

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 3 PM – 7 PM



3 PM: *Development Flows from the Barrel of a Gun*, 55 min, 2003. By Biju Toppo and Meghnath.

This film questions paradigms of state-sponsored “development”, and covers a wide range of people’s movements that are resisting projects such as aluminium mining in Kashipur, Orissa, construction of a port in Umbergaon, Gujarat, the Koel Karo dam in Jharkand, etc. The film is remarkable for the extensive documentation of systematic attacks on popular movements by the State (the police), assassination of movement leaders, intimidation of community leaders, arson against resisting villagers, etc. It also records popular resistance to state repression through interviews with grassroots-level leaders and members of the community.

4 PM: *The Bitter Drink*, 26 min, 2003. By P. Baburaj & C. Saratchandran. This film documents the successful struggle against global giant Coca Cola, where grassroots public mobilization in the village of Plachimada, Kerala succeeded in pushing back “the most valued brand in the world”, and which led to a historic judgement by the Kerala High Court that “ground water is a public property and no one has the right to over exploit it.” The film is a wide-ranging investigation of the issue of privatization of water, which reveals, for example, that even as Coca Cola was causing water shortages in Plachimada, it was simultaneously profiting from the sale of bottled water in Kerala and elsewhere. Also includes interviews with those affected by water depletion, community leaders, and local political activists who clarify that their struggle is against both global economic imperialism (as exemplified by Coca Cola), as well as against State-sponsored paternalistic development models that do not take into account people’s actual needs.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 3 PM – 7 PM



3 PM: *The Other Side of the Boom*, 22 min, 2008. [Produced by Special Broadcasting Services, Australia, with reporter Jonathon Matthews] The rural poor in central India feel left out of the financial windfall from India’s economic success, and are increasingly turning their support to the anti-government Maoist rebels known as “Naxalites”. Video Journalist Jonathon Matthews seeks out the rebels – and the government-backed vigilante group, Salwa Judum, that opposes them – to ask whether the terrible cycle of violence that’s affecting two thirds of the Indian continent can possibly end. The ongoing violence has pitted neighbour against neighbour, converted the area into a civil war zone, with hundreds of villages burnt, scores of people murdered, entire communities displaced and at least 50,000 people forced into squalid government camps.

Fifteen months ago, Dr. Binayak Sen, pediatrician, public health specialist and national Vice-President of the People’s Union for Civil Liberties (PUC), was arrested on false charges of sedition, and charged under the repressive “Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act.” Activists the world over protested this arrest, including Ajay TG—a filmmaker and a colleague from PUC—who made a movie documenting Dr. Sen’s lifelong commitment to issues of community health and human rights. Ironically, almost a year after Dr. Sen’s arrest, Ajay TG was also arrested under the same black law. Dr. Sen and Ajay, both earned the ire of the government for opposing Salwa Judum.

3.30 PM: *New State, Old Problems*, 10 min, 2008. [Produced by The Campaign to Release Binayak Sen and Ajay T. G.] Provides a background to Dr. Sen and Ajay T.G. arrest, including brief introductions to the State of Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha, the Naxalites, and Salwa Judum.

3.45 PM: *Anjam (The Consequence)*, 20 min, 2008. By Ajay T. G. A film on the life and work of Dr. Binayak Sen. Traces the evolution of Dr. Sen’s life as an activist from his college days, to his involvement in the miners’ struggles in the Dalli Rajhara mines, and setting up the Shaheed Hospital, and finally to a human rights activist as he recognized the inalienable bond between human rights and health rights.

5 PM: *Tales from the Margins*, 23 min, 2006. By Kavita Joshi. This film examines the political situation in Manipur, India, and documents public protests against human rights abuses by the State. The specific cases depicted include that of Manorama Thangiam who was kidnapped by the 17th battalion of Assam Rifles, and whose raped and bullet-ridden body was later found dumped on a roadside, the case of a 14 year old student who has never returned to his family after being taken by the army, and that of Sharmila Irom who has been fasting for over 7 years demanding the repealing of the Arms Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958 (AFSPA).

