Consultation on POSCO Issue

Date: 25.02.2014

Venue: Red Cross Bhawan, Bhubaneswar.

Mr. Prasant Paikray has thanked FIAN INDIA PRESIDENT Sri Guru Swamy who has taken initiative to organize this meeting in Odisha. He personally thanked Ms. Sebena, Ms. Sumam, Ms. Swarupa and Mr John Bosco for attending this consultation at Red Cross Bhawan in Bhubaneswar.

Prasant Paikray said Anti POSCO moment is in crisis, will FIAN INDIA take this issue to international level? He requested Fian India members to give a thought to this.

POSCO PRATIRODHF SANGRAM SANGHATAN (PPSS) - This is a peaceful moment in the area, all political parties are coming to POSCO issue other than BJD ruling party, they are opposing the Anti POSCO MOMENT. Prasant said he cannot share 9 years history in this meeting and urged every body to share in this meeting. Problems like LAND RIGHTS, Human Rights Issue, Water problem, Health Problem and Education problem is there. UNDP stated that POSCO has to withdraw 2500 criminal cases there; 260 cases on women and 500 women, are facing the false cases. People are not going out of the villages for treatment when they are suffering health problems, because of fear of arrest. People of that area has put barricades and are not allowing Police Personnel & Government people to enter the area. In the last 4 years, 400 people are arrested. Chairman Sri Abhay Sahu has been arrested 3 times in the last 3 years; he has come recently from jail.

Sri Sisir Mohapatro has been affected with arthritics. Many women are suffering from cynic problems since last 9 years. Many people lost their livelihood on Beetle wine, paddy, Vegetables. He talked about the Jatadar Moment, mangroves, Jatadar Bachao Andolan, 50,000 fisher men and farmers lost their livelihood. A primitive tribe POUDI BHUNYA TRIBE is facing SEZ.

On June 10th 2013, Sri Veerappa Moily has given green signal to POSCO. Ms. Jayanti Natarazan has given all clearances when all the reports are against POSCO.
Interesting thing is POSCO is Black Listed by Brazil. Amenity international, Greenpeace, Forum Asia is also anti-mining groups in USA.

POSCO’s 55 thousand corers worth of project in Karnataka is left because of economic viability.
In Nauvagaon GP and Dhenkia GP, IOCL (Indian Oil Corporation has proposed to start a factory over there. Then people have started movement there on the land issue and the IOCL could not open factory over there.
IOCL has shifted to 2 KM away from village, Trilochanpur, but nobody got Govt. employment over there. This is the PAN ODISHA scenario.
Govt. of India gave a letter to Odisha Govt. to covert forest land to non forest purpose.
Govt of Odisha is trying to bulldoze the rights of people and they are not able to perform social functions, not able to get access to market place, hospital patients are isolated and their situation is like open jail.

October 11th 2013 - Gram Sabha is called offered compensation of Rs 2 lakh per head but people refused to part with the land. Land is a dynamic factor.
Medhapatkar of Narmada Bachao Andolan has visited POSCO area, then people of Anti POSCO are banned to meet her, assist & support her. Nexus between land lords and common man is prevalent.
People need good food, safe drinking water all over the world, to influence people locally, nationally and internationally to have right to nutritious food. To make a link at Global level, studies are to be made at civil society/ university can jointly publish special report. For 9 years POSCO has not given single statement for violation of Human Rights.
Ms. Sabine has said that United Nations has given special status for reporting & recommendations to Govt.
Capacity development
Human Rights Violation
Small tenants guide lines
Extra territorial activities and also beyond
Awareness building among people
Mining
If somebody is not getting food, Govt. is responsible for the food of people.
We recommend/ pressure govt. to arrange food in a dignified manner.
POSCO is not only responsible to South Korea but also all over.
POSCO should respect the people’s decision. Like this many discussions were made. Thus the meeting ended with thanks to the FIAN People.

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