



HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK

Statement of Solidarity with the People of the Narmada Valley

New Delhi, 2 August 2017

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN), India expresses its solidarity with the people of the Narmada Valley who face the imminent threat of submergence, displacement, and loss of their homes, lands, and livelihoods. We also extend our solidarity with those who are on an indefinite fast for justice for the affected persons. HLRN salutes the courage of the people and their relentless struggle for social justice and the protection of human rights and the environment.

HLRN is concerned about the persistent violation of court orders related to the rehabilitation and resettlement of people affected by the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the River Narmada. We are also concerned about the state's blatant disregard of its legal obligations under the Constitution of India as well as numerous national and international laws, policies, norms, and guidelines, including specific recommendations made by UN treaty bodies and Special Procedures on the Sardar Sarovar Project. The actions of the central and state governments also go against the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams.

HLRN also condemns the destruction of cultural and heritage sites in the area by state authorities, including the recent desecration of the Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat in Badwani.

We call upon the central government as well as the concerned state governments to immediately implement all court orders related to the provision of adequate rehabilitation and resettlement, to uphold India's national and international legal commitments, and to ensure that there is no further damage, forced eviction, displacement, and violation of the human rights of the people of the Narmada Valley as a result of any acts of omission or commission by the state, including by closing the gates of the Dam.

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