

MEDIA ADVISORY – 27th March, 2009

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Protest by International Coalition demanding release of Dr. Binayak Sen & End of State Repression in Chhattisgarh, India

WHEN: March 27, 2009, Friday at 2 p.m.

WHERE: **Consulate of India**, 540, Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA

WHAT: **In San Francisco:** Rally in front of the Consulate of India to protest the unjust detention of Dr. Binayak Sen and the suppression of Democratic dissent. For more information, visit <http://petitions.aidindia.org/binayaksen09/>

The protests in San Francisco, New York and Washington D.C. are in solidarity with the **Raipur Satyagraha**, a mass civil disobedience movement that follows the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. The coalition of 54 Human Rights organizations is demanding

1. Immediate release of DR. BINAYAK SEN
2. End to state repression of democratic dissent, revocation of Chh. Special Public Security Act
3. Disbanding of SALWA JUDUM, full compensation to all victims

Dr. Sen, a renowned pediatrician, public health specialist and Vice-President of the [People's Union for Civil Liberties](#) (PUCL) was arrested in May 2007 on false charges of sedition, thus joining dozens of other human rights activists in Indian jails, charged under repressive "Black Laws." Dr. Sen earned the ire of the government for opposing *Salwa Judum*, a private militia movement armed by the Government, ostensibly to combat a Maoist insurgency. *Salwa Judum* led to a spiraling increase in violence, which has displaced over 100,000 indigenous people.

A compilation of news articles on Dr. Sen can be found at www.binayaksen.net, www.freebinayaksen.org, and <http://www.aidboston.org/FreeBinayakSen/media.htm>

WHO:

A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition-S.F.	San Jose Peace and Justice Center
Association for India's Development	Friends of South Asia
Gadar Heritage Foundation	India Relief and Education Fund
International Accountability Project	Our Developing World
Peninsula Peace and Justice Center	Western States Legal Foundation
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, San Jose	
Students for Bhopal, and 42 other Human Rights Organizations.	

In New York City: Protest in front of Indian Consulate on Friday, March 27th at 2:00 pm at 3 East 64th St. (between 5th & Madison Avenues), New York, NY 10065. **Contact:** Murli Natrajan, 973-570-3391

In Washington DC: Protest in front of Indian Embassy on Friday, March 27th at 4:30 pm at 2107 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. **Contact:** Somu Kumar, 703-728-8987