

GLOBAL ACTION FOR LAND AND LIVELIHOOD RIGHTS

Country of origin

India

Name of the proposed action

Global Action for Land and Livelihood Rights (Jansatyagraha 2012 March)

Name of the organization group or network proposing the action

Ekta Parishad

Organization's website

<http://www.ektaparishad.com>

js2012.wordpress.com

<http://onewaveintheocean.blogspot.com>

<http://ektacanada.weebly.com>

<http://www.said-india.com> <http://ektaeurope.org>

Description and motive for the action

The Jan Satyagraha 2012 March campaign is a large non-violent walk that will be carried out in India and in many other countries across the globe in October 2012. It begins on UN International Non-Violence Day, October 2nd, and will carry on for one month. In India, where the main event is being held, 100,000 people, representing different rural communities, especially tribal, landless and small farmers, will walk in formation together 350 kilometers from Gwalior (near the Taj Mahal) to New Delhi. The people will raise the issue about land being a **key asset in development and poverty reduction**, and that high levels of landlessness and **deprivation need to be reduced for achieving positive national and global development**. In effect, **land and livelihood rights are instrumental to all people's freedom**.

We have identified 29 marginalized communities. Some of the communities in this list are: Indigenous communities, Dalits, Nomadic groups, Muslim women, Sexual minorities, Single women, Fisher folks, Slums inhabitants, Hawkers, Unorganized workers, Differently abled groups, Displaced, Destitute children, etc. We are making huge efforts in order to guarantee that the entire process is being led by these groups.

Specific result expected from the action

The purpose is to pressure the government to implement land reform promises such as the Forest Rights Act that will put the needs of Indigenous peoples for land and livelihood above those of corporate development. This

will support the shift from a large-scale industrial development to a people-centered rural economy.

Kind of action

Satyagraha or footmarch is based on the Gandhian model of civil disobedience and action, which are nonviolent and resolute to bring about political change.

Citizenship participation

The people are the main component of the Jan Satyagraha 2012 March. The March is mobilizing a peace army of 100,000 persons. The coordination of the Jan Satyagraha 2012 March is being carried out by a management committee. It has already created the structure of the organizational team.

We are using this opportunity to link global groups to promote global action around the world as we believe that only through a global action, we will be able to create pressure on various global actors who are directly and indirectly responsible for transfer of resources from the powerless to the powerful. While we work at the national level, we feel the need for linking it with global action.

Citizens could participate in several ways. They can organize or participate in local actions on local issues and in solidarity with our action, raise financial or material resources in solidarity with walk to feed the marchers (who are landless peasants).

A number of actions are being organized to support Jansatyagraha. Here is a small sample of these actions:

- The Meal “100000 people eating to help 100000 people walking”
www.the-meal.net
- Solidarity Marches around UK, 2012

Various solidarity marches around UK will be organized during the year 2012 by Christian Aid UK and Action Village India. For more info contact Ivan at ivan@actionvillageindia.org.uk

- March Le Croisic – Paris, September 21st to October 17th www.jan-ouest-2012.fr
- Urgent appeal, 2011-2012

The NGO Peoples Solidaires launched an urgent appeal in October 2011 to support the Jan Samwad Yatra through a letter campaign to the Prime Minister of India and to French elected people.

- Solidarity marches, Bordeaux, 2011-2012

About every 5 weeks, Peuples Solidaires 33 near Bordeaux organizes solidarity marches for the landless peasants in India.

Friends of Ekta Parishad, a key organizer of Jansatyagraha, are planning the actions above. Ekta Parishad is also part of the Global Network South-South Solidarity. Movements and groups in several countries are planning actions that will be on local issues and in solidarity with Jansatyagraha. Information about these actions is available at http://southsouthsolidarity.org/site/?page_id=22

Term / Agenda

It begins on UN International Non-Violence Day, October 2nd, and will carry on for one month.

Organizations that could become collaborators

South Asia: SAPA

South East Asia: ANGOG, Four Slum Network

Europe: Les Amis du Mercy Home (Belgium), Gandhi International (France), Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente (France), Peuples Solidaires (France), Solidarité (France), Freunde von Ekta Parishad (Germany), Gandhi Projekt Initiative e.V (Germany), CESC Foerderverein (Switzerland), Groupe de soutien de Genève (Switzerland), ProDok Film (Switzerland), Action Village India (United Kingdom).

Canada: Ekta Canada (an emerging supporters network)

Latin America: MST, CPT.

Africa: Kenya Land Alliance

South-South Solidarity

Besides international partnerships, 900 organizations in India have expressed support for Jansatyagraha. This is being constantly updated as more organizations join the campaign. For a list of organizations that have expressed support, please visit: http://www.ektaparishad.com/images/press/list-of-support-organisations/document_document.pdf