Not an inch more of our lands

The strategies, tactics & politics of

J.M.A.C.C.

(Jharkhand Mines Area Coordination Committee)

An alliance of communities impacted by mining
Jharkhand: Our Adivasi homeland

We are a homeland of 32 different tribe peoples plus numerous other subaltern communities, each having their own language.
Our centuries long history has been a history of resistance, rebellions and war against the outsider colonisers.
1855 the East India Co. used the English Army to wage war against our Santhal people. 25,000 killed

*It was the first example of a multinational company waging a war with the help of a foreign army.*

Nothing has changed for us, plunder and slaughter continues

2006 2nd January Tata Company and Orissa state used landmines to trap and kill our people in Kalinga Nagar. 14 died 45 crippled
We the Adivasis of Jharkhand are the single biggest contributor to National Development

- Land for free
- Minerals for free
- Water for free
- Forest for free
- *Plus almost free labour*

A fact & human cost that has never been acknowledge by historians, academicians & Indian society
Political Development of J.M.A.C.C.

- Sourcing from this 200+ years history in 2001 Jharkhand Mines Area Co-ordination Committee (J.M.A.C.C.) was formed.

- The process of our political development its strategies and tactics can be traced through our slogans…
2001

“Stop 150 years of Plunder”

A commitment to build a political Organisation/Alliance to execute the above call
2003

“Minerals are ours, not just ‘stakeholders’ but OWNERS”

Overnight this slogan transformed the way we saw ourselves, individually as well as collectively.
2004

“Mines eat us, agriculture feeds us”

Mining once considered a ticket to prosperity was exposed as a life-taker

While our agriculture a life-giver
2007

“My land they stole,
my girl is now a ……..”

Which self-sufficient farmer will want his daughter to become a *reja* (head loader/keeps for contractors)?

This slogan helped us to create a mass awareness and break the myth of “benevolent mining”
The next step was bring J.M.A.C.C. & our member organisations into a formal organised structure
“Not an inch of land” is now on the lips of all our people

A consciousness that has become a fortress, that the power of the state & the corporations will find difficult to break
2009 - 2010

The move from a single issue movement to a social movement needs us to become a movement that thinks.

Learning from history, and an understanding how the global system effects us all.

Think deeply or die slowly.
The path we have taken:

1. Exposing the real face of the State and the mineral industry
2. Exposing the myth of benevolent mining
3. Reinforcing the pride we have in our identity as Indigenous people
4. Harnessing the power of organised resistance
Our strategy

- Demystify the State and Economy as a structure creating wealth for a few
- All activities should be geared to expose these and other myths
- Create a mass conscious collective will
- Strengthen our Indigenous knowledge systems, values and philosophy and build a pride in them
- Organized people’s power as a force as well as a method of mass consciousness
Our tactics

- Embargos on entry to any Government, & Mining company personal into our village territories. Not even for land or mineral survey.
- Social boycott of the dallals (pimps/agents), rogue elements especially politicians and political parties.
- JMACC cannot negotiate on behalf of the local organization.
- Use all tools available in a modern society as well as our own traditional systems.
- Our own communication media.
- All our responses should be innovative, efficient and effective.
Organization Principles & Policies

- Based on our centuries of time tested administration system. Full transparency, democracy from below, decision by consensus. Blessing of the spirits of our ancestors our elder Chieftain.

- Simplification of complex reality.

- Emphasis on rotating leadership. Development of second and third level cadre.

- The individual should never be bigger than the organisation.
Continued…

- Work to include all sections of the community within the organisation especially the women and children amongst us, the landless, artesian

- Encourage inter-organisational activities based on common understanding and spelt out areas of disagreement

- Clarity on the special identities that we are involved with i.e. NGO’s, individual intellectuals, strategic partners, well-wishers etc., and avoid confusing them
Political issues we cover

Linking mining issue to:

- Global capitalism, Imperialism, militarization, and other game plans.
- Deconstruction of the expropriation process
- Exposing falsity of TINA and the Win-Win myth
- Exposing Industries, State, World Bank, etc., claim that “Mining is a panacea for poverty elevation”

The facts about our biodiversity and its preciousness
- The roots of casteism amongst the ruling class
- Also interpreting assaults on us as racism

Punit Minj Gen. Sec. J.M.A.C.C. jmacc.ranchi@gmail.com
Some Achievement

- Political Mass consciousness about the expropriation process has widely spread.
- Participation of women, children has broken down gender hierarchy
- Traditional Adivasis chieftain, power and association consolidated
- Industries and state’s inability to dialog, debate or communicate with people has been exposed
Continued…

- Development of an effective and efficient NGO recourse centre to support the Alliance

- Adhikar the only newspaper dedicated to the social issues of mining.

- Cooperation and solidarity with labour unions and organizations

- Expose politician and political parties as potential traitors

- Exposed the game plan of other negative forces
Achievement on the mining front

21 Mega Coal projects stalled
they include:
……thermal power points one being
Asia’s biggest thermal power project

…. Bauxite mines stalled
…. Aluminum smelters stalled
This includes the land for water, red & white ash dams
Steel Plants & iron ore mines stalled
This includes Rs. 60,000 crores of the Tata Co

These achievements are in the State of Jharkhand
Besides J.M.A.C.C. there are a number of other organisations who share this credit
## Mining and Allied Industries state sanction project stalled in past 5 years

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<th>Project</th>
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<th>Company</th>
<th>Block/ District</th>
<th>No of Affected Villages</th>
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Global economic crisis an opportunity for us

Due to the global financial collapse we predict that the mining and its allied industry will soft peddled their expansion.

In the coming months we will use this recess to further strengthen our organisations, work for betterment of our communities by adding value to what they produce and exposing how the global economy functions
Thank You

Johar!