

# Certificate of Death

This is to confirm and certify the death of

*Union Ministry of Environment and Forests*

at *New Delhi* on *13th November 2005*

WE, THE PEOPLE REPRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF TRIBAL, RURAL and urban communities, the rivers and forests, wildlife and coastal regions, deserts and mountains, declare the *Union Ministry of Environment and Forests* dead as it has failed to protect our environment.

This death befell the Ministry by its own act of commission, omission and collusion in order to support the agenda of destructive development in India prescribed by agencies like the World Bank, IMF, and our own technocrats. Financed by grants from such institutions, Ministry officials have casually and carelessly given clearances to all and sundry, including to those investors with plans causing environmental destruction at any cost.

The cause for the Ministry's death is rigor mortis. Normally this condition visits the dead after death has occurred. But the Ministry suffers from a very rare disease of the living dead. The cause of which is its penchant to twist law and policy to advantage investors at any cost. A related cause was its compulsive habit of treating with disdain the simple and wise opinion of ordinary folks across the country, who have asked for that kind of development that would benefit all. That kind of development that would not compromise the survival of wildlife and its habitats, and the livelihoods of present and future generations.

We must not mourn this death, however. Instead we must celebrate this death. For the living dead are a terrible affliction on the truly living. For this is an opportunity for us to create anew the kind of Ministry of Environment and Forests that this great country, with its wonderful diversity of ecosystems and peoples, deserve. Delivering this Death Certificate to the Prime Minister of India, we present the Government of India an opportunity of bringing to life a Ministry of Environment and Forests that will uphold the law of the land and serve to protect the country's environment and human rights.

ISSUED ON THE APPROVAL OF PEOPLES' GROUPS ACROSS  
INDIA, BY THE CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
IN INDIA, FOLLOWING A PUBLIC HEARING ENTITLED

"MOEF SUNO", 13TH NOVEMBER 2005, AT DELHI.

