

FREE DR BINAYAK SEN



Photo: Shailendra Pandey (Tehelka)

**Award-winning
paediatrician
and
human rights activist
jailed on
false charges.**

Dr Binayak Sen has spent three decades serving poor communities in Chhattisgarh state in central India and won the 2008 Jonathan Mann Award from the Global Health Council.

He was arrested in May 2007 on what Amnesty International has called “trumped up charges”. His only crime was to expose government atrocities against the poor of that state.

His arrest has been condemned worldwide by renowned doctors and several Nobel laureates and human rights groups including Amnesty International.

**Please join to help release this innocent doctor
who has devoted his life to the poor.**

PUBLIC MEETING

SATURDAY, 7th MARCH 2009

3:00 PM

**VENUE: Social Studies Building, Room S0.21; Warwick University
Coventry CV4 7AL**

Chair: Prof. Shirin Rai (Warwick University)

Speakers: Prof. Ilina Sen (feminist scholar, human rights activist, wife of Dr Binayak Sen); **Ms Kavita Srivastava** (PUCL, India), **Prof. Upendra Baxi** (Warwick University).

Organised by ‘Warwick South Asia Group’

[Supported by Institute of Advanced Study at Warwick University]

RELEASE DR BINAYAK SEN

Dr Binayak Sen trained at well-known Vellore Christian Medical College in India and specialised in paediatrics. After a spell as a faculty member in community medicine at JNU in Delhi, Binayak began working with poor tribal people in Chhattisgarh state in central India 25 years ago. He was instrumental in setting up the cooperative Shaheed hospital for mine workers and, later, was a member of the state advisory committee initiating community-based health worker programmes across the state. Both Dr Binayak and Prof Ilna Sen (his wife) have worked with poor and marginalised communities promoting their development and empowerment. Recently he was awarded the prestigious Jonathan Mann Award by the Global Health Council for his outstanding work with poor communities and his commitment to human rights.

The forcible displacement of the adivasi (tribal) people from their land to make way for the exploitation of resources by private companies is a common occurrence in Chhattisgarh state and elsewhere in India. Dr Binayak Sen has exposed the atrocities in the name of development programmes in the Chhattisgarh state.

On 14th May 2007 Dr Sen was arrested under the Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act (2005). The charges against him mostly focused on his alleged connection with Maoist groups in the state and his repeated visits to Maoist prisoners in Raipur prison, Chhattisgarh. Dr. Sen. has denied all these charges categorically. In fact, he himself went to a police station to clear confusion regarding any such connection or involvement in violence; instead the police arrested him. He visited under-trial prisoners in his official capacity as general secretary of the People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) to provide legal and medical assistance and with the full knowledge of and permission from the jail authorities.

It is clear that the real reason for his imprisonment is his outspoken opposition to the violent repression of the poor and to the activities of the Salwa Judum, a state-sponsored paramilitary terror group, which has massacred local people and forced thousands to flee. He was arrested after helping to expose police involvement in the killing of 12 tribal people in Bijapur on 31st March 2007.

On 7th March 2009, Prof. Ilna Sen and Ms Kavita Srivastava will speak at a public meeting at the Warwick university. Ilna has worked for three decades among some of India's most impoverished and socially stigmatised populations. Kavita Srivastava, the national secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), India has been working for the last 20 years to protect women's rights and building a movement for violence against women. Both are in the forefront for Dr Binayak Sen's release.

THE IMPRISONMENT OF THIS GOOD MAN IS OUTRAGEOUS.

WE DEMAND HIS IMMEDIATE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE.

For more information:

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Visit: www.binayaksen.net