We, the survivors of Union Carbide’s gassing of Bhopal, have long feared that an economic system that continues to place individual gain over planetary life and wellbeing would inevitably bring another Bhopal to another innocent and unsuspecting city.

Callousness, greed and cowardice ensure that civil and criminal responsibility for the world’s largest corporate massacre remain unresolved. Nearly four decades on we, the survivors of that massacre, continue to fight the subverted system of justice that denies our essential rights, and continue to fight The Dow Chemical Company and its apologists, who evade and twist both laws and truth to avoid accountability. So far the trajectory has been similar to Bhopal- leaking of gas, composition & quantities of the toxic material not known, storage of hazardous substance  in massive quantities, cooling system not maintained properly which probably caused the leak. Blaming of local workers, Violation of Environmental acts of India. Few hours after the accident the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had called the LG Polymers a 'good company' giving clear signals that company might not be prosecuted for its crimes in Vishakhpatnam gas tragedy

But in a world in which corporations design policy, leaving themselves free to ravage the environment, make or break governments and operate with impunity, we are, all of us, potential or actual victims of corporate negligence and wrongdoing. This is why we continue to say ‘We all Live in Bhopal’. This is why, in our unending struggle for justice, we continue to carry banners that cry ‘No More Bhopals’.

“When I saw the images on television of people struggling to breathe and laying on the roadside,” Rashida Bi a Bhopal survivor said, “something hit me deep inside, as if I was lying motionless, among them, begging to save my life and struggling to breath.”

The survivors of Vizag must not become the survivors of Bhopal. Every single person affected must be treated with nothing less than dignity and compassion, and provided with the medical care and support they deserve as a minimum, and to the highest possible standards. Legal principles of Absolute Liability must be brought to bear on those responsible and an international precedent in corporate accountability must be established.

We are too late to prevent this avoidable tragedy, but it is not too late to prevent Vizag becoming another enduring disaster, another open wound. If Bhopal is not to be repeated then criminal act which led to the death of 11 people and maiming of more than a 1000 people must be clear from the beginning. The criminal act is storing of hazardous substance in a way to endanger the lives of thousands of people. Criminal act has to be defined, Proper charges have to be defined and adequate evidence to back these charges have to be gathered. In Bhopal none of this happened and that is why the killing of 25,000 people and injuring of more than half a million people reduced to the like of a traffic accident.

Identification of all who have suffered as a result of the exposure. Long term follow up in view of feto-toxic impact of Styrene and its known impact to cause genetic problems including the next generation. Absolute liability should be invoked in a affixation of civil liability because the material in questions (Styrene) is inherently unsafe.

Under no circumstances, people should give up their rights to be represented by the government (just like it happened in Bhopal) because they will be mostly likely betrayed. The survivors of the Vishakapatnam tragedy have to be involved in every talk or step government decided to take on their behalf. This is indeed

At a minimum, LG Polymers must:

1.     Make the welfare of surviving victims and the families of those who perished the primary focus of every decision.

2.     Under principles of Absolute Liability, make parent company LG Chem fully responsibility for medical care, long-term health monitoring, environmental restoration and compensation, and fully cooperate with all subsequent criminal enquiries.

3.     Ensure legal precedents strong enough to act as a lasting deterrent to all future corporate wrongdoers

4.     Set an example in accountability and remedy for corporate negligence and wrongdoing broad enough to bring those liable for historical harms to heel.

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