

## **APPEAL TO OBSERVE ANTI-POSCO BLACK DAY AT PATNAHAT VILLAGE ON 22nd JUNE 2013**

Dear Friends,

We remember people who sacrificed their self-interests for the benefit our freedom in the 66th year of Indian Independence. Sadly, during the one and a half decades of the post-globalization era in India, our leaders are sacrificing the very purpose of the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom. India's land, rivers, hills, seas and forests are being sold to global corporates, displacing millions of farmers, Dalits, Adivasis and fisher folk today, devastating this country's environment.

The project planned by the multinational giant POSCO represents the largest Foreign Direct Investment of this country (FDI) during the post-globalized India. The project will destroy the lives of thousands of farmers, dalits, women, children, fisher people and indigenous people.

The people's movement against POSCO started soon after the signing of the **MOU between POSCO and Odisha Government**. Since then over hundred bombs have been thrown at the resisting villagers by the pro-POSCO goons and around 100 villagers have been shot by the Odisha police. Our leaders like MR. Abhay Sahoo and four others are in the jail. More than 1500 villagers and activists are facing over 250 fabricated false charges. Many villagers cannot come out of their villages even for their hospitalization, due to the threat of arrests. The struggle against POSCO led by PPSS - POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti is still resisting this invasion by a global capitalist giant in partnership with the Central and State Governments.

**We believe that if the anti-POSCO movement is suppressed due to the interests of the corporations, it will affect many similar struggles in Odisha as well as rest of India. Since this SEZ project is the largest FDI investment in this country, it has to be treated as a symbol of struggle against globalization and India's freedom.**

Therefore, we appeal to all freedom lovers in India and all over the world to mark your resistance by responding on the day of the completion of the 8<sup>th</sup> year of signing of the **MOU between POSCO and the Government**, on **June 22, 2013**. We appeal to all activists, organizations, people's movements and concerned individuals against globalization to express their strong protest against this corporate invasion of our lands. We appeal to groups and people's movements working on fisher people, Dalits, women, children and indigenous people to organize solidarity actions on **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**, since it is the lives of these very forces which are at stake. On this historical event, PPSS calls for the following actions all over India and abroad to initiate the following actions:

1. **Protests** in your region demanding the ouster of POSCO and removal of all fabricated false cases against activists and villagers.
2. **Public meetings** in your region condemning the threat of displacement and environmental destruction by POSCO.
3. **Expressions** through, songs, posters, paintings, theatre, print media and internet actions against POSCO.
4. **Mobilize** concerned sections to be part of the event in Odisha.
5. **Write letters** to the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Odisha.
6. **Document the events** in Odisha and elsewhere through written media as well as video for future campaigns, or
7. **Any other symbolic or imaginative actions you may choose.**

We welcome all those who wish to participate in the mass rally and demonstrations at Patnahat village of Jagatsighpur district in Odisha on 22nd June 2013 and express their support to this historic struggle.

In Solidarity,

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