

APPEAL FOR RELEASE OF ARRESTED INDIAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTIVIST

6 October 2009. Bangkok, Thailand

We, the undersigned, strongly condemn the arrest of Jiten Yumnam, journalist and climate justice activist, and others by the Indian Government on 14 September 2009.

Jiten was arrested by Manipur state police in Imphal, capital of the Indian state of Manipur, on his way to Bangkok to attend the meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). He was invited to speak at several meetings organised under the banner of Asian Peoples Solidarity for Climate Justice.

On the same day, seven members of the All Manipur United Clubs Organisation were also arrested from their offices in Imphal.

Jiten is a well known activist-researcher in his home state of Manipur, and has written and spoken extensively in local, national and international fora on environmental and developmental issues affecting the indigenous peoples of Northeastern India. He is a regular columnist for local newspapers such as the Manipur Mail, Sangai Express and the Imphal Free Press. His recent publications include *Damned hearings of Tipaimukh Dam in Manipur*, *Mapithel Dam amidst Militaristic Development in Manipur*, *Militarization and human rights violations in Manipur* and *Insidious Intrusion of International Financial Institutions in India's North East*.

Jiten is a founding member of the Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN) and a member of its Coordinating Committee. He is also the Joint Secretary of Citizens' Concerns on Dams and Development (CCDD), which has been active in facilitating the youth in Manipur and neighbouring states to engage in constructive dialogues with Governments about development issues in a climate of escalating state aggression and militarisation.

Much of his recent work as joint secretary of CCDD has focussed on questioning false climate solutions being pushed by the Government of India in the region. This includes large hydro dams, infrastructure projects such as airports and super-highways (often funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank) and the promotion of carbon trading under the flawed Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Jiten has also been active in protesting the killings by state police commandoes through fake 'encounters.'

At the time of arrest, Jiten and the seven others were charged with "waging war against the State," "unlawful association and other related offenses," and "leaking information to agencies detrimental to the Indian state." These charges are incredible and outrageous, and the police furnished no evidence to substantiate them.

We are further shocked to learn that on September 29, Jiten and three others were charged and detained under the draconian National Security Act (NSA) for participating in public protests. We are also deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of all those detained and imprisoned under the NSA.

The Indian State has too often used provisions of such acts to arrest those who have questioned its destructive developmental model and challenged the suppression of civil and political rights, while in international fora it claims to represent the voice of the poor in India.

We, the undersigned organisations, networks and individuals committed to climate, social and political justice call upon the Government of India to immediately release Jiten and the others arrested. We also urge the Government of India to ensure his safety during detention and after his release.

Copies to:

Shri Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India
Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Environment and Forests
Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Okram Singh Ibobi, Chief Minister of Manipur

Signed by:

Organisations:

1. Indigenous Environment Network (USA and Canada)
2. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact- AIPP (Asia)
3. Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (Asia)
4. Global Justice Ecology Project (USA)
5. Water & Energy Users' Federation (Nepal)
6. Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (Pakistan)
7. Nepal Policy Institute (Nepal)
8. Jubilee South (International)
9. Transnational Institute (Netherlands)
10. What Next Initiative (Sweden)
11. Friends of the Earth (USA)
12. Global Forest Coalition (International)
13. Confedacion Sindical Unicado Trabajadoras Camposinos de (Bolivia)
14. Campaign for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Nepal)
15. Yarra Climate Action Now (Australia)
16. Indonesian Peasant Union (Indonesia)
17. Himalayan & Peninsular Hydro-Ecological Network (Nepal)
18. Green Watershed (China)
19. Institute for Global Justice (Indonesia)
20. Indonesia Fisherfolk Union (Indonesia)
21. Mauj (Pakistan)
22. Jubilee South (Brazil)
23. FERN (Europe)
24. Cornerhouse (UK)
25. Fundacion Solon (Bolivia)
26. IndyACT – the League of Independent Activists (Lebanon)
27. Campaign to Reform the World Bank –CRBM (Italy)
28. Plataforma Boliviana Control Cambio Climatico (Bolivia)

29. Unidad Ecologica Salvadorena (El Salvador)
30. Hazards Centre (India)
31. Gerak Lawan –SINTESA (Indonesia)
32. Himalaya Niti Abhiyan Samiti (India)
33. Centre for Environmental Justice (Sri Lanka)
34. KRuHA-Indonesia -People's Coalition for the Right to Water (Indonesia)
35. Focus on the Global South (Thailand)
36. Santa Cruz Parish Against Pollution (Philippines)
37. Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)
38. Climate Change and Sustainable Development Network (Africa)
39. African Climate Justice Alliance (Africa)
40. Socccksargen Climate Action Now, Mindanao (Philippines)
41. Friends of the Earth (Philippines)
42. Greenfire Regeneration Group, Ohio River Basin, (USA)
43. International Federation of Hawkers and Urban Poor (International)
44. Indian Social Action Forum (India)
45. Friends of Brook Park, New York City (USA)
46. Freedom from Debt Coalition (Philippines)
47. Mekong Alumni Network Earthrights (Lao PDR)
48. Japan Centre for Sustainable Environment and Society (Japan)
49. Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia)
50. CCSD (Tajikistan)
51. NGO Forum on ADB (Philippines)
52. THANAL, Kerala (India)
53. South Asia Network on Dams Rivers and People –SANDRP (India)
54. River Basin Friends (India)
55. National Forum for Forest People and Forest Workers (India)
56. Centre for Organisation Research and Education –CORE (India)
57. Sinlung Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Organisation –SIPHRO (India)
58. Intercultural Resources (India)
59. Urban Research Centre, Bangalore (India)
60. IndyACT – the League of Independent Activists (Lebanon)
61. Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha (India)
62. Darshan, Gujarat (India)
63. Center for Contemporary Studies & Research (India)
64. Womens Solidarity for Human Rights (Indonesia)
65. Institute for Research & Documentation in Social Sciences (India)
66. Uttar Pradesh Khetihar Majdoor Union (India)
67. Uttar Pradesh Shahari Gareeb Sangharsh Morcha (India)
68. Solidaritas Perempuan (Indonesia)
69. Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, Madhyapradesh (India)
70. Mahila Sangharsh Samiti, Madhyapradesh (India)
71. Nadi Ghati Morcha, Chhattisgarh (India)
72. Amber Memorial Kala Samathy (India)
73. Society for Economic and Environmental Development SEED (India)
74. Vaikom Muhama Bashee Smarakkala Samithy (India)
75. Yatra, Kerala (India)
76. Thattakom Cultural group Kerala (India)
77. Theradeesa Vanitha Samajam (India)
78. Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (India)

79. Programme Against Custodial Torture & Impunity (India)
80. Orissa Development Action Forum (India)
81. Equations (India)
82. Centre For Research on New International Economic Order (India)
83. Integrated Rural Development of Weaker Sections in India (India)
84. Socio Economic Development Programme (India)
85. Seva Bharati (India)
86. Kheti Virasat Mission , Punjab (India)
87. Council of Professional Social Workers (India)
88. People's Institute for Participatory Action Research (India)
89. Samajika Parivartan Vikas Kendra (India)
90. Rural Action for Development (India)
91. Samajik Vikasa Kendram (India)
92. Odisha Adivasi Adhikar Abhijan (India)
93. Adivasi Bikash Parisad (India)
94. Ho Munda Bhasa Bikash Manch (India)
95. Gana Chetana Sangthan (India)
96. Anchalik Jungle Surakshya Sangthan (India)
97. Adivasi Adhikar Abhijan Mayurbhanj (India)
98. Jahar Surkshya Manch (India)
99. Balmianni Kutomi (India)
100. Saura Adivasi Ahikar Abhijan (India)
101. Kuvi Bdayu (India)
102. Loka Unnayan Sangha (India)
103. Kuvi Kulomi (India)
104. Sajukodi Dhorti Surkhya Porisod, (India)
105. Deo-mali Mahila Sangh (India)
106. Ancholiko Unnayan Sangh (India)
107. IPA Network India
108. Burma Centre Delhi (India)
109. Shwe Gas Movement (India)
110. Ancholiko Vikas Parisad (India)
111. Kasti Dakua Adivasi Mohasangha (India)
112. Ganglamaa Vikash Manch (India)
113. Anchalika Adivasi Unnayan Parishad (India)
114. Ancholia Unnayan Parishad (India)
115. Zailaitmu (India)
116. Pahadi Sangrami Manch (India)
117. Sahaya (India)
118. Mukti Sanghthan (India)
119. Shakti Sangthan (India)
120. Adivasi Dalit Adhikar Abhijan Manch (India)
121. Malaygiri Bikash Manch (India)
122. Gramanchal Bikash Parisad (India)
123. Anchalik Bikash Parisad (India)
124. Niyamgiri Surkshya Manch (India)
125. Gram Sahajog (India)
126. Nari Bikash-Women Organisation (India)
127. Adivasi Chetona Manch (India)
128. Jungle Jivan Surakshya Parisad (India)

129. Adishakti Lokbikash Sangthan (India)
130. Munigiri Gana Sangthan (India)
131. Mahendragiri Adivasi Adhikar Samiti (India)
132. Rusimal Anchalik Unnayan Parishad (India)
133. New Socialist Alternative (India)
134. POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti, Orissa (India)
135. Niyamgiri Surakshya Manch, Orissa (India)
136. Ma Mati Mahila Manch, Nayagarh, Orissa (India)
137. Janaswarth Surakshya Parisad, Cuttack, Orissa (India)
138. Lok Adhikar Manch, Bhubaneswar, Orissa (India)
139. Centre for Sustainable-use of Natural and Social Resources (India)
140. Jyoti Mahila Samity, Bhubaneshwar Orissa (India)
141. Orissa Human Rights Forum, Bhadrakh District, Orissa (India)
142. Ganjam Jilla Adivasi Manch, Ganjam, Orissa (India)
143. Center for Contemporary Studies & Research (India)
144. Samvedan Sanskritik Manch, Ahmedabad (India)
145. LOK MANCH, Aurangabad, Bihar (India)
146. Kisan Morcha, Bikaner, Rajasthan (India)
147. IFFTU, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan (India)
148. Arya Bheel Khand Rajya Morcha, Udaipur, Rajasthan (India)
149. Matsya Mewat Shiksha Vikas Sansthan (India)
150. Dalit Sena, Jodhpur, Rajasthan (India)
151. KDRF, Bharatpur, Rajasthan (India)
152. Youth Front, Pali, Rajasthan (India)
153. Mahila Morcha, Banswara, Rajasthan (India)
154. Chetna Sansthan, Dausa, Rajasthan (India)
155. Popular Education & Action Centre (PEACE), New Delhi (India)
156. Shaheen (Women Resource Centre), Hyderabad, AP (India)
157. Dalit Women Forum, Secunderabad, AP (India)
158. SRAVANTHI, Chittor, AP (India)
159. VOICE, Waynadu, Kerala (India)
160. YATRA, Kasargod, Kerala (India)
161. Thope Poura Samity, Thriuvananthapuram, Kerala (India)
162. Navajyothy Sangam, Kollam, Kerala (India)
163. Jana Sevakandra, Mammattikkananam (India)
164. Rural Education & Development Society (India)
165. DAWN, (India)
166. Uttarakhand Sarpanch Sangthan, (India)
167. Gramya Paryavaran Shikshan Sansthan (India)
168. VIMARSH, Nainital, Uttarakhand (India)
169. CGP-India, Dehradun, (India)
170. Uttarakhand Parivartan Party, (India)
171. SEEDA, (India)
172. Sunder Trust, (India)
173. UKPP (India)
174. Uttarakhand Nadi Ghati Bacho Abhiyan (India)
175. Dish Shikshan Sansthan (India)
176. Himalaya Swaraj Abhiyan (India)
177. HRJKS (India)
178. SARAL (India)

179. Dalit Mahila Vikas Samiti (India)
180. Forum for Women's Rights & Development (India)
181. Center for Education & Social Services (India)
182. Association for Rural Action and Social Upliftment (India)
183. Kisan Morcha, Bikaner (India)
184. Mewat Vikas Shiksha Samiti (India)
185. Maru Women Federation (India)
186. Organic Farmers Federation of Erode Region (India).
187. Pasumai Grammam Pannai Vana Membattu Sangam (India)
188. Anantham Ammaipu- Coimbatore (India)
189. Organic Farmers Association of Arachalur region (India)
190. Organic Farmers Association of Kollathur Region (India)
191. People's Campaign for Socio-Economic Equity in the Himalayas (India)
192. Sahaja Samrudha-Organic Farmers Association of Karnataka (India)

Individuals:

193. Jeremy Corbyn, Member of Parliament (United Kingdom--UK)
194. John McDonnell, Member of Parliament (UK)
195. Walden Bello, Member of Parliament (Philippines)
196. Charles Santiago, Member of Parliament (Malaysia)
197. Christophe Aguiton, ATTAC (France)
198. Tom Goldtooth, Indigenous Environment Network (USA)
199. Professor Patrick Bond, University of KwaZulu, Durban (South Africa)
200. Councillor Andrew Boswell, Green Party, Norfolk County Council (UK)
201. Larry Lohmann, Author (UK)
202. Neil Tangri, Researcher (USA)
203. Ullash Kumar R K, Researcher (India)
204. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, University of Dhaka (Bangladesh)
205. Subir Sinha, School of Oriental and African Studies (UK)
206. Ewa Jasiewicz, Journalist and Activist (UK and Poland)
207. Premudee Daorong, TERRA (Thailand)
208. Maureen Santos - REBRIP (Brazil)
209. Joanna Levitt, International Accountability Project (USA)
210. Professor Amit Bhattacharyya, Jadavpur University (India)
211. Kavitha Kuruganti - Kheti Virasat Mission, Punjab (India)
212. Dharendra Panda, Common Concern (India)
213. Surya Shankar Dash, Filmmaker (India)
214. Hanna Wolf (Sweden)
215. Asish Gupta, Journalist (India)
216. Tapan Bose, Filmmaker and Human Rights Activist (India)
217. Rita Manchanda, Author and Researcher (India)
218. David Balleby, Klimax (Denmark)
219. Payal Parekh, International Rivers (USA)
220. Diana Bronson, ETC Group (Canada)
221. Silvia Ribeena, ETC group (Mexico)
222. Jere Locke TCEC, Texas (USA)
223. Wilianta Selviana, WALHI (Indonesia)
224. Gregorio B, Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod (Philippines)
225. Dinesh Kumar Rai, General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (Nepal)

226. Chandra Dahal, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (Nepal)
227. Yu Yin, Focus on the Global South (Thailand)
228. Jai Sen, Indian Institute for Critical Action (India)
229. Mr. R. Whitehead Birmingham (England)
230. Teguh Surya, WALHI, Friends of the Earth (Indonesia)
231. Michael K Dorsey, Durban Group (USA)
232. Frances Lo (Philippines)
233. Ilana Solomon, Action Aid
234. Imelda, IESR (Indonesia)
235. Hikmah Diniah (Indonesia)
236. Tannie Nyboe (Denmark)
237. Chao Chung Chi, Researcher (Taiwan)
238. Sankar Ray, Kolkata (India)
239. Chan Mahanta (India)
240. Dr. Arun Kumar Singh (India)
241. Joydeep Mukharjee (India)
242. C. S. Roche Victor (India)
243. S.M.Prithviraj, Voices From the Margins (India)
244. Sarah Parker (Socialist Resistance supporter, London (England)
245. Vijay Diwan, President, Nisarg Mitra Mandal, Aurangabad (India)
246. Mark Riley, Melbourne (Australia)
247. Shanti Thokchom (USA)
248. Helen Heathfield (UK)
249. Dr Gary Anderson, Liverpool Hope University (UK)
250. Vilas Sukhadeve (India)
251. Radha Kapuria (India)
252. Tamash R. Majumdar, North Bengal University (India)
253. Dharmendra, Bharatiya Kisan Union (India)
254. Kalpana Wilson, South Asia Solidarity Group, London (UK)
255. R. Santhanam (India)
256. Graham Martin, Climate Camp UK International Working Group (UK)
257. M Kikon, DICE Foundation Kohima (India)
258. Ginny Schneider (USA)