

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISTS BEGIN FAST TO URGE WORLD BANK TO END FORCED DISPLACEMENT

WHAT: A Press Conference Announcing a 3-day Fast to Protest World Bank Policies

WHEN: Friday, April 23, 2004 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: EDWARD R. MURROW PARK, across from the World Bank, at 18th between H and Pennsylvania.

WHY: International activists are initiating a 3-day fast to coincide with the World Bank's spring meetings to call attention to the legacy of impoverishment associated with the forced displacement of peoples by World Bank funded large scale infrastructure projects such as mines and dams. They demand that the Bank make policy changes to ensure the rights of people adversely affected by the Bank's lending practices. A letter to the Bank with a list of demands will be presented at the press.

WHO: Press Conference Speakers:

Smitu Kothari, Program Director, Lokayan (India), past recipient of the Right Livelihood Award. Dr. Kothari is a scholar-activist involved over the past three decades in ecological, cultural and human rights issues. He is currently a Visiting Professor at Princeton University.

Dickson Mundia, Founder, Basilwizi Trust, Kariba Dam (Zimbabwe) oustee. Mr. Mundia is a lawyer campaigning for compensation for the Tonga people, displaced by the World Bank funded Kariba Dam in Zimbabwe.

Angana Chatterji, Professor, California Institute of Integral Studies. Since 1984, Dr. Chatterji has been conducting advocacy and policy research with postcolonial social movements toward enabling participatory democracy for social and ecological justice.

Elias Diaz Pena, Founder, SOBREVIVENCIA, Friends of the Earth - Paraguay, past recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize. Mr. Pena's organization has helped local affected people file two claims to the World Bank Inspection Panel to challenge implementation failures in the Yacyretá Hydroelectric Project on the Paraguay-Argentina border.

Dana Clark, President, International Accountability Project, Berkeley, CA. Ms. Clark is a human rights and environmental lawyer that has recently co-authored and co-edited a book assessing the efficacy of the World Bank's Inspection Panel.

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