

Adivasis, MoUvadis and Maovadis - The story of People, Development and the Armed Conflict in Central India

A talk by social activist Himanshu Kumar of Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, India

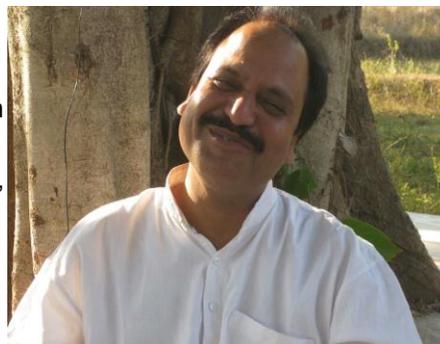


Date: 19 June 2011 (Sunday)
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Venue: San Jose Peace and Justice Center
48 S 7th St # 101, San Jose, CA
Email: info@bayarea.aidindia.org

(Photo credit: Hemant Morparia)

The resource-rich state of Chhattisgarh and other states in central India are caught in an intense conflict among the state, the big business, different armed groups and the adivasis. Left-wing extremism has found favor with a section of people and the Indian Prime Minister has described it as the chief internal security threat. Forests, land and rivers are given away and plundered, and hundreds of thousands are displaced and pushed into hunger, disease and precarious existence. State security forces and private armed groups have committed serious human rights violations, and the state government has been jailing activists and suppressing dissenting voices.

Himanshu Kumar has been working for the people of Chhattisgarh since 1992. He founded the Vanvasi Chetna Ashram, an NGO serving the Adivasis. He and others have been exposing human rights violations by security forces, filing cases against the perpetrators, fighting cases on behalf of rape victims, rehabilitating displaced adivasis and employing the Right to Information (RTI) Act to force the government to disclose information about prisoners. The state responded by demolishing the Ashram in May, 2009, ultimately forcing him, through a series of threats and intimidation, to leave the state in January, 2010



Association for India's Development (AID) is a volunteer movement committed to promoting sustainable, equitable and just development. In solidarity with non-violent people's struggles, AID supports grassroots organizations in India and initiates efforts in various interconnected spheres such as education, livelihoods, natural resources, health, women's empowerment and social justice. For more information, please visit: <http://bayarea.aidindia.org>