



Speaker: **Jharkhandi Organization Against Radiation (JOAR)**

JOAR, the Jharkhandi Organization against Radiation, is situated in Jadugoda, Jharkhand in India. The organisation has been struggling for many decades against uranium mining, raising awareness of its impact on health and the environment and raising voices to get justice for radiation victims in this area. JOAR was selected for the prestigious Nuclear Free Future Award in 2005.

Ghanshyam Birulee

My greetings to everyone. My name is Ghanshyam Birulee and I live in Jadugoda, Jharkhand where uranium mining is done. There are seven uranium mines in the area where a large amount of raw uranium is excavated, and there is also a mill where uranium is enriched. In this process lots of uranium waste is generated, and the uranium company dumps the waste in tailing ponds situated between the village. Due to this, a lot of radiation is exposed and a big problem has arisen in the area. The effect of radiation is seen in women, children are being born with disabilities and children are being born dead. Abortions are happening in women and there is a problem in laborers too. The workers of the uranium company and the people living in the village are suffering from dangerous diseases like tuberculosis and cancer. Many people are getting kidney failure as well.

We have formed an organization against this, Jharkhandi Organization Against Radiation, which has been agitating against it for 20 years and the agitation is still going on. Radiation is very dangerous for our life, for our whole environment. Due to uranium mining people are getting sick, and at the same time this radiation will continue to pollute the environment for years. The air here has become bad, the water here has become polluted, the soil here has become bad. The villages are not worth living, but people live unaware. People do not understand the problem of radiation, because this problem is related to science. If people drown from a dam project or get burnt by fire, then its effect is immediately visible to the people, but this radiation is a long-term problem. The people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki know about radiation because they have experienced its pain, the pain of radiation-related diseases, and know very well about that problem.

I want to say that the government of our country and the uranium mining company deliberately do not want to admit this problem, but want to suppress this problem. The people of the village are less educated, but they should know the problems of radiation, and understand that the healthy history of the people of Jadugoda was that before uranium mining, there was no disease and people lived long. But after uranium mining, now people are dying in less time, this is a big problem in our society.

I want to say to whoever is watching this video of ours, we request everyone that wherever uranium mining is happening all over the world, uranium waste is dumped and the people there who are being affected. Please support them, efforts should be made to strengthen the movement there, only then people can survive.

The demand of our organization is that the people living around the place where uranium waste is dumped should be rehabilitated to a safe place and whoever is affected by radiation, be it the



people of this area or the laborers working in uranium mining, everyone should get compensation. And it is also our demand that there should be no more uranium mining in our area. The level of radiation in the air, water and soil of this area should also be checked.

Dumka Murmu

My name is Dumka Murmu and I am the Secretary of JOAR organization. The government and the UCIL (Uranium Corporation of India) authorities are misleading the tribals to fight with each other so that UCIL could grab their lands easily. Our organization will not allow them to succeed. And whatever strategy UCIL is adopting, we'll stop it with mass movement. We want you all to build pressure on the Government of India that it does not make the tribal people homeless, they should not be deprived from their lands which is their survival for existence. This matter should reach the government.

Disclaimer

This transcript is at the responsibility of Peace Boat and may not be completely the same as the original testimony. The original testimony was presented online at the World Nuclear Survivors Forum 2021 on December 2-3, where over 30 nuclear survivors from five continents around the world shared their voices with more than 1000 people. The Forum was hosted by Peace Boat in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The stories and panel discussions are all available for viewing on demand via Youtube or on our website here: <https://nuclearsurvivors.org>