

## **La lettre de SOLIDARITÉ à envoyer aux responsables locaux.**

To  
Naveen Patnaik  
Chief Minister, Odisha, India  
Shri B K Patnaik,  
Chief Secretary, Odisha, India

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Monday 4th February 2013,

### **Stop diversion of forest land and use of police force against anti-POSCO movement in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa**

Sir,

We were informed that yesterday Sunday 3rd February at 4 am, twelve platoons of police accompanied by government officials entered Gobindpur and Dhinkia villages and demolished thirteen betel vines to acquire land for the contested Posco project in Orissa. Penetrating the area and surprisingly assaulted the villagers, the police used force and batons against unarmed residents. Women and children were ruthlessly attacked, elderly people injured and fifty demonstrators captured by the police. Harmless human chain faced ruthless repression.

For seven years now, the residents have been strongly protesting against Posco project as they are not ready to let their land, home and livelihood sources be ceded for the construction of an integrated steel plant. In spite of a sensible and legitimate people's will assertion, the Government of Orissa is forcing the land acquisition process at any cost.

We, SOLIDARITE (Organization of International Solidarity), firmly condemn the recent dramatic and undemocratic turn of the Government in attempting to proceed to the acquisition of land using violence and force against the anti-POSCO movement. We express our solidarity and tightly stand by the people of Dhinka, Govindpur and Patana of Jagatsinghpur district who are leading a non-violent struggle for their rights, livelihood and justice.

As the situation gets increasingly alarming, we urge you to withdraw police force, stop irremediable destruction of villagers' means of livelihood and make a clear step towards people by listening to their voice of dissent.

Sincerely Yours,

