On the occasion of Dr. Binayak Sen’s visit to the UK to receive the Gandhi Foundation award for his work on health and human rights you are invited to a PUBLIC MEETING on

**Ethics, Equity and Genocide**

**DATE:** 14 JUNE 2012  **TIME:** 1600- 1800 hrs

**LOCATION:** Meeting Room 6, Crystal McMillan Building
15 George Square, University of Edinburgh

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Speakers in discussion:

Dr. Binayak Sen- Public health practitioner and human rights defender

Dr. Ilina Sen - Social worker, human rights activist and Dr Binayak Sen’s wife

Shabnum Mustapha- Programme Director, Amnesty International Scotland

PLUS: Film compilation of footage on the campaign, Poetry by Dr. Bashabi Fraser

Followed by a Reception including the launch of a new Edinburgh student journal *The South Asianist*, sponsored by the Centre for South Asian Studies at Edinburgh University.

Hosted By: Centre for South Asian Studies and Global Public Health Unit (University of Edinburgh)

Supported By: Scottish Action for the release of Binayak Sen, Scotland Against Criminalising Communities, Amnesty International, Scotland.

For further details contact Anuj Kapilashrami

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PLEASE JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO RELEASE DR SEN AND THE HUNDREDS OF OTHER INNOCENT PEOPLE LIKE HIM IN INDIA TODAY

WHO IS DR BINAYAK SEN?
Dr. Sen is an internationally acclaimed public health professional who has worked tirelessly for over three decades with poor, indigenous and other marginalised people on issues of basic livelihood, health services and social justice in Chhattisgarh, one of the poorest states in India. As an office-bearer of the national civil liberties organisation, the People’s Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) Dr. Sen is also a prominent defender of human rights in India.

In recognition of his services to humanity Dr. Sen has received numerous international awards. His life’s work includes saving thousands of lives through his work as a paediatrician and his contribution to healthcare and the treatment and prevention of Tuberculosis and Malaria. He has also worked on issues around malnutrition, famine, civil rights, women’s rights and education.

WHY IS DR SEN BEING PERSECUTED BY THE STATE?
As an outspoken defender of the marginalised and dispossessed indigenous people of India, Dr. Sen has been a fearless critic of the inequitable policies and unconstitutional police and paramilitary action against the poor and displaced. Consequently, in 2007 Dr Sen was accused of being a Maoist supporter and arrested under draconian “anti-terror” legislation. On the basis of unsubstantiated evidence, some of which was transparently fabricated by the local police in collusion with the State Government of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Sen was imprisoned without bail for 2 years whilst awaiting trial. In May 2009, the Supreme Court of India granted him bail. However, on 24 December 2010, the judge of a local court in Chhattisgarh went on to convict and sentence Dr. Sen to life imprisonment on the charge of ‘Sedition’. The same charge had been used to imprison Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak and many other freedom fighters during the British colonial rule of India.

Solidarity for Dr Sen has included individuals and groups campaigning from around the world, together with Amnesty International and 44 Nobel Laureates (in Feb 2011) who have condemned the life sentence and expressed their support for Dr. Binayak Sen. In a major health-solidarity movement, 178 health professionals and organisations sought the World Health Organisation’s support for Dr Sen on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day.

The Scottish branch of the international campaign for Binayak Sen's release gained momentum in May 2008, marking the 1st anniversary of the arrest and continued its efforts until he was granted bail. The campaign can boast of local residents who have known and worked with Dr Sen in India. The campaign is supported by Scotland Against Criminalising Communities, Amnesty International, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, Academics and Scholars, Centre for South Asian Studies (University of Edinburgh), and Edinburgh University Amnesty International Society. A motion (S3M-03618) in support of Binayak Sen was tabled and passed in the Scottish Parliament by Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP on 5th March 2009.

Eventually, on 15th April 2011, Dr Sen was granted bail by the Supreme Court of India.

HOW HAS THE BAIL CHANGED THE SITUATION?
The granting of bail means that Dr Sen will not have to spend his days in a prison cell, at least for the time being. However, the right-wing Chhattisgarh government remains determined to persecute Dr Sen and will continue proceedings against him through the corrupt Chhattisgarh judicial system. Moreover, hundreds of other innocent men and women continue to be falsely sentenced or await trials in prison! The international and UK campaign needs to continue applying public and political pressure to secure the complete acquittal of Dr Sen along with an enquiry into the unjust laws and circumstances that have produced these travesties. Until then, Indian democracy is truly at stake.

WHAT ARE THE DEMANDS OF ‘THE RELEASE BINAYAK SEN CAMPAIGN (UK)’?
We urge the Indian Government to immediately intervene in order to carry out a full public inquiry into the circumstances of Dr. Binayak Sen’s arrest and the basis of his conviction. We urge the British Government and the international community to share our concern regarding the persecution faced by Dr. Sen and the many other innocent men and women like him, either in prison awaiting trial or falsely sentenced. We urge both the Indian and Chhattisgarh State Governments to review the laws and circumstances under which these gross miscarriages of justice have occurred.