



Invitation to the conference around Jan Satyagraha 2012 – March for Justice
Room R3.1, European Parliament, Strasbourg - May 22nd - 2pm
Languages : french and english

Karima Delli, Member of the European Parliament (Greens/EFA, France), Ekta Parishad and Ekta Europe are inviting you to attend a conference on the March for Justice « Jan Satyagraha 2012 » that will take place in October 2012 in India.

Large-scale land and resource grabbing is going on in the name of industrialization and development. The appropriation of forest and mineral wealth is shunting people off the land as well as annihilating tribal cultures and their livelihood base. Mineral extraction is depleting water sources and causing pollution which makes agriculture unprofitable and compromises people's lives and culture. Evictions such as the examples from India are humanitarian, ecological and cultural disasters which increase both rural and urban poverty, as the displaced are driven to seek refuge in already over-crowded cities - a vicious circle that won't stop until the right to land and housing is acknowledged by the policy makers. According to IFRI, more than 165000 farmers committed suicide in India since 1997 because of this vicious circle.

Inspired by Gandhi's example, in 2007 Ekta Parishad and partner organisations mobilised 25 000 people, most of them landless and among the poorest, including *adivasis* and *dalits*, on a 350 kilometre march from Gwalior to Delhi lasting 27 days. The march was called Janadesh - 'the Verdict of the People' - and its aim was to expose the deep injustice of land laws and the urgent need for land reforms in India. The key demands of the marchers were met on paper, yet three years later actual implementation is still largely lacking. A new march, Jan Satyagraha – 'the March for Justice' - is being planned for 2012 which will bring together 100 000 poor villagers, *adivasis*, *dalits* and other landless peasants from many Indian states in what will be the largest ever non-violent action for land, water and forest rights.

Europe, and the European Parliament in particular, have a responsibility in this process. As leader in terms of both human rights and economic legislations, the European Parliament and its various members can have a voice to advocate these matters and hopefully influence policy makers in a positive way.

Programme

Introduction - Karima DELLI, MEP (Greens/EFA, France)

Harlem DESIR, MEP (S&D, France), Rapporteur for the INTA committee on the EU-India FTA

Pr. Marc DUFUMIER, Professor of Agronomy at Agro-ParisTech and President of the René Dumont Foundation (to confirm)

Ms. Gauri KAULKARNI, Indian Dancer and Choreographer, Ekta Parishad

Mr Küde MEIER, Cashier of CESC Support Association, member of Ekta Europe

Conclusion - Graham WATSON, MEP (ADLE, UK), President of the EP delegation for relations with India

Registration

Registration mandatory before May 16th: please kindly contact Marie Bohner at marie@organisehumanevents.com

Please kindly mention your first and last name, passport or identity number and contact (tel and email) to register and access the building of the European Parliament.