

## **WHERE IS SODI SAMBHO?**

Sodi Sambho was last seen in public on January 3 this year, when the Chhattisgarh Police intercepted her as she was en route to Delhi to receive treatment for a bullet wound.

Since then, neither the press nor her lawyer has been able to access her.

Ms Sambho is a key witness in a petition filed in the Supreme Court which alleges that security forces fired upon and killed nine Adivasis in a 'sanitisation operation' at Gompad village, Dantewada district on October 1, 2009.

"The police have not allowed me to speak to Ms Sambho," said her lawyer, Colin Gonzalves, "The Superintendent of Police, Dantewada, Ambreesh Mishra, offered to let me meet her relatives but consistently deflected my attempts to meet her. However, the police have no right to intervene between a petitioner and her lawyer."

Earlier, concerned at her disappearance, the lawyer filed an application in the Supreme Court, alleging that the Chhattisgarh police was interfering in Ms Sambho's medical treatment.

On January 7, the Supreme Court directed the police "not to interfere, in any manner whatsoever ...in her coming to Delhi for her medical treatment."

On January 10, SP Dantewara Ambreesh Misra told *The Hindu* that his information suggested that Ms Sambho was scheduled to arrive in Delhi the same day, but refused to provide confirmation.

"Sodi Sambho is neither under arrest nor in police custody or surveillance," said N Baijendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister. "As a private citizen, she is free to travel as she pleases."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, doctors at the Raipur Medical College told *The Hindu* that Ms Sambho had been examined in the hospital the following day and was referred to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. But enquiries at the office of the Medical Superintendent at the AIIMS showed no record of her ever being admitted to the hospital.

So where is she?

Colin Gonzalves, her lawyer, stated that, as per his information, some of the 13 petitioners in the Gompad incident have been taken into police custody and might be pressured to change their statements.

**A Reader**

## **DOW LIVES EARTH DIES**

This April 18, Live Earth, a series of events "to help solve the water crisis," will be held in locations all over the world. It is the ultimate irony that these events' main sponsor is Dow Chemical, a corporate criminal responsible for the continued contamination of drinking water for 30,000 people in Bhopal, India and for causing severe water crises by poisoning the sources of water for people all over the world...

In Bhopal, roughly 30,000 people are still drinking water contaminated with heavy metals and organochlorines, resulting in an epidemic of health problems and birth defects while Dow refuses to take responsibility.

In the North America, Dow is responsible for dangerous dioxin contamination around its global headquarters in Midland, Michigan, vinyl chloride contamination in Louisiana, dioxin & furan contamination in Western Canada.

Dow toxins are poisoning people and ecosystems in Vietnam, South Africa, New Zealand, Brazil, and Central America.

Live Earth will consist of 6 km runs/walks (the average distance many women and children walk every day to secure water), concerts, and water education activities around the world.

Find a LiveEarth event near you at [www.liveearth.org](http://www.liveearth.org).

- 1) Sign the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal's (ICJB) petition against Dow's sponsorship of Live Earth. [www.bhopal.net/petition](http://www.bhopal.net/petition)
- 2) Use our stencils to make t-shirts, signs, banners, tags, headbands, bhopal pamphlets, etc. Attend a Live Earth event near you wearing a Bhopal t-shirt an anti-Dow t-shirt under another t-shirt. When the run starts, take off your first layer and make your statement. <http://bhopal.net/petition/application/views/toolkit.html>
- 3) Go on to live earth website and register your comments on their blog and website.
- 4) Document your actions! Send your pictures and videos to ICJB at [justiceinbhopal@gmail.com](mailto:justiceinbhopal@gmail.com) to share with the international community of Bhopal supporters.
- 5) Where else has Dow poisoned with its toxic waste? <http://bhopal.net/petition/application/views/index.html>
- 5) Truly help solve the water crisis by donating to ICJB, a grassroots organization composed of survivors of the Bhopal gas disaster and environmentalists worldwide working to ameliorate the crisis in Bhopal and prevent future industrial contamination.
- 6) Act on your own ideas on scuttling Dow's greenwashing attempts through Live Earth.

**ICJB**