

I am writing this to express my grave concern for some 100 people who were forcibly evicted on March 3 in Jagatsinghpur district, and about 1,500 families at risk of forced eviction.

I, therefore, urge you to stop all forced evictions in Jagatsinghpur district and ensure that any evictions are carried out in accordance with international human rights standards, and only after genuine consultation with those affected, to identify alternatives to eviction, with adequate notice and compensation.

I also urge you to order a prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigation into the bomb explosions that killed four residents of Patna village on March 2.

I further urge you to recognize the individual and community claims to forest lands, as set out in the Forest Rights Act.

Before closing this message, I would like to call on you to order a thorough human rights and environmental impact assessment of the POSCO project, in consultation with local communities.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the above.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Ms. Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan