

October 2007

## JMACC Annual Report 2007-2008



### **Martyr Father A.T. Thomas: - Martyrdom Day (Anniversary)**

Every year on October 24<sup>th</sup>, thousands of Dalits, tribals, and natives of Karanpura valley give homage to martyred Father Thomas Anchlikel. Fr. Thomas, having a clear understanding of the land reality of Karanpura valley, enlightened people by conducting night school. He freed thousands of families from feudal exploitation and reestablished their honor and social prestige. He rehabilitated the bounded laborers in Azad Nagar who were freed from the feudal system. He came to this Hazaribagh valley in 1970 and by his work the landlord community was frightened and therefore he was kidnapped and murdered on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1997. To protect martyr Fr. Thomas Anchlikel's holy land, the Karanpura Bachao Sangharsh Samiti has opened opposition against 22 different companies and not allowed companies to enter in this area at any cost.

November 2007

### **4<sup>th</sup> Convention of JMACC**



4<sup>th</sup> convention of the year of Jharkhand Mines Area Co-ordination committee was held on 27 – 29 November in Bagaicha, Ranchi (ATC). Central point of this convention was kept as “Judo Ya Maro” (Be United or Die). The following points were discussed in the convention:

- Political scenario of the present time
- Present situation of JMACC and other organizations related to it.
- Challenges and strategy of JMACC in the new era.
- Acceptance of constitution and election of new administrative

committee was done in the presence of Parganiet Haripado Murmu, the traditional leader of tribal society.

- Representatives of the same mentality from other states like Orissa, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh also participated.
- An open session to spread awareness of incidents and destruction in the surrounding. areas
- Loot of resources and economic development.
- Discussion on Puchwara agreement.

November 2007

## **Review meeting of the Develgaddha Chatra Yuva Jagriti Mahotsav**

Jharkhand Mines Area Co-ordination Committee and players from different areas reviewed the Yuva Jagriti Mahotsav. This review meeting discussed issues related to enabling youth to be responsible and sensitive towards their society. Young people must be aware and dedicated towards the betterment of their surroundings and able to promote social, economic, and political betterment even in the face of strong opposition. The convention was held in 2007 from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## **Strike of 72 Contract Laborers in Turamdih Uranium Mines**

72 workers of Tecnomin Construction Limited went on indefinite strike from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007 under the banner of Jharkhand Organization of Struggling Human (JOSH) for the demand of better conditions in salary, welfare facility, and permanency. In order to support this strike, 200 workers involved in other working areas of UCIL also went on strike. For the fulfillment of their demand workers are demonstrating in front of Turamdih UCIL main gate for an indefinite period. These contract workers for soft sinking, ventilation, and decline works go under 800 feet and work continuously for 6 hours without any break. They are local Rayat who have been displaced and turned into UCIL labor force. Today they are fighting for the right of their own land. Regarding this issue, the members of JOSH and JMACC met the labor commissioner of Dhanbad and made him aware of the whole situation.



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December 2007

## **Stop Intervention of CISF in the CCL Ashok Project.**

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, thousands of villagers from project affected areas came out in procession to protest against handing over the responsibility of protecting Coal Mines to CISF and gave warning to CCL Piparwar management that if their planning is to trouble the affected villagers with the help of CISF then they will have to face a heavy protest. It is a known fact that the stock of Ashok project lease area is exhausted and



management is planning to displace nearby villages for extension of the open-cast mining area.. The management clearly knows that villagers will not directly give their land for this purpose and therefore false cases and suppression of CISF is

necessary. The excuse found behind inviting CISF is that CCL claim that thousands of gallons diesel is being stolen everyday from the mines area and therefore CISF is necessary whereas the truth is that management itself has been doing this theft for many years in combined cooperation. On this occasion the procession was addressed by Deepak Das of Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samitte, Surendra Tirkey of Sanghrash Samitte, Ramchandra Ram of CPI, Philip Kujur of JMACC, local activist Alexander Tigga, and Phagu Ganjhu.

## **Environmental Public Hearing of Jindal**

### ***Villagers Played their Drum***

In the organized environmental public hearing on 10<sup>th</sup> December, thousands of villagers from Balkudra, Rasda, Jaynagar, and Kurse villages played drums of Jindal Company. The purpose was to spread awareness



that Jindal Company has bought a closed factory of BASL covering six hundred acres of land near Patratu Balkudra in an illegal transaction. The company, after the agreement with Jharkhand govt. on 8<sup>th</sup> November, wants to establish steel plant of 6 million tons per year and a one hundred megawatt power plant. Company will buy another 2538 acre land for this purpose by which thousands of families from Balkudra, Kurse, Jaynagar, and Rasda village will be fully affected whereas those villages are already entangled by giving land to BASL earlier. According to law, the land should have been given back to Rayat

when the company closed; this did not happen and is against the CNT Act. Villagers know the character of Jindal Company and thus are protesting against them.



## Countless Salutation to you O Immortal Martyrs of Kaling Nagar

The representative group of JMACC went on 2<sup>nd</sup> January to Gobarghat, the tribal land of heroes Kaling Nagar, to pay homage to martyrs and encourage the movement and members of anti-displacement group Jan Munch. Members in the representative group were Serat Kachhap, secretary of JMACC Punit Rajkishor, Philip Kujur, Tirthraj Viruwli, Elies Cherwa, and Anil Ekka from Sundergarh.

## Establishment Day of Paraz Displaced Mass Organization



day of the Paraz anti-displacement organization was celebrated. In this ceremony at Agaria, the activists of Paraz challenged and called people to unite for the protection of people against destructive mining processes. Speakers in the ceremony said that there is no place for exploitation and displacement in the present system. Therefore to dismantle this system and establish a new one we have to come forward in this struggle. The organization at this occasion took many important decisions. The organization will demand the following provisions:for company

management to provide employment to all displaced persons above the age of 18, protection of traditional and religious land of the community, facility of drinking water to affected villagers, leveling after mining and return of land among the affected community, assessment of the effect of mining through health studies, and to investigate false cases and demand a recognition letter to Rayyats. For this cause, the organization will create continuous and ongoing movement.

## Arrest of Arjun Samad

The secretary of JOSH, Mr. Arjun Samad, was arrested on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 from the S.D.O. office. He had gone with the demand of 72 workers to S.D.O. office to attend three party talks. After the unsuccessful talks he was arrested and kept in the custody of Sidgoda police station. He was kept illegally in the custody for four days in the name of inquiry. Under the pressure of JMACC and other human rights organization he was presented before C.G.M. on Republic Day. C.G.M. acknowledged him as a minor

and he was sent to Karendih child reformatory. It is important to know that Arjun Samand comes from a Turamdih displaced family who well understands the pain of displacement and the anti-tribal and anti-worker character of UCIL. He has been continuously in the movement under the banner of JOSH since his youth on the question of workers and displaced peoples. Out of frustration UCIL management had him arrested on a false accusation of murder. In the custody of Sidgoda police station, he was repeatedly pressured to leave the side of the workers; only then he would be released.

## **In Support of 72 Contract Workers of Turamdih and Against the Arrest of JOSH Secretary Arjun Samad**

*Arrival of youth leader Deepak Das and Medha Pateker at Turamdih in Jamshedpur.*



On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008, youth leader of Kanarnpura Bachao Sangharsh Samiti Mr. Deepak Das and famous social worker Medha Pateker arrived at Jamshedpur UCIL Turamdih Mines gate to support contract workers. On this occasion, they warned the UCIL management that if they do not stop the destructive action to break contract workers struggle, they would make the Turamdih issue a national people's movement issue and Medha Pateker would talk to the higher authorities of the nation and disclose the anti-tribal and anti-worker character of the management. Mr. Deepak Das warned the management that UCIL has the power of police but we have the power of the people's movement. He also warned not to make the mistake of considering JOSH alone in this struggle and to release Arjun Samad without any condition; otherwise UCIL will have to face the power of all people's movements of Jharkhand which will be highly difficult. To support the workers, "Nandigram se Gorai Jatha" participants came and were supported by activists from different parts of the country such as Roma of Utter Pradesh, Shek Sultan of Nandigram, and Sandhya of Orissa. They proclaimed slogans in support of JOSH activists and asked for the support to take the movement ahead.

## **Sixteen Arrested Along with Two Suspected Chinese**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008, protesting displacement struggle committee arrested two suspected Chinese power plant specialists and 14 workers of Abhijit group of company. They were performing survey work in the village without permission even though the organization had given a prior strong warning to the company manager. As a token of punishment, the villagers kept them tied for six hours and made them climb up and down Murgaon hill four times. Finally at the request of SDO Mr. Anil Kumar they were released. Among the arrested from the company were Chinese Yang Wo Weng, See Ling, the general manager Rajiv Goyal, project assistant Shantanu Priyadarshi, assistant general manager Hement Kumar, AGM Mr. P.C. Joshi, senior manager Ratin Roy, assistant manager Uday Singh, executive officers Anil Kumar and Ajay Kr. Sing, supervisor U.S. Dube, and security officer Dharmendra Kr. Singh. Assistants Sachiddanand, Rishikesh, Varun, and Tarkeshwar were also present.

## **Memorandum Submitted by Karanpura Bachoa Sangarsh Samiti**

On the occasion of the martyrdom day of Binod Bihari Mahto, the Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti handed over a memorandum to Karanpura former coal minister Shibu Soren, Teklal Mahto of Giridih parliament, local MLA Loknath Mahto, and land Minister Dulal Bhuiya. The memorandum demands to announce Karanpura as an agricultural area and to ban the entry of mining and industrial companies into this agricultural area.

## **Race to Protect Land**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2008, members of Paat Agrabami Sangh ran from Ambakona to the protesting place of Kukud. The purpose of this race was to show one's commitment towards organization, dedication for the movement, strengthening of the organization, and to generate people's awareness. About one hundred men and women representatives from 17 villages participated in this race and completed the race by jumping about 500 to 700 feet into an old river valley.

## **Winter Camp of Paat Agrabami Sangh**

Maintain their ongoing historical struggle for 25 years, Paat Agrabami Sangh did not permit Hindalco company to take even a single piece of bauxite. In spite of people's movements and heavy protesting, the company received Kukud and Chero bauxite mining leases for 20 years. But even in their lease period, Hindalco had to face defeat. In order to extend the lease period, the company called once again for a public hearing and confirmed that instead of money they will get the lease. But the public was not disturbed by this. At any initiation by the company in this area, the local youth promptly come together united and organize to protect their land. This is the specialty of the Orsa and Kukud Paat struggle. The youth camp held on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October accomplished these purposes. A team of JMACC arrived there and had an exchange of their views with the youth. There was little talk with senior members and executive authorities of the organization, focusing mainly on interactions between young people so that the next wave of the movement will be strengthened. Sacrifices have been given in order to protect their land and more sacrifices are yet to be given; for this the youth are aware and active.

## Discussion on Alternative ideas of Agricultural Development in Karanpura Valley

A meeting was held at Babupare school campus to discuss upon alternative ideas of agricultural development in Karanpura valley. Farmers of Babupara, Gondalpur and Badam were present in this meeting. In spite of having fertile agricultural land, the government has done nothing for the development of agriculture or aggregation facilities nor given any attention for this. On the contrary, they made an agreement to hand over the agricultural land of Karanpura valley to almost 22 mining and production companies, creating a huge challenge for the farmers of how to protect their land. In spite of the difficulties and lack of facilities, the farmers here cultivate throughout the



year and sustain their families. There have been no efforts to help farmers move their products to markets and secure fair prices, and they are struggling as a result. It was decided that a cooperative effort between JMACC, Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti, and other small organizations could help to create a network for better aggregation and marketing systems that can benefit farmers by helping them move their products to outside markets and gain better profits. Farmers could also expand beyond grains and vegetables to efforts with Kutkut, fisheries, beehives and cows so that through a small piece of land more profit might be made. Also better training could be arranged for the farmers in areas such as seed storage, seed treatment, and crop improvement.



## Martyrdom Day of Brave Martyr Budhu Bhagat

Martyrdom day of Budhu Bhagat was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 by Addi Haq Bhumi Raksha Morcha. Members of Latehar JMACC also participated on this occasion. Every year homage is offered to martyrs of Kaling city and also to martyrs of Latehar who gave their martyrdom in the fight for land, forest, water, and cultural identity. The villagers here have started a movement against the huge aluminum factory of Hindalco company and feudal forces.

## Initiatives of JMACC for Jharkhand Union and New Political views.



On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in the central office of JMACC, a meeting of the representatives of different people's movement and activist groups was held. The main purpose of the meeting was an effort to bring the movement activists together on one stage so that by mutual agreement Jharkhand could be brought out of the present political crisis and a new way could be pursued. The views and points kept in this context are as follows:

1. Is the continuous wastage of natural resources a prominent way of development?
2. How much is the land protection law of tribal communities relevant in the present context?
3. Evolution of the present situation of

displaced communities since independence up to now. The members present in this evaluation were Miss Pushpa Tete (Journalist), Ratan Tirkey (Jharkhand people's right party), Amulya Neeraj Xalxo (Jharkhand Party), Devendranath Champia (former sub secretary Bihar legislative assembly), Sushi Barla (Birsa instructor), Chandrabhushan Deogam (Advocate Chaibasa), Umesh Nazir (executive editor of Khan Khaniz aur Adikar), Punit Rajkishor Minj (secretary JMACC), and Philip Kujur (JMACC) were present.

## Release of Arjun Samad



Arjun Samad was released after 40 days from Karandih child reformatory home. On this occasion, a rally from Karandih market place to Turamdih UCIL gate was held. At Sunder Nagar market place in Turamdih, mothers and sisters washed the feet, embraced, and offered garlands to their promising youth leader. The members of JOSH blew color powder. 72 workers sitting on protest at Turamdih UCIL gate welcomed him and also promised to strengthen the movement. The release of Arjun Samad was a big victory for contract workers.

## **Demand to Arrest Rapist Kundan Sing**

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, JMACC released a press notification which demanded the arrest of rapist Kundan Singh. For the last one year, he was sexually harassing a scheduled widow Surti Devi who is from Ajanagar village of Barkagaon block in Hazaribag district. Surti Devi was working for one hundred rupees per month in his house, and when she got pregnant an attempt was made to kill her. She was brought under the protection of Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti. Through the help of the organization she filed FIR against culprit Kundan Singh in Harijan police station and under section 164 also registered her appeal. But the culprit is still moving freely. The organization accused that the police administration is giving him protection by not arresting. He will not be forgiven and the organization will create a movement for this.

## **Abuse of Bhangaon Deepasai Firing**

On 13<sup>th</sup> March in Jagganathpur, the legislative assembly area of chief minister Madhu Kora, R.P.S.F. killed two tribals by gunshot. Villagers are troubled by the increasing pollution in the area due to iron ore cartage. JMACC accused R.P.S.F. soldiers of encouraging illegal mining of iron ore in the area so that villagers will be to fearful to protest.

## **Meeting of Executive Committee**

The meeting of JMACC executive committee members was held on 11 to 12 March in JMACC secretariat. Members present in the meeting were Punit Raj Kishor Minj, Philip Kujur, Dale Oraon, Balram Baori, Manju Kisku, Parmeshwar Mahto and invited members among them were Umesh Nazir and Mahadeo Oraon. A summary report was presented and based on that important points were marked and need was felt to take immediate decision upon them. Arrest of Arjun Samad was taken seriously and his illegal form of arrest was considered to be a scandal. A talk to call political and social movements together for help with the lawful fight for the release of Mr. Samad was discussed. Apart from this, concern was expressed on national mining policies and the rehabilitation policy of Jharkhand government.



Decision was taken that: -

- A letter of protest should be sent to mines management by members of Parej on the issue of release of dirty water from the mines.

- Companies of Dhanbad should collect the list of abandoned mines, continuously monitor the situation, and send immediately information about this.
- For the action against sexual harassment and other harassment of company owners, Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti members will energize the movement and JMACC secretariat will give needed help in this regard.
- The members of Chitterpur would gather information as early as possible about the arrangement of Gairmajurwa land and report to the JMACC secretariat. After having a meeting with the secretariat, a request will be sent to the land minister to stop this illegal arrangement.
- All the intermediary organizations will come together and organize a public meeting between 15<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May.
- Information about possible dates of public meeting should be sent to secretariat by 30<sup>th</sup> March and pamphlet materials to be printed for the public meeting should be sent to all organization by 30<sup>th</sup> March. In this way separate pamphlets will be available for every public meeting and can be sent immediately for campaigns.

### **Film Show in Small Talsa Village Affected by Uranium Garbage in Teling Dam**

A film related to people's movements was shown in Talsa village on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 on the occasion of Hul day. About 200 people from Chota Talsa, Bada Talsa, displaced villagers of Turamdin, Bandhuhurang, and contract workers from Bagjanta uranium mines saw this film. The film "Buddha Weeps in Jadugoda" depicts the radiation caused by uranium garbage and its effect on animals. At the same event, another film was shown about the fight for the protection of land, forests, and water. This obliged people to think seriously about the effects of radiation.

### **Birsa Martyrdom Day**

Photo display on 9<sup>th</sup> June at Birsa graveyard.

"Living Example, Living Document, Historical and Cultural Heritage: A Sign of Ownership"

On the occasion of Birsa Martyrdom Day, the team of JMACC held a photo exhibition related to Sasandiri, Pathalgari, and other areas of Jharkhand involved in the people's movement to keep the tribal heritage on centre stage.

JMACC has been conducting this campaign for the last two years. This campaign was started as "On the Way to Birsa" on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007 by exhibiting photos exposing destructive mining in Jharkhand and industrial degradation, centralizing the people's movements working on these causes.



## Truth Inquiry On the Work Behavior of D.A.E.(UCIL) of Turamdih Mines



On the request of JMACC Delhi Labor Centre C.E.C. with the help of labor file formed a team of investigation in which former president of national minimum wages, former area labor officer Dr. R.S. Tiwari, and Sunita Singh of people's watch were in the team. They stayed three days in the field and after a serious inquiry and consultation gave their final report. They said that the tribals here, even after losing everything, gave a donation of twelve

thousand crore to UCIL. This fact was accepted by UCIL manager himself. This team was formed in keeping the view of movement which was going on for last the eight months by contract workers of Turamdih uranium mining project.

### Protest on Labeling Rodrix a Naxalite: Goa

In response to the labeling of the people's democratic and anti-mining activist Mr. Sebastian Rodrix a Naxalite, activists and NGOs have expressed their anger against the opposition leader of the Goa legislative assembly Manohar Parriker because he did not have any solid proof of this suspicion. The entire social activist community has shown their unity in support of Mr. Rodrix and strengthened their voice against the mining companies of Goa who are hiding behind this accusation.

### Understanding of People's Issues (Workshop)

A two day workshop of Noamundi Oman Women's Organization was held in Dukasai. Philip Kujur of JMACC and Umesh Nazir of Mines Minerals and Rights advised activists to recognize and increase their strength. About 200 village activists of Noamundi area participated in this two day workshop and developed self confidence to work in the field of social organizing. Serious discussion on the causes of sickness, destruction of herbal plants found in the forest, deforestation and pollution due to iron ore mining and haulage, and strategies for protection and resistance were also discussed. It was especially noted that without a strong social movement nothing will be saved and strategies for organizing were also discussed.

## Chattisgarh Tour

A team of JMACC toured the Jaspur districts of Chattisgarh state on 14<sup>th</sup> April. The tribal women congress in Jaspur district is continuously campaigning against mining and a proposed hydro electric project on the Eb River. This tour was done with the purpose of strengthening mutual relationships and organizational help. Hundreds of big and small companies have received leases from the government for bauxite mining in Pandra Paat of Jaspur district. Eb River, which releases from Pandra Paat, will be destroyed in the mining process. The proposed hydro electric project in Gulu village, Sanna will cause thousands of acres of beautiful forests to be drowned. The people affected by this project have many times demanded cancellation from the district administration. The movement is happening in Gulu village, but there is a general lack of awareness in the people of the local community because they are not getting the kind of support and help which they need. Increased cultural awareness is also necessary there because many tribals are losing their identity because of the affairs of RSS and encroachment of Hindu religion; many tribals are going away from tradition and custom.

## Hudka Block

“Cancel the selection of operational trainees and appoint local displaced and affected in UCIL by giving them apprenticeship training.” With this demand, the displaced youth of Jadugoda, Turamdih, Narwa, and Bagjanta blocked the rear gate of UCIL under the banner of Jharkhand Organization for Struggling Human (JOSH) and this resulted in the close of uranium mills. The UCIL management was agitated by this and filed an FIR on local movement activists stating that they have hijacked two dumpers loaded with uranium ore. The police station in charge of Jadugoda himself inspected the matter and found that both the dumpsters were standing in front of the rear gate of UCIL and nobody had hijacked them. This accusation against movement activists was baseless and the FIR was rejected. The main issue is that UCIL has only been accepting outsiders into its apprenticeship program and has been closed to local displaced people, causing additional anger. On 13<sup>th</sup> May, local youth conducted a rally from Jadugoda UCIL rear gate to hospital gate and submitted a memorandum to UCIL management with a warning.



## Press Conference by the Gram Sabha

On 14<sup>th</sup> July, the representatives of Gram Sabha called for a press conference for people who would be affected by project of Magadh and Amrapali and said that they would not give a single inch of land to both the bog projects of CCL and Jharkhand government. The representatives of Gram Sabha on this occasion had also invited B.O. of Tandwa block, police station in charge and CCL management. The Gram pradhans of Masilong, Ara, Kundi, Jogepur, Suiatand, and Ursu village expressed their views in this press conference and on this occasion the coordinator of Doklo-Sohor-Parganait



Manki Munda Padha committee was also present whereas no officer of management and administration showed their presence. Thus the representatives of Gram Sabha expressed their anger toward the CCL management and administration and said that they would also not listen to the management and administration.

## Grand Council



On 8<sup>th</sup> June, Bindrai institute for research and action (BIRSA) organized Birsa Munda ceremony. In front of the picture of Birsa Munda, a traditional homage of paddy on saal leaf was offered and also the families of martyr Rana Munda and comrade Gurudas Chatterjee were honored. On this occasion a meeting on the topic “Danger of Administration System in Jharkhand: Search of New Ways” was held. Prabhas Joshi, a columnist who established people’s concern in the newspaper, was the main speaker in this meeting. An article written by Xavier Dias was read by Simon Hansda at the beginning of the meeting. The

chief secretary of JMACC, Mr. Punit Raj Kishor Minj, presented in the meeting the perspectives of “Grand Council of Elders of Jharkhand Homeland” He said that the work of putting moral pressure on government would be done by this council. Supporting the presented perspective of the Grand Council, Mr. Prabhas Joshi suggested that the purpose of the formation of chief council is to correct the crisis of the present administration system but it is important to properly reflect on the structure and way of functioning of this council. He said that the crisis of administrative system is a national problem and therefore reflection on this should be at the national level. He said that we should create a system which can give a fair share to the nation’s poor. In his presidential speech, Dr. Ramdyal Munda said that our fight is with corporate management and they are very powerful at present; therefore we will have to engage other communities and based on common morality form our strategy and politics.



## **Karanpura Union Much Formed**

Big and small, 22 companies have kept their eye on Karanpura valley. Plans to capture the whole Karanpura have been made by mines and power plant project. Many people's organizations in this area have stood to protest this. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008, all of the organizations formed a combined union platform so that by mutual cooperation a strong stand could be made. The platform decided that none of the companies will be given land, and instead there will be a stronger focus on the development of agriculture Karanpura. Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti, Bhartiya Mahila Jagriti Samiti, Ekta Parishad, Addi Haq Jan Sanghrash Samiti, and representatives of Vistaphan Pratirodh Samiti participated in this meeting and repeatedly pledged to help in every possible way in each other's movements. On this occasion Ramdyaal Munda, Rajgopal, and members of national land reform committee were also present.

## **Contract Workers Achieved Rights by Fighting**

Contract workers of Banduhurang uranium mines achieved a victory by staging an eight day strike. The UCIL management has agreed to provide many facilities to workers such as central wages, transfer of their PF from Raipur to Jamshedpur, food allowance, duty bus, medical, welfare, and rest house. And so the workers on the basis of the talks from 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 to 23<sup>rd</sup> July closed the strike. JOSH organization gave open support to workers throughout the whole process.

## **Full Force Protest on Lifting of A Woman Forcefully.**

On 28th July, about 11am in Jadugoda police station, a CIESF soldier posted in Jadugoda tried to lift and take away a woman forcefully from Jharia village. On hearing the protest and shouting of that women, villagers reached there and saved her dignity. It should be known that during the tenure of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, these soldiers were brought here for the protection of UCIL which is controlled by Atomic energy department and now they are out of control. An FIR has been filed against this in Jadugoda police station and JMACC has written a letter to the women's commission requesting to investigate the matter and to give punishment to the accused soldiers. CIESF soldiers should be tightened and kept in discipline. 31 villagers moving around protesting against the event were arrested by Jadugoda police with the idea that villagers could be made frightened and the case could be dismissed.

## **Aggressive Heat of Corruption Burned down Tapas**

Fighting against aggressive heat of corruption, brave youth Tapas of Birakhap finally got martyred on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, badly burned Tapas was taken from Charhi market to Hazaribag Sadar hospital and from there he was brought to Ranchi. On the pressure of JMACC and other social activists for his better treatment, he was sent to AMS on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. After fighting about 144 hours continuously with death, he finally took his last breath on 8<sup>th</sup> July. His body was brought to Ranchi on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008 by Indian airlines. His companions, remembering his last message, brought his dead body from the



airport the front of the Governor's house and held a grief ceremony and finally took his body to his village for last consecration. Fighting with corruption, he not only shook its roots but told the world about how employees of our country are closely united and entangled in corruption behind the law of NAREGA, and unless and until this chain of corruption is broken the welfare of the poor people of our country will remain in a bad state.

He gave his last message to fight with corruption

*Look, injustices have been done to us .....*

*I will fight against injustice .....*

*This is the last decision of my life .....*

*This is the message I would like to give .....*

*To the villagers .....*

*That we should not leave people who do violence upon us .....*

*To poor people like us .....*

*Forgery is done by keeping us in confusion .....*

*I will never tolerate this injustice .....*

*If I live then I'll tell the public that .....*

*Those who do injustice to us .....*

*We will take them to the place of hanging .....*

*We will do this together .....*

*People who are taking advantage of poor people such things will not be tolerated .....*

These sentences are of our brave martyr Tapas who before his last journey conveyed this message to his villages and countrymen. Even though the voice of Tapas will be unheard from today forward, he fought till his last breath against corruption and died as a brave soldier.

## **Self Evaluation Camp of JMACC**



Self evaluation camp of the activists of JMACC was held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August at Kasiadih primary school in Charhi. Activists got the opportunity to evaluate themselves in this camp. This resulted in new energy and strength towards organizing and activists, understanding their responsibility towards organization, were filled with the spirit of dedication and total commitment for their work. All of the activists appreciated this camp and suggested to continue these events in the future so that there can be more opportunities to evaluate the strategies and works of the organization and new strategies can be devised.

## **Truth Inquiry in Context of Tapas Soren's Self-Burning Death.**

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008, under the guidance of Dr. Mukhdeo Sharma a team of investigation arrived in Sarbaha village and found out the reasons of Tapas Soren's self-burning death.

## **Strike of Turamdih and Banduhurang Contract Workers Continues**

On 28<sup>th</sup> July, general secretary of JMACC Punit Rajkishor Minj, Umesh Nazir of Mines, Minerals, and Rights, Mahadeo Oraon, and Philip Kujur participated in the strike of contract workers and supported their demands.

## **A Meeting with Workers Leader Comrade A.K. Rai**

On 17<sup>th</sup> July, members of JMACC met with comrade A.K. Rai. The purpose of this meeting was to take his interview so that the workers movement could get energy from his experience. JMACC is in the process of preparing a better troop to establish a stronger relationship with the workers' movement in order to better support them and continue the fight in Jharkhand which has been started with the contract workers of UCIL.

## **Meeting of JMACC in Kasiadih**

On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2008, a meeting of central committee of JMACC was held at Kasiadih primary school of Charhi. The following members were present in the meeting.

**Members :** Daale Oraon, Arjun Samad, Manoj Kisku, Balram Baori, Philp Kujur, Punit Minj, Surendra Tirkey, Permashwar Mahto.

**Invited persons :** Veena Stanis, Philen Horo, Mahalal Hansda, Simon Hansda, Jhari Munda, Deepak Das, Indradeo Ram, Subhas Gyali, Elias Ansari, Dropdi, Mohan Bhuiya.

**Points to be discussed:** area reporting, findings, future strategies.

The meeting started with the speech of the general secretary. He said there is a need to increase the activities of organizing, keeping in mind the challenges of our organization in the present political situation. Personal reflection and self evaluation was given stress in this regard.

In order to start discussion on the points for reflection, area-specific evaluation was done.

Discussion was done on the upcoming questions from area-specific evaluations and the following strategies were prepared.

- JMACC should have its own law advisor.
- Area organizations should decide strategies at the ground level and keep informing the general secretary. Field visit proposals should be planned at the ground level.
- Evaluation of rehabilitation and policies of re-establishment and policies of national mineral should be done and should be conveyed to people through the medium of movement at ground level.
- Lack of communication is emerging among the members of people's movement. We will have to be in contact with one another and continuously talk about upcoming strategies.

- Central committee of JMACC will get energy only when local organizations help and maintain coordination.
- Information has not been given to JMACC in spite of so many programs conducted at the local level. Information of such programs should be given to the central committee.
- Reflection on organizational management should also be done.
- Seriousness of coordination between family life and organizational work should be considered.
- Distance of some area people is increasing from the organization which needs to be filled in.
- Membership donation (Rs. 5000) has not been received and should be submitted immediately.
- There is a need to extend the talk of the central committee to the organization in a proper form.
- There is a need for meeting and discussion on deep fountain of NTPL.
- Tour has to be made in other villages also.

### ***Future Programs***

- Jhari will have to go to Patna within 15 to 20 days to get information of land record from record room.
- A campaign against Jindal Company in the first week of October.
- Protest of rehabilitation and re-establishment policies.
- Organizing youth convention in September.
- Inviting the members of Project commission Sayada.
- Serious discussion on the contribution of JMACC in political boundary and decide our political stand.

Vote of thanks was given by Manju Kisko to those present there and break was given to the meeting.

### **Youth Convention Tandwa**



A youth convention was organized in Devalgaddha Tandwa Chatra from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September with the main theme of JMACC in 2008 “Judo ya Maro” (Be United or Die). On this occasion, a statue of Birsa Munda was established in Devalgaddha play ground. The youth participants in this convention were from all over Jharkhand, especially related with movements against mining and industrial looting. The main purpose of this convention



was to generate awareness in youth towards their society, resources and identity and to assemble the unity and power of youth. Through the medium of game, the youth present from different areas of Jharkhand showed their commitment towards society.

## **Balumath: Meeting with Block Officer**

On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008, the member of central committee of JMACC met with block officer of Balumath and introduced the members of the displacement protest committee, asked to involve them in development works, and also requested to run programs encouraging agriculture through organization.

## **Youth Awareness Munch (Torpa)**

JMACC showed a film in a camp organized by the Youth Awareness Munch to raise awareness about ongoing people's movements against mining and industrial looting in Jharkhand. The youth, studying in different colleges of Jharkhand, participated in this camp. JMACC supports students and student's movements and encourages the students to understand their society, present politics, and their overall situation.

## **False Case and Beating to Block Officer of Barkagaon**

On 24<sup>th</sup> September, the villages of Barkagaon came to the block office to warn the block officer to stop land ownership process for NTPC. The villages of Karanpura do not want to give a single inch of land to any company at any cost. Taking advantage of this situation, the brokers beat him and put the blame on the villagers. JMACC and Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti, despising this incident, said that this act is done by the brokers of the companies to weaken the movement and defame the legal action which has been executed by the villages of Karanpura valley for the protection of their land. After this event, a false case was registered against 11 activists of Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti.

## **No Entry in Village Without Permission**

The villages of Devalgaddha stopped the entry of CCL officers and sent them back empty-handed. The officers of CCL once again tried to enter into the village for the Magadh and Amarpali project, but due to heavy protest by the villages they had to leave immediately. For the past 10 years, the officials of the company have been attempting to acquire the land which is not possible. Activists of Addi Haq Jan Sanghrash Samiti have to asked "Why does the company come here again and again when we do not want to give land?"

## **Meeting of K.B.S.S. Against Land Ownership**

A meeting was organized in Ajad Nagar by Karanpura Bachao Sanghrash Samiti against the land acquisition process of Niko Jaysawal for Moitra coal block. Due to this individual news of land ownership for government employees, anger was aroused among the affected Rayyat from proposed coal block. The organization once again planned for a strong movement against this issue. On this occasion, the general secretary of JMACC Philip Kujur participated in the meeting and pledged to help the movements of organizations and also told the people about the changing character of the company in the present world economic situation, saying that in this economic depression none of the companies will unnecessarily increase production. Coal production is used to make energy to increase the production capacity of factories whereas the production process of the world is affected by this economic depression, so what is Moitra trying to do here? This has to be understood. The company wants to become the landlord by taking the land from Rayyat and their saved amount could remain safe as immovable property. Therefore it is an opportunity for the organization to energize their movement.

## “Judo Ya Maro” (Be United or Die) Big Procession

With the fundamental message of 2008 of JMACC “Judo Ya Maro,” a big procession was started. This procession, divided separately into eight teams, reached out into the coal area, iron area, iron ore area, uranium area, next to power plants, proposed aluminum plant, sponge iron and areas of iron factories and helped to increase awareness among people. This team reached into those areas where people’s movements are going on and to those who will be affected by mining and industrial development. From 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, they told about mining and industrial looting, the character of industrial companies, policies of industrial development, and the effects on economy, society, and culture through the medium of film, posters, and songs. The procession ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the proposed coal mining area of Jindal in Rabodh village of Churchu block with a huge people’s conference. This procession and other common conferences ended with a strong promise that “Ab ek inch aur jamin nahi” (not a single inch of land anymore) for mining. This big procession was started from the burial place of Birsa Munda with an oath ceremony.



## Kanthikund Police Firing

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008: Today at about 12 pm, people from Amgachi and nearby villages were going from Kanthikund to Shikaripara under the banner of Ulgulan munch in the campaign of fill jail to protest the arrest of Charna Purty, Muni Hansda, Charan Kumar and Hopna Baskey when suddenly police started firing bullets. Seven people were seriously injured. The news came that

Lakhiram Tudu has died. The firing continued for two hours. After the incident, all the injured and terrified villagers returned to their homes. Condemning this event, JMACC immediately demonstrated against the police and police firing at Firayalal cross road and released a press bulletin saying that if the government and company try to suppress people’s movement by power then JMACC is ready to face with people’s force.

## One Day Protest for the Rights of Tribal Dalit



On the occasion of the human rights day Gramin Vikas, Sanghrash Samiti of Phulwari Tand, Dhanbad organized a one day protest in the block headquarters and asked for a report of the ongoing situation of development projects of Tribal dalits.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008: In the protest of Kanthikund police firing, a team of intellectuals and social activists from Ranchi headed for Dumka. This group would meet former chief minister Pro. Stephen Marandi at 9 pm in Dumka and demand compensation for those killed in the firing, release of six arrested people without any condition, and to free other suspect form FIR. This team will also investigate the event. This decision was taken in the joint meeting of social activists and intellectuals of Jharkhand in the office of Jharkhand Jangle Bachao Andolan. The committee also decided to put up a huge demonstration against this incident in Ranchi on 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Dr. Ramdya Munda, Alex Ekka. Mahadeo Hansda, Umesh Nazir, Tirthraj Viruli, and Mahalal Hansda were in this team.

## Procession against Police Firing in Dumka



On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008, a procession was held from Sanik Bazar to governor's house in collaboration of Daman Virodhi Much (Suppression Rivalry Much). Demand to have a just and full investigation of the Dumka Kanthikund police firing and to arrest the policemen culprits was included in this rally. About 700 people including Medha Pateker, Ramdya Munda, and activists of different organizations took part in this procession. After returning from Dumka and before the procession, Dr. Ramdya Munda, Wasvi, and Medha Pateker held a press conference. This procession, after reaching the governor's house, changed

into a public assembly. A group of representatives met with the governor, informed him about the situation of Dumka, and asked him to take needed actions. On the initiation of JMACC assistant editor of Khan Khanij Aur Adhikar Mr. Umesh Nazir, Mahalal Hansda, Tirthraj, and Philmon were sent to Dumka Kanthikund to get information about the situation there. According to their findings, it is understood by JMACC that the government is also involved in this situation because it has played the role of a silent spectator while the police administration and the company C.E.S.G and R.P.G. groups have played their role as feudal oppressors. Action against the company should be taken. It is crystal clear that the company has done this massacre with the support of the district administration. There is also news that the company is insisting on putting up a power plant there. They say that they have worked there continuously for two years and lot of investment has already been made.

## **Shivlal Soren's Chain was Opened**

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008: Shivlal Soren of Kanthikund, injured in the police firing incident, was referred to Ranchi RIMS from Dhanbad on 15<sup>th</sup> December, and his treatment was performed with chains on his leg. To protest this, many organizations came together and put pressure on the administration and finally his chain was removed. The director of RIMS said that he was given good treatment and operation is not required in this situation. First swelling of his wound has to subside and then removal of the bullet will be thought about. Completing 10 days in this situation is supposed to be positive for the patient. Right now, Shivlal is injured seriously and his right eye is completely damaged. JMACC, JUDAV, PUCL, NAREGA watch, Jharkhand people's right party, and activists of other organizations immediately reached the hospital and made them remove his chain and talked to RIMS management for his better treatment.

## **Meeting of Central Committee**

Central committee meeting of JMACC was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December '08 in Ranchi central office.

### ***Present Members***

Punit Minj, Philip Kujur, Permashwar Mahto, Manju Kisku, Balram Baori, Surendra Tirkey, and Daale Oraon.

### **Points to be discussed**

- Members of central committee – Masi Topno and Pyari Nagesia.   ▪ Conference
- Funds       ▪ Future strategies   ▪ Quarterly area reporting

First of all, area wise reporting was done. Permashwar Mahto, Manju Kisku, Surendra Tirkey, Daale Oraon, and Balram Baori presented their area reporting. Philip Kujur did the reporting of iron and bauxite area which was in his knowledge.

Conference: A decision was taken that before the annual conference, area conferences would be organized in all the areas and for this matter all the organizations will have to fix the date for programs in their respective areas.

There is a need to work more to increase new caider in order to make the area conferences successful. This was said at the end and the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks.

## Grief Assembly: Chandil



Last December on 13<sup>th</sup> 2008, a grief assembly was organized at Choka Palgam concerning the murder of Martyr Sunil Singh Munda. Martyr Munda was killed on 22<sup>nd</sup> November by the company middlemen and thrown on the highway. Martyr Munda was strongly protesting the company which was trying to



put up a plant by taking the forested land forcefully. On this occasion Mahadeo, Punit, and Philip of JMACC participated in the organized resolve ceremony in Palgam Chandil and pledged to help the ongoing movement in the area against pollution and company takeover of the land. The members of JMACC met the mournful family of martyr Munda and expressed their sympathy. He also requested to have mutual dialogue with all organizations and to put pressure on the government, company and middlemen so that no killing of any movement activists could take place in future.

## Security Guard of O.C.L. Shot Sushil Lakra

A security guard for the lime mines near Lanjiberna village killed 19 year old Sushil Lakra from the village, who later died before reaching Cuttak hospital. This incident took place on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> when some boys of the village had gone for toilet near the water tank and then the guard started fighting with them. On returning, the



village boys told this to their elders and the villagers went to the guard with this complaint. The guard then targeted and fired at the boy, which caused anger among the villagers and they killed the guard. Villagers stopped the work of the company and sat for protest at the gate with the dead body. The protest was withheld on the agreement of compensation of three lakhs from the company. After having information about the event, the general secretary

of JMACC Punit Raj Kishor Minj, Philip Kujur, and Surendra Tirkey offered flowers on the graveyard of martyr Sushil Lakra and prayed for the repose of his soul and expressed their sympathy towards his mournful family. They received full information from the members of the movement protesting against mining and requested them to energize the movement. After this, the members of JMACC addressed a people's conference organized at Jharbera in Rajgangpur where people are campaigning against an iron sponge factory.