

19 ex-workers dead
Hundreds Sick
Babies born with deformities
Slow growth in children
Poisoned Environment

Kodaikanal Seeks Justice

March 7, 2008: Global Day of Action against Unilever

- Hold Unilever accountable for Mercury Poisoning.
- Seek justice for victims of Unilever's negligence.
- Prevent another generation from being poisoned



We are workers and residents of Kodaikanal, who were exposed to toxic mercury from Hindustan Unilever's mercury thermometer factory in this beautiful hill station in Tamilnadu, South India. We are pursuing the Anglo-Dutch giant seeking compensation, long-term health rehabilitation and monitoring, and clean-up of mercury contamination of our home town and its beautiful lakes.

March 7, 2008, is the 7th anniversary of the day when we exposed Unilever's irresponsible dumping of toxic mercury wastes in a sensitive watershed forest and in a scrap yard in a crowded working class neighborhood.

The company's in-house safety practices were as lax as their environmental quality control. We were not warned of the hazards of working with mercury. Many of us unwittingly carried the toxic metal home in our clothes and hair and exposed our children to the poison. Many of us are too sick to work for a living. Faced with mounting medical expenses under the circumstances, our families are being pushed to destitution. At least 19 young workers have died till date, and hundreds, including children born to exposed parents, are sick. The company refuses to come to the aid of those poisoned by it, and is delaying clean-up to international standards.

Take Action: Target Unilever Everywhere

- Organise photo exhibitions on Unilever's mercury fever in schools, community halls, etc
- Organise candle-light vigils
- Write solidarity letters to the struggling ex- workers
- Take out a rally supporting the cause of the ex-workers
- Organise actions at Hindustan Lever/Unilever offices in your cities
- Organise local boycotts of Unilever's consumer products - tea, cosmetics, soaps and detergents
- Write, call, fax the local Unilever office and ask them to take responsibility for their pollution in Kodaikanal.

Make Unilever fulfill its obligations to the community of ex-workers, their families and Kodaikanal residents.

For contact details of Unilever offices worldwide, select country websites from:
<http://www.unilever.com/resources/downloadlibrary.asp>

Write solidarity letters to:
Pond's HLL ex-Mercury Workers Welfare Association
J.R. Complex, Kamarajar Road, Kodaikanal 624101
Email: kodai.struggle@gmail.com

Download campaign materials viz. posters, placards, photo-exhibitions from <http://kodaikanalstruggle.blogspot.com>