

Worker's Initiative - Kolkata

J, 470, PAHARPUR ROAD, KOLKATA – 700 024

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Asbestos workers of Kolkata are continuing their struggle

Against all odds Workers of Everest Industries Ltd a largest manufacture of asbestos products in India, Kolkata are continuing their struggle against the anti – workers policy of the Management of the Company.

The Management of the Company has kept out of employment of two suspended workers namely Arun Chakraborty (suspended on 21 April) and Goutam Sardar (Suspended on 24 April) on concocted charges. Nevertheless it is well known to all concerned that the Management has suspended the workers as vengeance as they were taking active role for exposing asbestos related hazards and engaged for organizing the Medical camp held on 19th July 2018.

The Management of Company is also terrorizing the general workers of the factory and continuously threatening the workers to foil and frustrate their activities for identifying the hazards in manufacturing the asbestos roof sheets, amongst others. Whereas struggling workers are determined to continue their activities. Meanwhile about 47% of workers have signed into a joint memorandum that will be given to the Management of the factory for withdrawal of suspension orders from the suspended workers.

Further on 9th July 2018 hundreds of workers assembled into a program for distribution of compensation to the victims of asbestosis and other lung disease by the T&N Trust, in this program well known Economist Prof Suvendu Dasgupta and Environmental activist Mr. Naba Dutta participated and extended their solidarity support to the anti asbestos activities of the workers.

Worker's Initiative – Kolkata is consistently focusing the OHS issue put forward the following demands in the said program:

- a) Management of asbestos factory must ensure the decent working conditions; remove the hazards causes to the workers and their families.
- b) Management must change the asbestos fiber operation by adopting non fiber technologies.
- c) Management shall stop victimizing the workers and revoke the suspension orders from the suspended workers and allow them to join their duties immediately.
- d) Respect the fundamental rights of workers to Organize and bargain collectively.

It is seen that Management is very much adamant to victimize the workers, in this regard Management has commenced the Enquiry to prove the charges and allegations brought against the suspended workers, further in the Enquiry the Management is not allowing the workers to engage the lawyer to defend their cases.

Even though workers are determined to continue their struggle for decent working condition, but it is difficult for the workers alone to continue their struggle, it is highly needed that committed TU's, NGO's and civil society extend their support to the struggle.

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We therefore, appeal –

- i) To explore the possibility to start online petition to the Chief Executive of Everest Industries Ltd, India
- ii) Trade Unions, NGO's and Civil Society may issue statement endorsing the demands of the struggling workers, mentioned above.
- iii) To extend the financial support to the struggle of the workers.

In solidarity,

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