgarh

Dear Dr. Singh:

We are shocked to learn that the government of Chhattisgarh has arrested Dr. Binayak Sen, an esteemed member of India's medical community. Dr. Sen is a noted human rights activist and General Secretary of the People's Union of Civil Liberties in Chhattisgarh. He has worked tirelessly striving for the betterment of Indian society, bringing medical help to those who otherwise would suffer, particularly the poor. He helped establish the well-known Shaheed hospital for mineworkers and was state coordinator of the people's health campaign Jan Swasthya Abhiyan on behalf of National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM).

We have reason to believe that the arrest has been made on false charges, and we fear for the life and liberty of Dr.Sen. We urge you to act immediately to safeguard his freedom and human rights.

Dr.Sen and PUCL have consistently and courageously highlighted gross human rights violations and injustices being committed in Chattisgarh. We are following with deep concern media reports of continuing civil-war like situation in Chhattisgarh, which is causing great deal of concern at national and international level. It is notable that even police officer K.P.S. Gill, who was an adviser to Chhattisgarh government for tackling Naxalism, has stated in a recent interview with Tehelka that in order to win the confidence of tribals, the government must "Improve their villages. Give them land rights. The problem in Chhattisgarh is not Naxalism. It is the administration."

It is deplorable that the government is harassing sincere social workers instead of addressing the issues they raise. We attach to this letter an excerpt from the newsletter of India's famous Christian Medical College, Vellore, which presented the Paul Harrison Award recognizing the services of Dr.Sen.

We demand immediate release of Dr. Sen and withdrawal of false cases against him. We trust you will leave no stone unturned to ensure the safety of Dr. Sen and his family. With deep concern,

In Solidarity,