



Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

Development, Inclusion and Harmony

Prospects for the People

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Since 1990, the development model pursued by India gave a sudden spurt to economic growth with GDP touching 9 percent but it also led to displacements, marginalization, environment degradation and increasing socioeconomic disparities. This period also saw increase in social conflicts and now almost one third of the country can be classified as conflict prone / disturbed area.

The present NDA (National Democratic Alliance) government led by BJP (Bharatiya Janata party) under Narendra Modi came to power in May 2014 on the plank of development for all, jobs and control over inflation- pure inclusive, economic agenda- even though BJP has a history of using blatant communal politics and a pro business approach.

The Enigmas: Can the Modi Government initiate a growth path that is inclusive and sustainable when recent history has shown that in the era of automation and computerization there seems to be an inverse relation between growth and job creation. Second, unbridled growth (as desired by the corporate bodies that heavily bankrolled the election campaign that brought Modi government to power) is possible but requires ecological degradation and displacement of countless people leading to conflicts and even armed resistance. Will increasing social unrest require the government to become more authoritarian? Finally, if the economic plank of development for all that brought the Modi Government to power fails, can BJP resort to its original tactic of communal polarisation through riots to win the general elections of 2019? What will it portend for the minorities and liberal politics in India?

Syed Mazher Hussain

A brief biography

Syed Mazher Hussain, Doctorate in Philosophy, started his career in the field of computers and education and is now involved full time in social activism since 1997. A Founder member of many organisations and institutions, Dr. Hussain started COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations) – a network of around 700 organisations working on issues of Communal Harmony and Community Empowerment in India and peace in South Asia. He is presently working on launching Hangout South Asia, a web based platform to facilitate interaction between the people of South Asia to promote understanding, development and peace in the region.

He has coordinated and supervised National and International Research Projects, has produced and directed two documentaries on the Freedom Movement of India and the lakes and water bodies of Hyderabad and

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Qu'en pensez-vous?

What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to: adisun3@gmail.com

• Écrivez - nous à

adisun3@gmail.com

CENTRE UPDATE



Centre Hours

Monday & Thursday 9am—9pm
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday— 9am-5pm

The Centre is wheelchair accessible
 Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

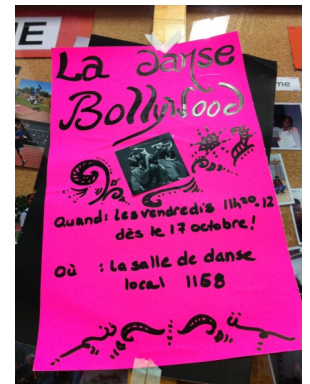
Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or homa@bellnet.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

South Asian Youth (SAY) / Jeunes sud-asiatiques (JSA) Update

We've spent the past 2 months reconnecting with schools (Ecole Secondaire Lavoie, Ecole Lucien Page) and building relationships with staff at a new one (Laurenhill Academy). All of the girls groups have begun, and we're enjoying getting to know the young women who attend every week.

In other news, Farha participated in a "Working with racialised girls and young women" working group as part of a Girls Action Foundation retreat at Jouvence. During the retreat, there were opportunities to network with people across the country, to share resources, and to discuss the desires and needs of young racialised women. This national working group aims to continue discussing its goals and activities inspired by on-the-ground realities, conversations and organizing with/as young racialised women.



SAWCC French Class

The Evolution for French language Class is on 27th of November 2014 at SAWCC

Our Condolences

SAWCC extends our deepest sympathies and love to Shipra, her sons Sourav and Kaushik and other members of her family, on the sad occasion of the passing away of her brother. Dilip Barua died on 17th September in Bangladesh after a long illness. He was 73 years old. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and one son, as well as members of his extended family. Dilip was a writer and an artist -- a good painter and a good sculptor. He also spent a lot of time translating well-known books by Buddhist scholars from English into Bengali.

Diwali Party!

Last Friday the 31st of October 2014, we celebrated **Diwali** at SAWCC. It was a fun event with more than 40 participants. There were a variety of delicious food and deserts. A colourful drink was served called Falooda. The participants enjoyed playing games and enjoyed food. On the whole it was a successful, fun event



Women's History Month

On October 25th, SAWCC celebrated Women's History Month with an event that allowed women to share their stories of immigration and of their life in Canada. The event had a huge turnout and was very successful. Participants shared anecdotes of their experiences of immigration from a wide variety of countries and a small share of their own personal history. It was a very entertaining event and a great way to celebrate Women's History Month.



Continued...

has written three plays on decentralisation of governance, India Pakistan conflict and tax burden on the poor that have won awards and were telecasted. His articles are published by leading newspapers and journals and he participates in national and international TV panel discussions.

Dr. Hussain serves/has served on the Boards / National Committees of State Bank of Hyderabad Joint Missionary of the Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Steering Committee of the Planning Commission of India for the XII Five Year Plan, Task Force on Social Exclusion of the HRD Ministry, Government of India, , GO-NGO Coordination Committee, Government of Andhra Pradesh, VANI (Voluntary Action Network India), CNDP (Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace), PIPFPD (Pakistan India People's Forum For Peace and Democracy), Credibility Alliance, WNTA (Wada Na Todo Abhyan), South-South Solidarity amongst others.

Dr. Hussain is associated with the Refugee and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Programs of the United Nations and the G 20 process. He has visited over 45 countries to participate in nearly 125 international conferences and seminars.

About COVA

COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations), is a national network of voluntary organisations working for communal harmony in India and peace in South Asia. One of the very few organisations that has operations from grassroots initiatives to international policy interventions, COVA is engaged in training children, youth and women in the city of Hyderabad (India) for responsible citizenship and effective social activism; collaborations with over 1000 organisations at the national level to promote communal harmony in India and secure governance from grassroots; advocacy with the state and national governments for pro-poor and sustainable policies; networking with organisations across South Asia to facilitate better understanding and peace in the region through increased people to people contacts; and engagement with multilateral bodies like the United Nations Organisation, G20, OIC and others for structural transformations of the world order to make society more equitable, sustainable, just and peaceful.

* * *

Since 1990, the development model pursued by Indian Governments gave a sudden spurt to economic growth with GDP touching 9 % but it also led to displacements and socioeconomic disparities resulting in social conflicts that now engulf almost one third of the country.

The questions in front of us now are: Can the Modi Government initiate a growth path that is inclusive and sustainable or will increasing social unrest require the government to become more authoritarian? If the economic plank of development for all that brought the Modi Government to power fails, will BJP resort to its original tactic of communal polarisation (between Hindus and Muslims/other minorities) in its efforts to win the next general elections of 2019?

* * *

Dr. Syed Mazher Hussain is involved full time in social justice activism since 1997, and is a founder of COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations) – a national network of around 700 organisations working on issues of Communal Harmony and Community Empowerment in India and peace in South Asia.

#FreeJeyakumary and all those unlawfully detained

It has been over **200 days** since the arrest of Jeyakumary Balendran on 13th March, 2014. She was **detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)** – Provisions 6(1) and 9(1) – and sent to the Boosa detention centre the next day. To date, no charges have been filed.



Jeyakumary has been a vocal advocate and campaigned against disappearances in the North. As a direct result she has been subject to numerous threats and intimidation allegedly by State intelligence forces. Many believe she was framed by the State because she dared to challenge the authorities in her quest to find the whereabouts of her disappeared son.

The Government has accused Jeyakumary of harbouring an alleged LTTE revivalist, P. Selvanayagam a.k.a Gobi, who had forcibly entered her home on 13th March, 2014. A metal detector and a Menelab F-3 type mine detector too were allegedly recovered from within her house premises. However, **despite these accusations, no charges have been filed against her** in the past 6 months. Most importantly, **Jeyakumary has maintained that she has had no connection, whatsoever, with this unidentified individual.**

Her 13-year-old daughter, Balendran Vibushika, was unlawfully held in police custody along with her mother for 24 hours. **Further, the B-Report issued by the Kilinochchi Police on the 14th of March, named Vibushika as a 'suspect'** and has since been in probationary custody at a Children's Home. Probation officers took her to visit Jeyakumary once in June this year, and she has not seen her mother since.

Two Fundamental Rights petitions SCFR/126/14 and SCFR/127/14 – were filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of Jeyakumary and her daughter on 12th May, 2014. Their cases have been heard six times since May. At the last hearing on 16th September, 2014 the Attorney General Department stated that the Police required more time and that investigations are ongoing. The next hearing will be on 17th December, 2014.

Jeyakumary is not the only victim of unlawful detention. Between January and April of this year alone, **over 80 people were arrested and unlawfully detained by the Terrorist Investigation Department (TID)** in a mass scale round-up in the North and East. **At least ten women and children were among those arrested.**

Jeyakumary is a widow from Kilinochchi. Her eldest son, Balendran Yohan worked as a labourer. He was shot and killed at the age of 20 in 2006, allegedly by a para-military group supporting the Government forces. However, no one has been arrested for his killing to date. Her second son, Balendran Kajeewan too, was also killed in a shell attack while en route to the government-controlled area in May 2009.

Jeyakumary last saw her youngest son, Balendran Mahinthan in 2008, when he was forcibly recruited by the LTTE, at the age of 15. He survived the war and **was last seen surrendering to the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) at Mullivaikal**, in May 2009. Further, **she recognized him in a photograph, undergoing rehabilitation with other child soldiers at a State-run rehabilitation centre**, originally published on lankapuvath.lk, a State-owned online news site, after the end of the war.

She then filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Jaffna (Reference No. HRC/152/2014) on 8th January, 2014, on his disappearance. Consequent to this complaint, the NHRC was informed by the Commissioner of Prisons, that Balendran Mahinthan was not in the custody of the Department of Prisons.

The Commissioner General of Rehabilitation too informed the NHRC that Balendran Mahinthan had not been included in any rehabilitation process, even though there is photographic evidence of him undergoing rehabilitation at a State-run Centre.

Jeyakumary has been forced into prolonged detention with no conclusive evidence to charge her for the accusations under which she was arrested. Investigations have progressed in a lackluster manner. 200 days into her arrest, State Authorities are yet to produce substantiated evidence to justify her arrest and detention.

How you can support the Campaign to #FreeJeyakumary

- Tell your friends to visit <https://freejeyakumary.wordpress.com> for more information and campaign updates
- Sign this petition
- Use the hashtag #FreeJeyakumary when Tweeting about her case
- Participate in/support activities/events organized to #FreeJeyakumary and other political prisoners
- Share her story and campaign updates widely

To:

HE President Mahinda Rajapaske, President of Sri Lanka

It has been 200 days since the arrest of Jeyakumary Balendran on 13th March, 2014. She was detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) – Provisions 6(1) and 9(1) – and sent to the Boosa detention centre the next day. To date, NO CHARGES have been filed.

Jeyakumary is not the only victim of unlawful detention. Between January and April of this year alone, over 80 people were arrested and unlawfully detained by the Terrorist Investigation Department (TID) in a mass scale round-up in the North and East. At least ten women and children were among those arrested.

Please free her and all others unjustifiably detained under the PTA.

Sincerely,
[Your name]

For more information:

<https://www.change.org/p/freejeyakumary?javascript=false>

<http://freejeyakumary.wordpress.com/join-the-campaign/>

Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

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Nov 4– Staff meeting
Nov 11– Session TBD (10:30am–12:00 pm)
Nov 13– Executive council meeting (6pm-)
Nov 18– Women's Conditions in Montreal (10:30am-12:00pm)
Nov 25–Toxic Chemicals in Cosmetics (10:30am– 12:00 pm)
Nov 28– Potluck! (12:30 pm-2:00pm)

4 Nov– La réunion du personnel
11 Nov— Session d'information sujet indéterminé(10h30—12h)
13 Nov- Réunion du conseil administratif (18h-)
18 Nov—Session d'information sur les conditions des femmes dans Montréal (10h30-)
25 Nov— Session d'information sur les produits toxiques dans les cosmétiques (10h30—12h)
28 Nov– Potluck! (12h30—14h00)

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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9	10	11 	12	13 	14	15
16	17	18 	19	20	21	22
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