



## Association for India's Development

Indiana University, Bloomington Chapter

900 East 7th Street, IMU Room 371, IN 47405

Email: [aid@indiana.edu](mailto:aid@indiana.edu) Web: [www.indiana.edu/~aid](http://www.indiana.edu/~aid)

*"Be the change you wish to see!"*

**Mahatma Gandhi**

---

Contact: Harini Gopalakrishnan, Association for India's Development, (812) 345-9814,  
[hgopalak@indiana.edu](mailto:hgopalak@indiana.edu)

### **Groups protest against "inhuman" Corporate at Recuritment Fair Students asked to make informed career choices**

November 2, 2006

BLOOMINGTON – The Life Sciences Career fair on Thursday, November 2, saw IU student groups come together at the Showalter fountain to protest against "inhuman" practices by DOW Chemical and asking students to make an informed choice when applying to corporations. Protestors dressed in business suits surrounded the DOW Corning recruitment table inside IU Auditorium, challenging DOW's record on pollution, industrial accidents, and pending legal cases.

Coming on the heels of the nationwide "Bhopal Day of Action" on October 31 coordinated by the Students for Bhopal movement, this protest highlights the continued struggle of the victims of the Bhopal Gas disaster 22 years back in India. The industrial accident at the Union Carbide factory, now owned by DOW Chemical, allegedly killed 23,000 over the past 2 decades, with 5000 dying the night of the accident. Over 150,000 people, many of them children born to gas-affected parents, are said to be suffering from long term effects of the accident.

Over 30 students from the Association for India's Development (AID), attired in black t-shirts reading "No More Bhopals" stood with placards and chanted "DOW shall not kill" and "Human element, Inhuman actions". Giri Krishnan, the president of AID and graduate student at Psychology said, "DOW has launched a \$30 million AD campaign called 'Human Element' to cover up their recklessness, but their continued indifference to the thousands of dying Bhopalis speaks volumes on their 'Inhuman actions'".

Inside the auditorium, protestors distributed flyers that described the "dark side of DOW", including the role of DOW Corning in the breast implant fiasco 15 years back. DOW Corning's silicone, used in the mastectomy surgery of over 500,000 women in the US, was linked to serious health hazards, including breast cancer, and a compensation of \$3.2 billion paid through a class action suit. Several students looking for jobs at the career fair signed a pledge not to work for DOW Chemical. Aparna Venkatraman, a graduate student from Computer Science, who was at the fair, felt this protest had been an "eye opener on the reckless negligence of corporations like DOW" and that this has taught her to do more research on the businesses she applies to in future. The DOW Corning representative at the fair declined to comment on the issue.

Vidhi Sanghavi, a sophomore majoring in Speech and Hearing Sciences, said she learned about the Bhopal Gas disaster when on an academic visit to India in summer, and was excited to find out that there was an active group of students at IU fighting for the Bhopal victims. "Students at IU need to be aware of corporate social responsibility before they become advocates for any company. Many companies have a scandalous past which they would prefer to conceal. It is our duty, as students, to uncover these truths". Vidhi was one of several members of the Indian Students Association who supported the protests. One of the demands of the campaigners is to get IU to establish a minimum corporate standard that companies have to meet before they can come to campus to recruit students.

– turn over –

Association for India's Development is a non-profit volunteer-based organization working on developmental projects and supporting the social struggles of the under-privileged in India. Indiana University, Bloomington is one of the over 45 chapters of AID across the US. (Contact: Harini Gopalakrishnan, (812) 345-9814, hgopalak@indiana.edu, [www.aidindia.org](http://www.aidindia.org))

Students for Bhopal is an international network of students and supporters working in solidarity with the survivors of the Bhopal disaster in their struggle for justice. As part of the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (ICJB), they use education, grassroots organizing and non-violent direct action to pressure Dow Chemical and the Indian Government to uphold the Bhopalis' fundamental human right to live free of chemical poison. (Contact: Ryan Bodanyi, (401) 829-6192, [rbodanyi@studentsforbhopal.org](mailto:rbodanyi@studentsforbhopal.org), [www.studentsforbhopal.org](http://www.studentsforbhopal.org))

###