



## **VIGIL FOR THE RELEASE OF DR BINAYAK SEN**

7.30pm, Tuesday 13 May 2008

Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh PA

Dr Binayak Sen is a renowned paediatrician and human rights activist who has been working with the poorest people in Chhattisgarh state in central India for the last 25 years. On 14 May 2007, Dr Sen was arrested on trumped-up charges and has been imprisoned without trial.

Dr. Binayak Sen was instrumental in setting up the cooperative Shaheed hospital for mine workers, and has campaigned tirelessly against violations of the human rights of the poor. On 21 April this year, he was awarded the prestigious Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights.

The Chhattisgarh government claims that Binayak Sen has aided banned Maoist groups who are active in the region. In fact, Binayak Sen's real 'crime' was to stand by the dispossessed and to speak out about the violence they face in Chhattisgarh. He was arrested after helping to expose involvement by the police in the unlawful killing of 12 adivasi people. He has been a vocal opponent of the Salwa Judum, a state-sponsored militia which has massacred local people and forced thousands to flee from their homes.

May 14, 2008 will mark one year since Dr Binayak Sen's arrest. The Acts under which he was arrested make it possible for the government to keep him in prison for an unspecified period, without any evidence. The Indian government and the Chhattisgarh state government are determined to silence Dr Sen. We must not allow them to succeed.

For more information, see <http://www.freebinayaksen.org/>

Supported by:  
Association for India's Development, Pittsburgh

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***"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere" – Dr. Martin Luther King***