



BHOPAL XXV

Union Carbide disaster The facts	3
Bhopal XXV The project	7
Bhopal XXV The portraits	11
Union Carbide disaster Historique	74
Internet links	76
Bhopal XXV The photographers	77
Bhopal XXV The 30 images	81

Union Carbide Disaster | The facts

Bhopal: Facts

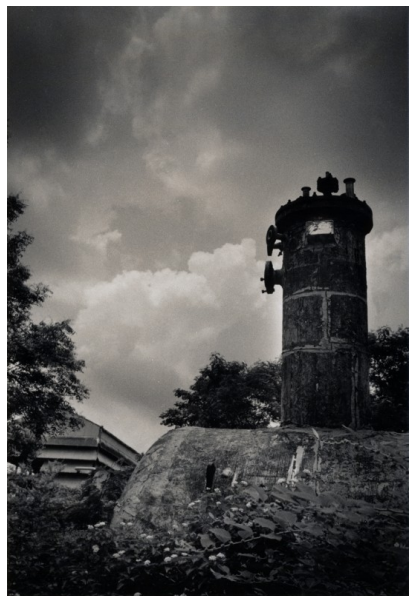
On December 3, 1984 takes place the greatest industrial disaster (to date), about midnight, in Bhopal, capital with of State of Madhya Pradesh. Union Carbide factory producing the Sevin pesticide sees its tank containing 40 tons of M.I.C explode, leaving escape a toxic cloud towards the city. The gas burns eyes and lungs initially, leading to many death by asphyxies: it is estimated that 8000 people died the first week.

The Bhopal disaster gives 2 generations of victims:

- * the first generation, exposed to toxic gas released this night of December 3, 1984, and often suffering of respiratory insufficiency, facilitating secondary infections (tuberculosis),
- * a second generation, especially exposed to the pesticides given up in the factory, and which was washed by the rains, then contaminating the ground water and thus the drinking water for all the population in the neighbourhoods of the factory.



Union Carbide plant



Cuve 610 which was full with 40 tonnes of MIC and let spread the toxic cloud

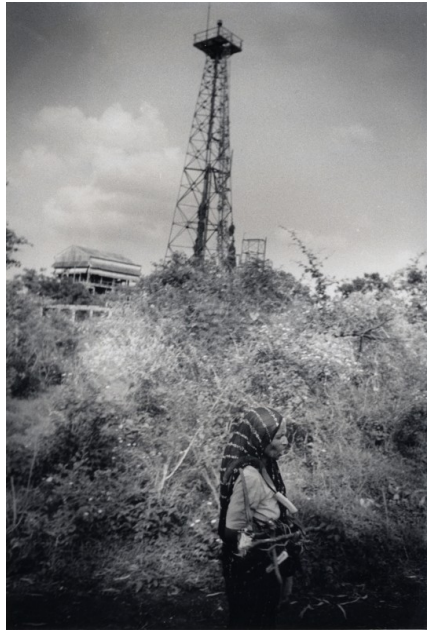
© Stéphane Bouillet (2008)

The origins of the disaster are multiple:

- * from the start, very bad choice in the method of production of the Sevin pesticide, obliging with storage in tanks of tens of tons of very dangerous products like the M.I.C.,
- * an over-estimate of the sales, and thus of capacities of the tanks
- * an semi-abandonment of the factory, left with decrepitude, and without monitoring/replacement of the security systems:
 - o panic of the pressure pick-ups of gases in the tanks: been unaware of,
 - o cooling system of the tanks: nonoperational,
 - o tower of neutralization of gases in the event of overpressure: non fonctionnal,
 - o turn to burn gases escaping in the event of overpressure: nonoperational...



Vent gaz scrubber



Burn tower

© Stéphane Bouillet (2008)

BHOPAL XXV | The projet

**30 days
1 picture/day
3 photographers
nov 3 - dec 3, 2009**

Why this project ?

Because nothing is solved: pesticides were left on the spot and contaminated the ground water, involving a 2nd generation of victims (congenital anomalies, cancers...). That made thus soon 25 years that people die almost every day: one estimates at 25.000 the number of died since the catastrophe...

For the 25 years of the disaster, photographers wanted that medias talk more about the tragedy. Which are our objectives ?

- * to inform public opinion on the current location of the victims of Union Carbide and Dow Chemicals
- * to give the inhabitants living around of the plant an access to a drinking water, and in sufficient quantity,
- * to push Dow to set up financial means to help the current victims, and to clean with its expenses the site of the plant
- * to obtain the judgement of Warren Anderson (an arrest mandate in its opposition was emitted in 2009)
- * to inform on the consequences of an exposure, even tiny (but regular) to pesticides.



© Stéphane Bouillet



© Micha Patault



© Kostas Pliakos

Which are our means to inform ?

- * photographs, rightly one per day during the 30 previous days of 25 years anniversary: do not hesitate to diffuse it with all your contacts, Internet site and blogs, facebook (Bhopal XXV group)...
- * each photograph of victim is accompanied a short text specifying its current location.
- * the photographs have a particular working, answer to the advertising campaign "Human element" that Dow launched in 2006 to regild its image, tarnished by its repurchase of Union Carbide and by the catastrophe of Bhopal.



The Hu of Dow



How to act ?

- * to directly help the victims treated in the centers Sambhavna and Chingari, you can make donations to Sambhavna Clinic, or to the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (even small ones).
- * you can sign petitions on Internet. There is no small acts: you announce by this way your support to the victims.
- * to send requests as postcards and letters directly to the President of Dow. Sure that he can make take its responsibilities and make pressure on American justice for a judgement of Warren Anderson . Models of charts and letters are on study; they will be available soon.

BHOPAL XXV | Portraits



© Micha Pataut

Sarmil, 6 years old

Nawab Colony, 150 meters from Union Carbide factory Sarmil was born blind and suffers from stunted growth. Her parents were not gas victims but they drink contaminated water.

So here is the first image of the BHOPAL XXV project: 3 photographers associate around the 25 years of Bhopal disaster. The project is to put online one image/day, from 3 november til 3 december 2009, in order to inform on the situation of victims 25 years after the disaster. You can diffuse these images on the web, under certain conditions.

Antzu, 16 years old

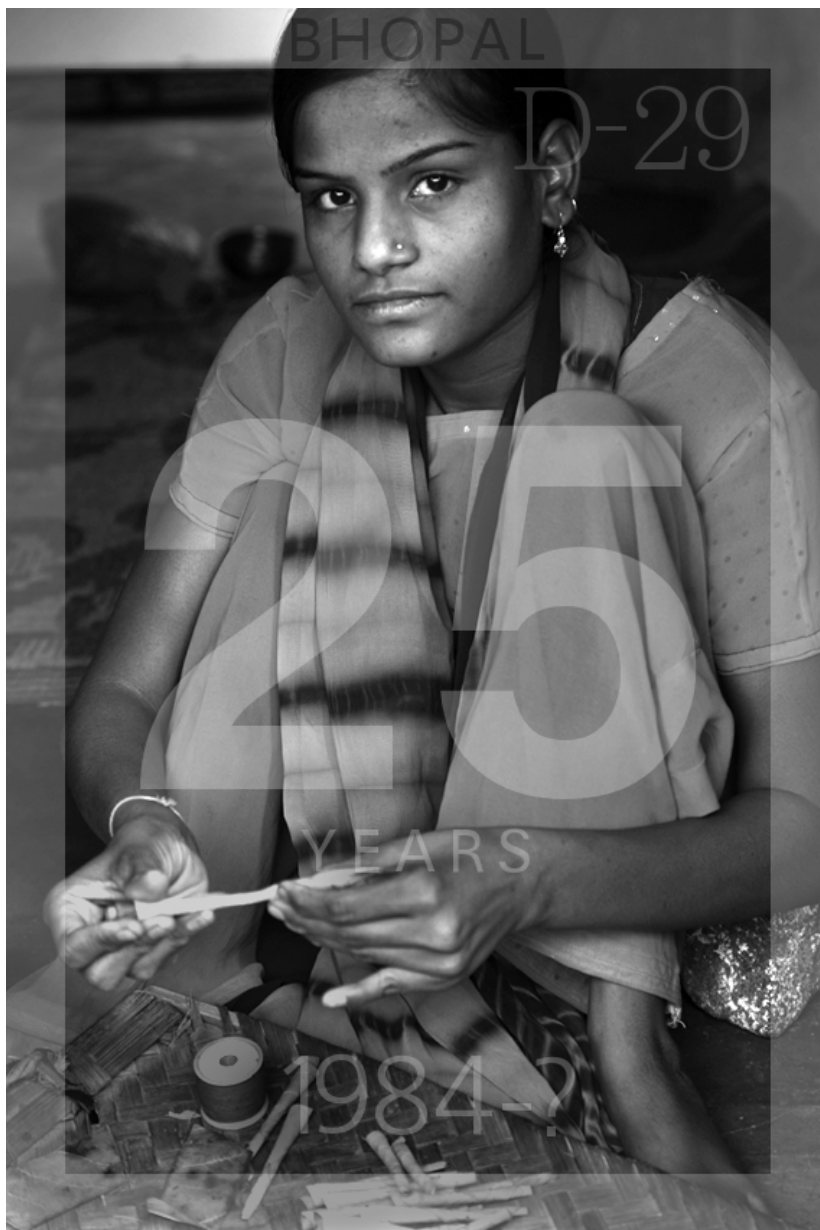
Antzu developed a foot deformity at 3 years old. She also suffers from liver disorder.

She can't walk.

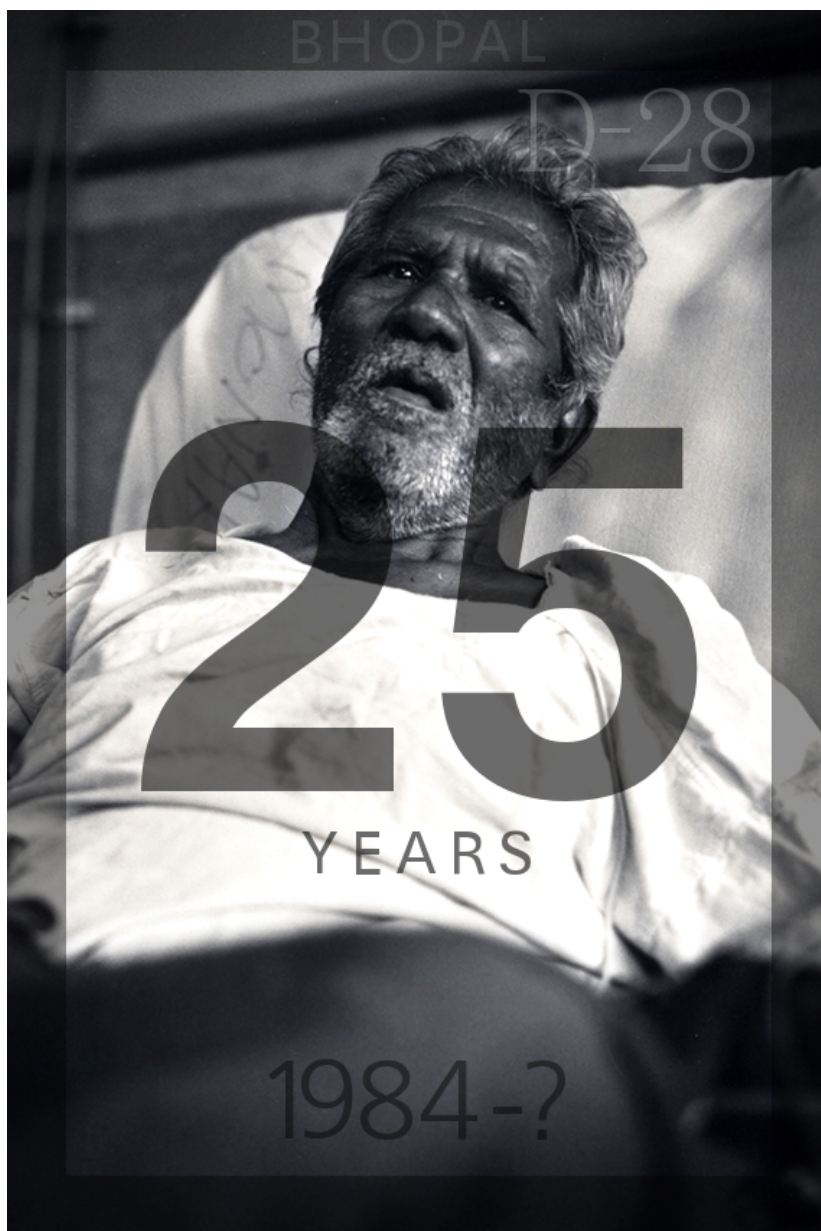
The Bhopal disaster gives 2 generations of victims:

- * the first generation, exposed to toxic gas released this night of December 3, 1984, and often suffering of respiratory insufficiency, facilitating secondary infections (tuberculosis),
- * a second generation, especially exposed to the pesticides given up in the factory, and which was washed by the rains, then contaminating the ground water and thus the drinking water for all the population in the neighbourhoods of the factory.

There are thus many victims among the newborns after 1984, because they drink every day a contaminated water, whose toxic elements act on their growth and development.



© Kostas Piliakos



© Stéphane Boulliet

Ram Pravad, 63 years old

Ram Pravad suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He has been exposed to the toxic gas the night of December 3, 1984. He is sometimes under respiratory assistance.

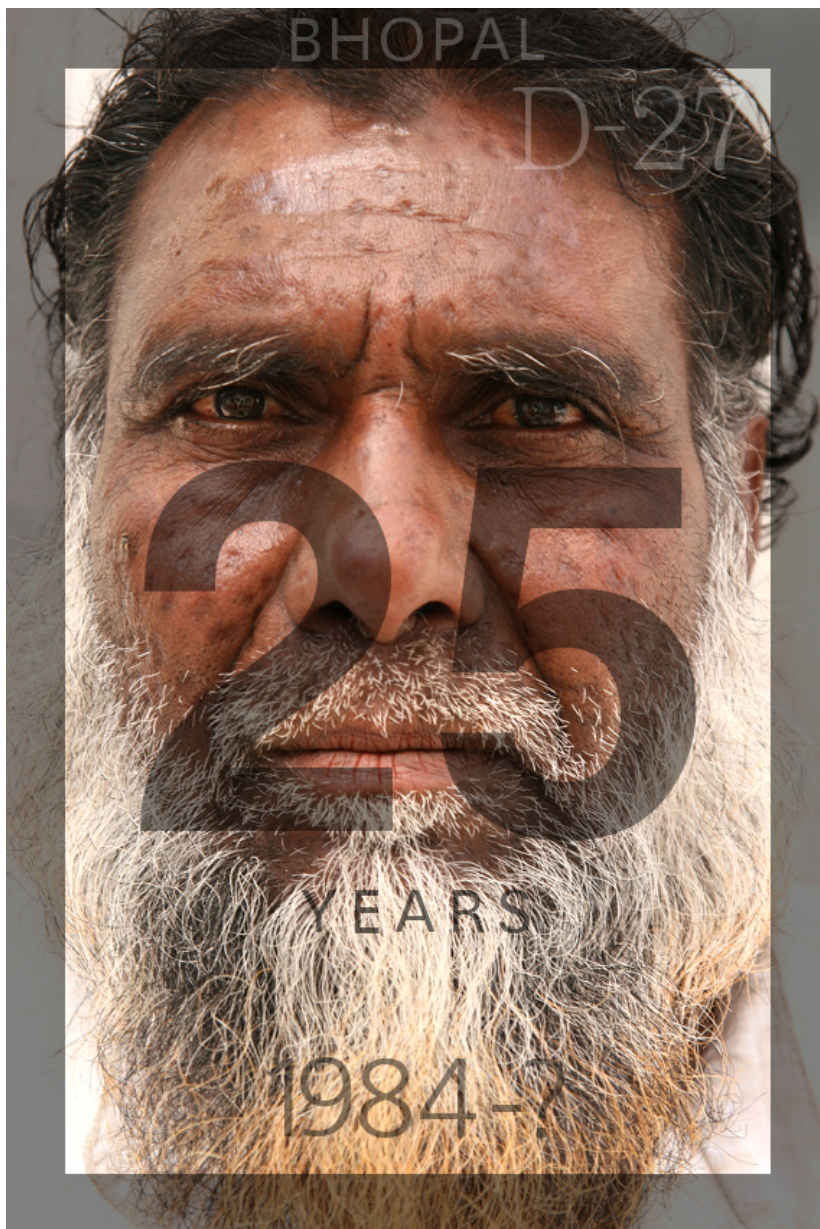
The Bhopal disaster gives 2 generations of victims:

- * the first generation, exposed to toxic gas released this night of December 3, 1984, is often suffering from respiratory insufficiency, facilitating secondary infections (tuberculosis). The respiratory insufficiencies are sometimes such as the patients as RAM Pravad cannot work or make physical efforts, even minor, and remain cloisters in their house.
- * a second generation, especially exposed to the pesticides given up in the factory, and which was washed by the rains, then contaminating the ground water and thus the drinking water for all the population in the neighbourhoods of the factory.

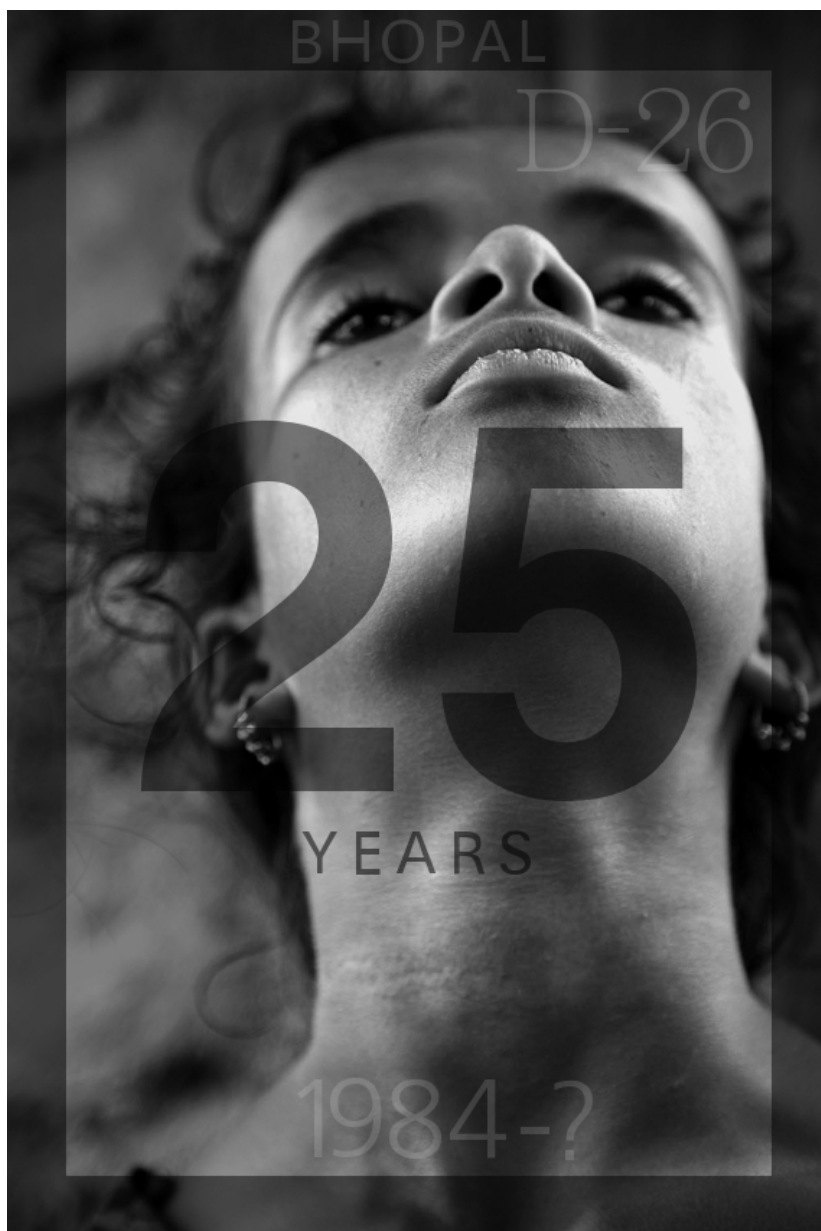
Chote Khan, 70 years old

In 1984, he and his wife, Munni Bee, lived in Rajgarh Colony, 500 metres from the Union Carbide factory. The gas caused him chronic asthma attacks and his eyes burned continuously. Since then, he has been unable to do manual labor and has had to limit his working hours. They had to sell their house for a more modest dwelling in Blue Moon Colony, a neighbourhood right next to the factory.

"Nobody knew that the water was contaminated here. It's true that the water tasted horrible and had a strange odor, but we hadn't imagined that it contained toxic chemicals." Daily consumption of this water damaged the health of the entire family, including grandson and granddaughter. The mother of Chote, who was exposed to the gas, died following a long period of illness.



© Micha Patault



Nasrana, 13 years old

Nasrana has thyroid problems, and was operated of the thyroid. With a family of 6 children, her parents have difficulties to pay the doctors and drugs necessary to its medical monitoring.

Some victims touched by gas on 1984 had obtained a thin compensation (500\$), but victims of the 2nd generation don't have any financial aid from Union Carbide or Dow. An hospital dedicated to the victims (Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centers, BMHRC) was inaugurated in 1998 only. Victims, when they can, go especially in 2 specialized centres:

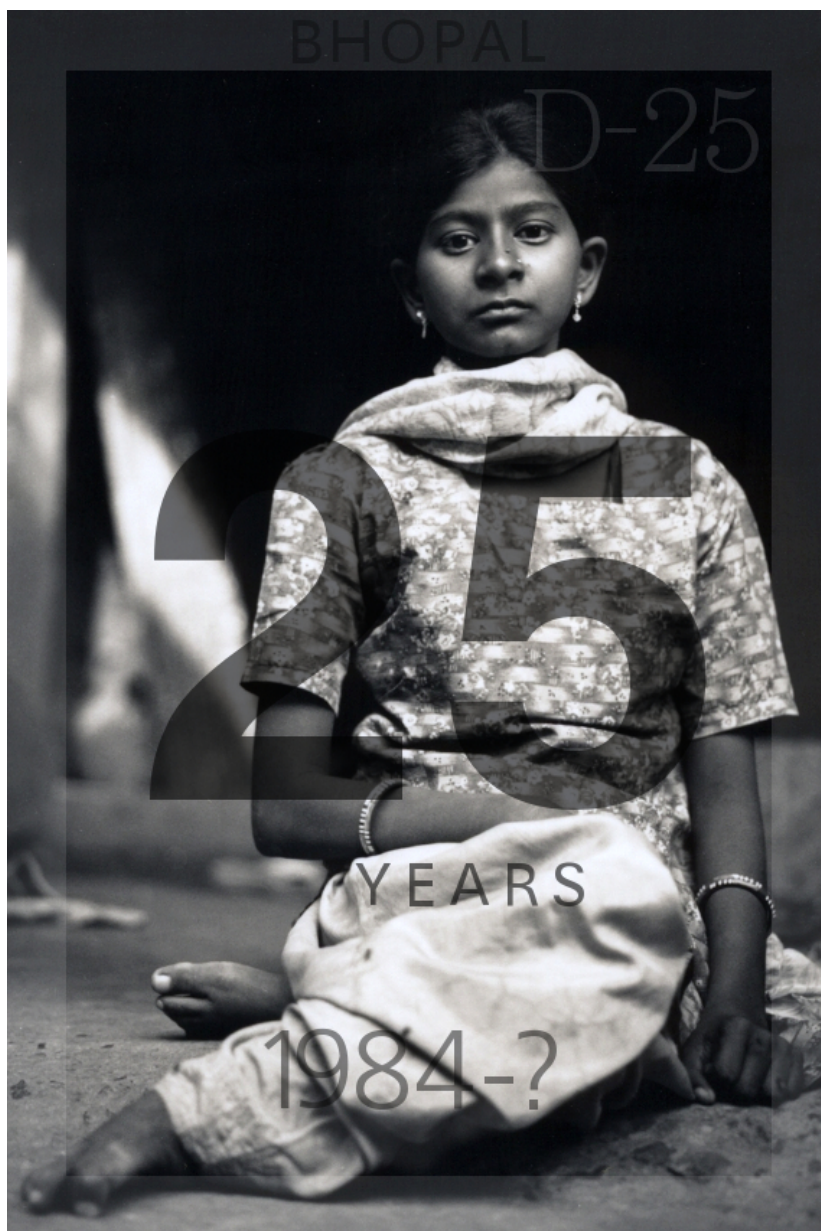
- * the **Sambhavna Trust Clinic** (ayurveda, panchakarma...)

- * and the **Chingary Trust**, particularly dedicated to children of the 2nd generation who continue to be born with deficiencies (physical, mental...). Sometimes this center sets up repairing surgeries with other organizations.

Shakira, 18 years old

Shakira is smaller than the other children of her age. Following malformations on the feet, she cannot walk, even with helps. The doctors could not help her.

Union Carbide has never shown any interest in the condition of its victims, said Sunil Kumar, who lost his entire family during the original gas leak. We've always known that. Now it seems they know that their factory is poisoning a whole new generation - and they are doing nothing to stop it. People are ill in the communities. Babies are sick. There are many deformed births. It's as if they really hate us. As if they are trying to punish us for protesting when they gassed us before and killed our families. What kind of people are they to do this?



© Stéphane Boulliet



© Micha Patault

Hajra Bee, 52 years old

A devout Muslim, she refused to continue wearing a burka after the disaster. "I had to go out and work myself to sustain the needs of my family. The burka no longer had any importance..." Shortly after the disaster, her husband abandoned the family, leaving her alone with their four children.

She is a gas survivor and lives in J.P. Nagar, a neighbourhood right next to the factory. "In the night of December 3, a friend, pregnant and mother of a 15 months old girl, has been electrocuted in an electric station: she couldn't see anything"

Hajra has led the life of an activist. "I am determined to march until I meet the Prime Minister and ask him to respect our rights."

Saddam 15 years old

Saddam suffers from anemia.

Anaemias are due to the contamination of water by pesticides left in the plant and washed by rainwater (there are still pesticides on the spot). Indeed, Union Carbide left without cleaning up the site. Moreover, according to former workers of the Union Carbide factory, while the factory was in operation, massive amounts of chemicals - including pesticides, solvents, catalysts and wastes - were routinely dumped in and around the factory grounds. These include deadly substances such as aldicarb, carbaryl, mercury, and several chlorinated chemicals.

* 52% of women suffer from anemia in India [1]

* 95% of women suffer from anemia in Atal Ayub Nagar (a community affected by water contamination) [2]

[1] UNICEF

[2] Sambhavna Clinic, sample of 141 women ; 2000



© Kostas Piliakos



© Stéphane Boulliet

Shanti, 70 years old

Shanti worked in an hospital the night of December 3, 1984. "When I arrived at the house, my 2 sons were unconscious. Dilip, the youngest, died later of tuberculosis at 22 years, undoubtedly contracted because of exposure to the gaz".

Tuberculosis seems to reach the 2 generations of victims:

- * the insufficient respiratory ones, weakened because their lungs were touched by gas in 1984
- * inhabitants in the neighbourhoods of the factory, drinking daily contaminated water. Pesticides express carcinogenic, mutagen, but also immunotoxic properties: they disturb the operation of the immune system, which weaken the people face to diseases like tuberculosis. The pesticides act even with very low dose, especially if daily exposure is repeated since years and years.

Tuberculosis strikes here three times more than in the remainder of India.

Rashida Bee

In 2004, Rashida Bee and Champa Devi received the "Goldman Prize for Excellence in Protecting the Environment", in recognition of their exemplary 20 years struggle. They used the \$125,000 in prize money in aid of their NGO, the Chingari Trust, that provides medical aid to children born with congenital malformations. They created, in their turn, the "Chingari Award for Women Against Corporate Crime" recognizing women fighting corporate crime across India. The first ceremony, held in Bhopal in 2007, was a great success.

As for orange agent used during the war of Vietnam (produced amongst other things by Dow and Monsanto), the residues and pesticides produced by Union Carbide cause congenital malformations (respiratory/circulatory system, muscle-skeleton...). Exposure of children is double: in utero + breast-feeding, and by drink water (a child drinks 2,5 times more water, relatively to its weight, compared to an adult). The women exposed to the pesticides by their environment, have 2 times more risks to make abortion in consequence of malformation of the foetus.

"Here, adults were victims of gas, and now, children are victims of water" said Poona Bai, mother of Raj, who cannot walk and has an oversize head.



© Micha Patault



© Kostas Pliakos

Muscan, 5 years old

Muscan was born with a deformation of spinal column. He doesn't have a particular medical care. Like many other children in the districts around the plant, his malformation will undoubtedly handicap his entire life, as a lot of malformations of the musculo-skeletal system.

Health workers have noted that the majority of children in the most severely affected community, Atul Ayub Nagar, are born seriously underweight, weak, with discolored skin, as well as suffering from other multi-systemic health problems. Women complain of reduced lactation; in some instances, lactation has stopped within a month of child-birth. Some reports refer to higher instances of cancer, growth retardation and congenital malformations.

Ram Swarup, 32 years old

Ram Swarup: "in 1984, I returned to close the house after our escape, and thus I doubly was exposed to gas. Gradually, an ascending paralysis reached my two legs. I almost never leave home, where I live with my mother. I will undoubtedly never find the use of my legs, and I do not ask for a compensation: what I want, it is a lawsuit and that justice is made."

Anderson had been arrested and released on bail by the Madhya Pradesh Police in Bhopal on December 7, 1984. He fled by private jet, since refusing to return to India. He was declared a fugitive from justice by the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Bhopal on February 1, 1992, for failing to appear at the court hearings in a culpable homicide case in which he was named the chief defendant. On July 31, 2009 the chief judicial magistrate of India, Prakash Mohan Tiwari, issued an arrest warrant for Anderson, for his role as head of Union Carbide gas leak in 1984.



© Stéphane Boulliet



© Micha Patault

Tajmin, 3 years old

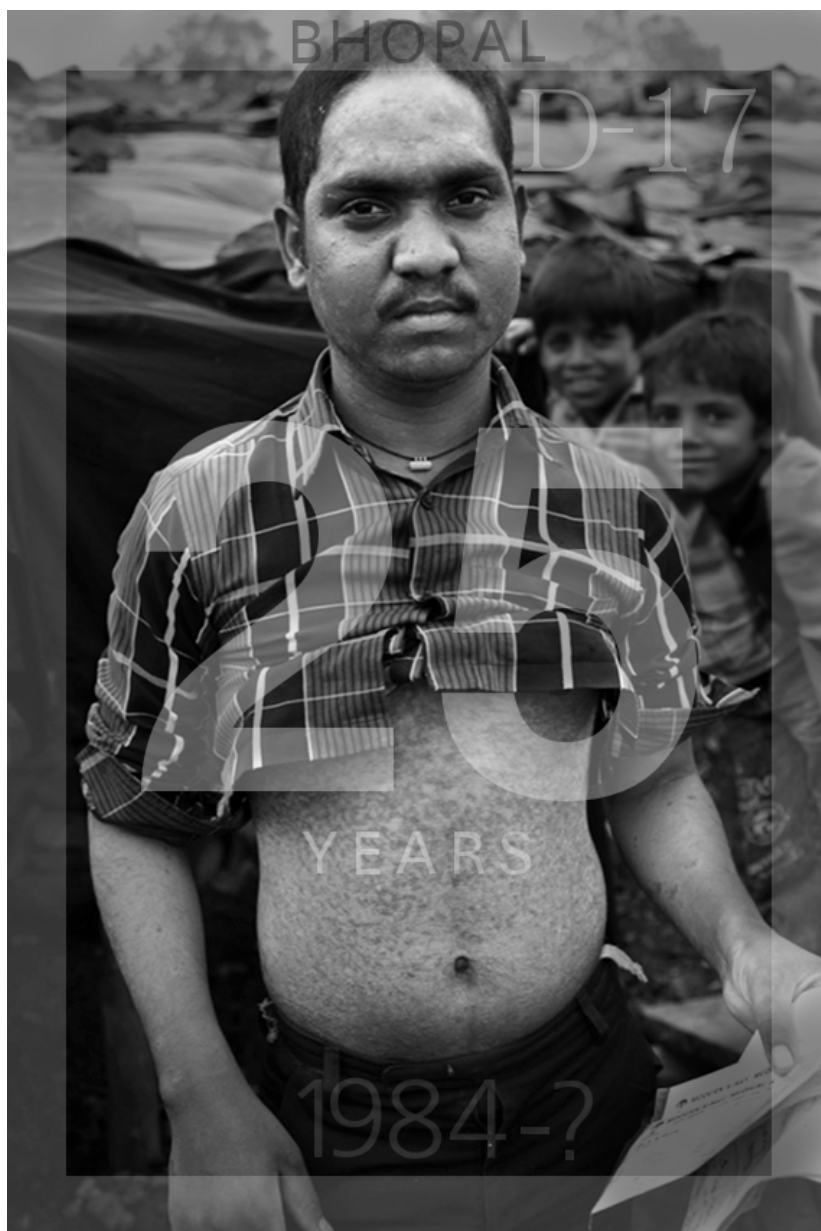
Blue Moon Colony, 50 meters from the factory. Tajmin was born with a cleft palate that prevented her from nourishing herself normally. She was one of eight children, sent by the Chingari Trust to St. Stephens Hospital in Delhi, for operations to correct their deformities. All of the interventions were successful.

This is Tajmin three weeks after the operation.

Nafis, 19 years old

Nafis suffers from a generalized psoriasis. 30% of the patients treated in the Sambhavna clinic have dermatological symptoms, prevailing sometimes for several years.

The psoriasis is due to an accumulation of toxins and an unbalanced food. The Sambhavna clinic uses ayurvedic herbs and sometimes leeches to detoxify the blood of the patients. Associated with a strict dietetic hygiene, ayurveda and panchakarma generally cures the psoriasis in several months.



© Kostas Piliakos



© Stéphane Boulliet

Lachho Bai, 50 years old

In December 1984, Laccho was pregnant of 7 months and could not run. In the crush she fell unconscious. She lost her mind since 1995, and became blind a few years ago. She still live alone with her husband in a small hut out of wooden, not far from the plant in ruin.

A study of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences found that at least half of those exposed to Union Carbide's gases suffered from mental health problems. Since this study (1985) there have been no more government studies. The mental disease is not recognized like a consequence of exposure to gas, and sufferers get no compensation or treatment from the authorities. The psychiatric consequences are under estimated: "depression and stresses are still present, without talking about orphans... Why have we waited so a long time before opening hospitals ? We must do a work of terrain" , explains a psychiatrist of the BMHRC (Bhopal Memorial Hospital And Research Centre, inaugurated in 1998, 14 years after the disaster).

Himandri, 6 years old

Himandri is a student of the Orya Samaj Seva Samiti Community Center, the school in Oriya Basti, a neighbourhood affected by the disaster. The school was built with royalties from "**Five Past Midnight in Bhopal**", by Dominique Lapierre and Javier Moro, as well as donations from their readers. The colour of the third chakra, yellow symbolizes self-esteem, self-confidence, power, and the capacity to attain one's goals.

Goals of **ICJB** are that Dow:

- * face a trial (that Union Carbide and Warren Anderson present themselves in the Indian courts)
- * provide long-term health care (medical care, rehabilitation, health monitoring, research and publications...)
- * clean up the poison (toxic wastes and contaminated groundwater...)
- * provide economic and social support (dead or invalid people...)



© Micha Patault



© Kostas Pliakos

Sayid, Amgad, Nesar (19, 18 and 16 years old, from left to right)

These 3 children have growth retardation

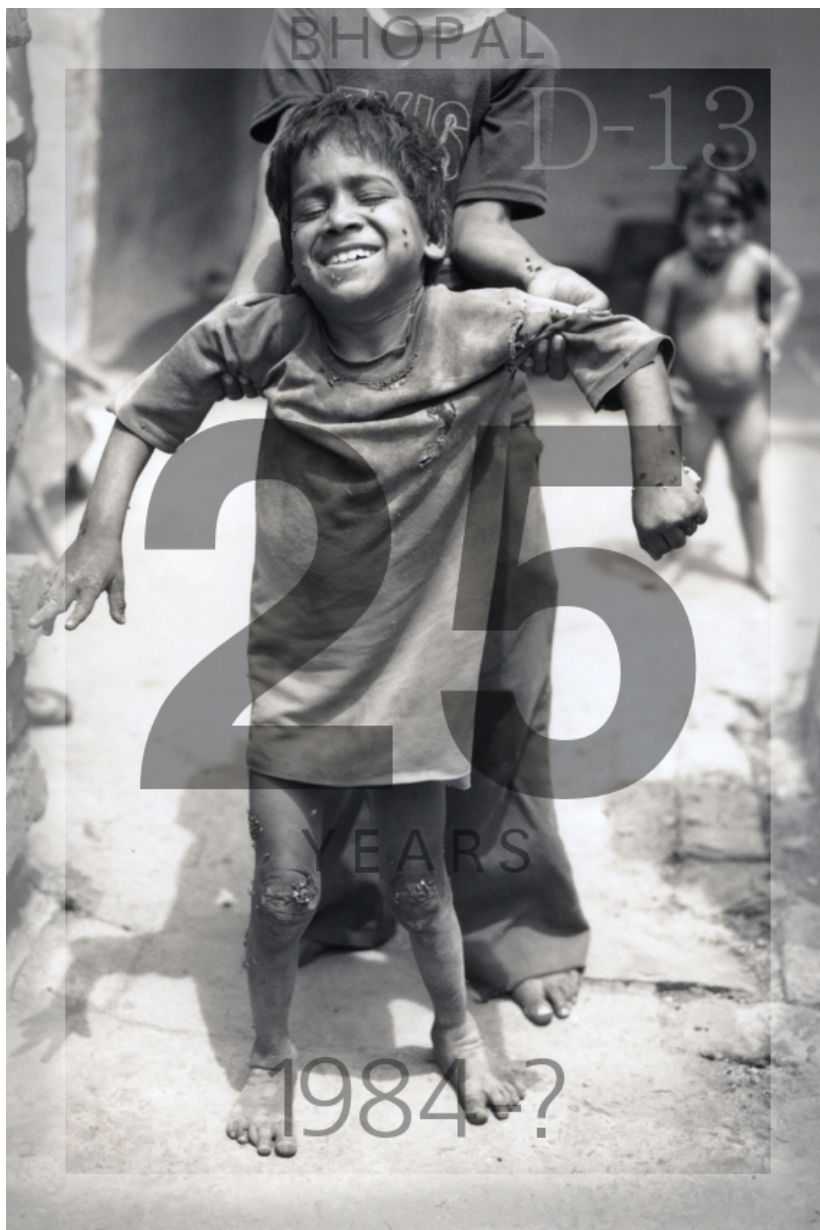
A study published in 2003 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) noticed problems in the newborns of exposed parents:

- * mainly growth retardations among boys,
- * hormonal problems especially in the girls, with for exemple irregular menstruations...

Suraj Rai, 10 years old

Suraj Rai is supported by his 8 years old brother, taller than him; he suffers from backwardness and growth retardation. Suraj cannot stand or walk because of his paralysed legs. He was born with brain damage. He cannot speak a word. Ramsiya, his mother, drank an unhealthy water all the while she was expecting him, and while she was nursing him.

What the people of Atul Ayub Nagar didn't know, because no one had told them, was that the ground on the other side of the factory wall, yards from their houses, was severely contaminated by toxins. A private Union Carbide memo (1989) never meant for publication, reports that samples of water taken inside the factory proved instantly fatal to fish. Fish died too, in water to which dry soil samples had been added. The causes ? Naphthol (abdominal pain, convulsions, diarrhoea and vomiting) and naphthalene (anaemia, cataracts, retinal damage, liver and brain damage, possible cancer).



© Stéphane Boulliet



© Micha Patault

Gulab Bai, 75 years old

Gulab Bai participated in the 2006 Padyatra (march), in which she had vested much hope. "I was shocked to see how the government could make such promises without ever keeping them. I am determined to see our demands met, no matter what the cost. (...) I am marching for justice and the dignity of all the victims suffering from corporate abuses and the negligence of our government. This march is all the more important as it carries with it all of the efforts of the first march..."

The Padyatra is an act of civil disobedience deployed toward political ends by Gandhi as part of his concept of Satyagraha (nonviolent resistance). Later, this concept would be applied in a systematic way in the service of a wide range of political protests. 800 km separates Bhopal from New Delhi. The padyatris (walker) covered an average of 25 kms a day, from 5am to 6pm, for 38 days.

Sanjin 12 years old

Sanjin has a foot deformity; he has done 3 surgeries. His mother was living near the UC factory at the time of the accident.

Contamination of water starting from the factory assigns approximately 20.000 people, of which mothers pregnant and nursing. "Lack of research into the possible genetic and reproductive ramifications of gas exposure, and now of exposure to contaminated water, have seriously marred efforts to respond to the effects of poison on the next generation" explain Rashida Bee, one of the founders of Chingary Trust.



© Kostas Piliakos



© Stéphane Boulliet

Ramish, 37 years old

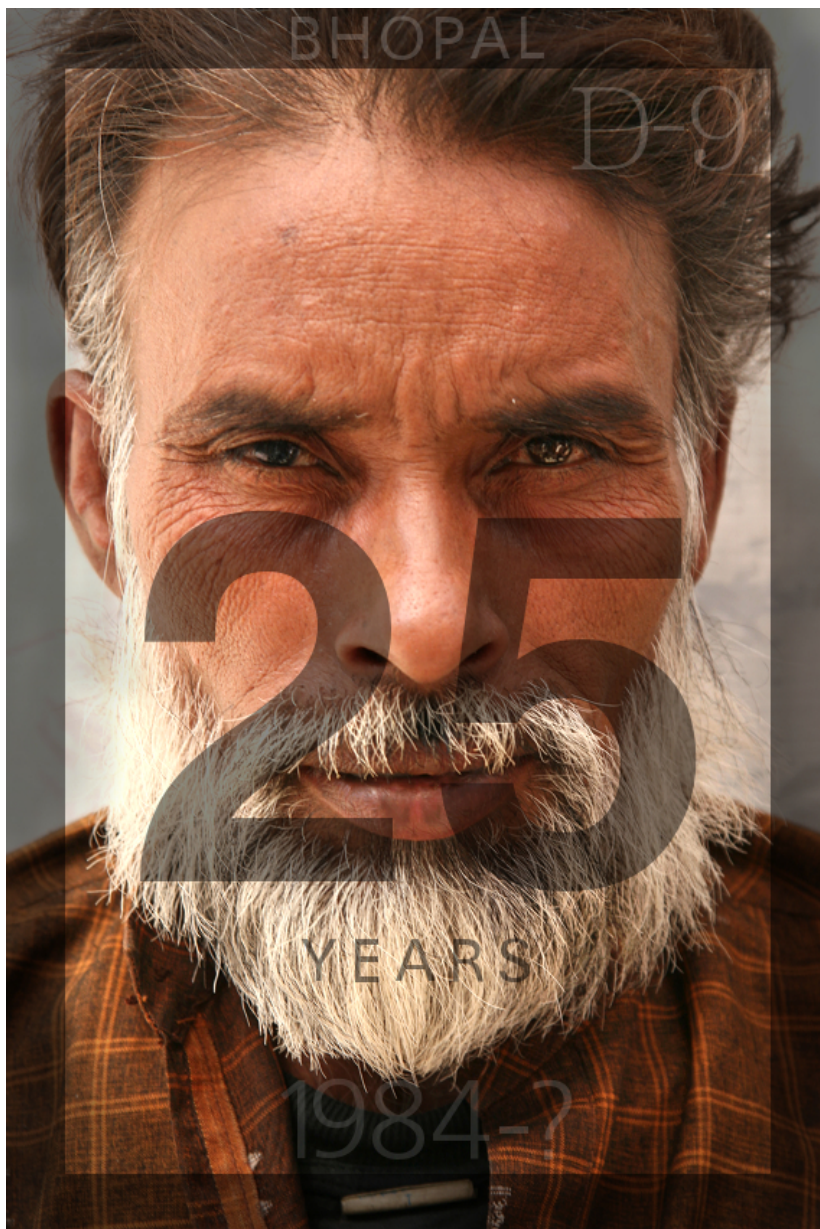
Since explosion of the plant in 1984, Ramish is insufficient respiratory and suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). This pulmonary weakness facilitates complications and he caught tuberculosis.

Sambhavna Trust Clinic has, through community health work, brought down tuberculosis cases by 90% in some gas and contamination affected communities: community health workers go house to house, inquire about tuberculosis symptoms, encourage those suffering to seek treatment, and follow up. Problems like tuberculosis have social implications and special community-specific sensitivity is necessary to overcome obstacles in fighting the disease.

Barkat Ali, 52 years old

The story of Barkat Ali is a tragic tale of compounded injustices. Accused of a murder he did not commit, he was imprisoned at Vidisha and transferred to Bhopal in 1982. A gas victim, he continued to serve his sentence for 8 years as his health worsened. He was released in 1989, and moved to Nawab Colony, a neighbourhood whose water is highly contaminated. In 2006, Barkat lost his 16 year old step-sister after multiple cardiac complications. In 2008, he participated to the Padyatra.

On February 20th, 2008, 50 Bhopalis repeated the Padyatra (March) to pressure the Prime Minister to keep his promises. They insisted that a long-term Special Commission be established on health, economic rehabilitation, drinking water and environmental protection. They simultaneously demanded that the government take legal action against Dow Chemical and Union Carbide. After 800 km and 38 days of walking, the padyatris held a sit-in in New Delhi. Multiple campaign actions were launched and the slogan “Walk your Talk” resonated as a leitmotif. “We will not return to Bhopal until our demands are met by the Prime Minister !” declared the padyatris (Hindi for marchers).



© Micha Patault



© Kostas Piliakos

Devas, 6 years old

Devas suffers from mental retardation. He is supported and helped by **Chingary Trust**.

25 years after the catastrophe, children are among the victims most heavily touched, with sometimes severe mental disorders, delays of growth, congenital malformations... However, none of these children has been directly exposed to gas in 1984, but it was the case for their mothers, who transmitted toxins during gestation or breast feeding. The mother's milks contain sometimes toxins, even 25 years after, coming probably more from contaminated water by the pesticides and residues abandoned or dumped into the ground by Union Carbide in the plant.

Kiran, 28 years old

After operation of her right eye, Kiran will have an operation on her left eye: she suffers from bilateral cataract known as "youthful", corresponding to a pacification of the crystalline lenses of her 2 eyes and making partially blindness. The cataracts are diseases of degeneration, occurring normally after 70 years old. (BMHRC: Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Center)

In 1984, in addition to the attacks of lungs and digestive system, the toxic gas of Union Carbide burned the eyes; Union Carbide, refusing to give the composition of the toxic cloud, simply recommended the use of ocular drops, decreasing the symptoms. A follow up study 3 years after exposure to methyl isocyanate in 93% of exposed survivors and "control" residents in 10 Bhopali communities showed an excess of eye irritation, eyelid infection, cataract, and a decrease in visual acuity among the exposed people.

Certain victims have chronic after-effects, like superficial keratites, chronic conjunctivites or cataracts reaching 1 eye or both, and this on abnormally young people.



© Stéphane Boulliet



© Micha Patault

Aborted foetus in 1984

The night of the catastrophe saw 40% of the pregnant mothers falling through of foetus whereas they tried to escape the gas emission. Those are preserved by Dr. Satpathy, medico-legal expert of Bhopal Hamidia hospital.

The abortions did not stop in 1984. According to some studies*, the rate of abortions was of 7,63% in the zones affected by the catastrophe of Union Carbide, against 3% in the pilot zones. In addition to the abortions, women reached must face problems with infertility, menstrual cycles (irregularity, absence, delay or early stop, excessive bleedings...), without speaking about the diseases of their children (congenital malformations, delays of growth, backwardnesses...).

In response to the suspicion of an increase in the cervical cancer risk associated with exposure to the gas or contaminated water, the Sambhavna clinic has initiated a cervical screening project.

* Indian Council of Medical Research, 1990

Davab, 8 years old

Davab suffers from locomotor incoordination and problems of transmission of the nerve impulses. He is treated at **Chingari Trust**, with helps of electric stimulator, kinesitherapy...

One of the objectives of Chingari Trust is to keep reminding the government and the companies involved of important long-pending issues, need for proper medical treatment for children born to this day with congenital disorders, and need to provide children with the opportunity to lead dignified and self-reliant lives.

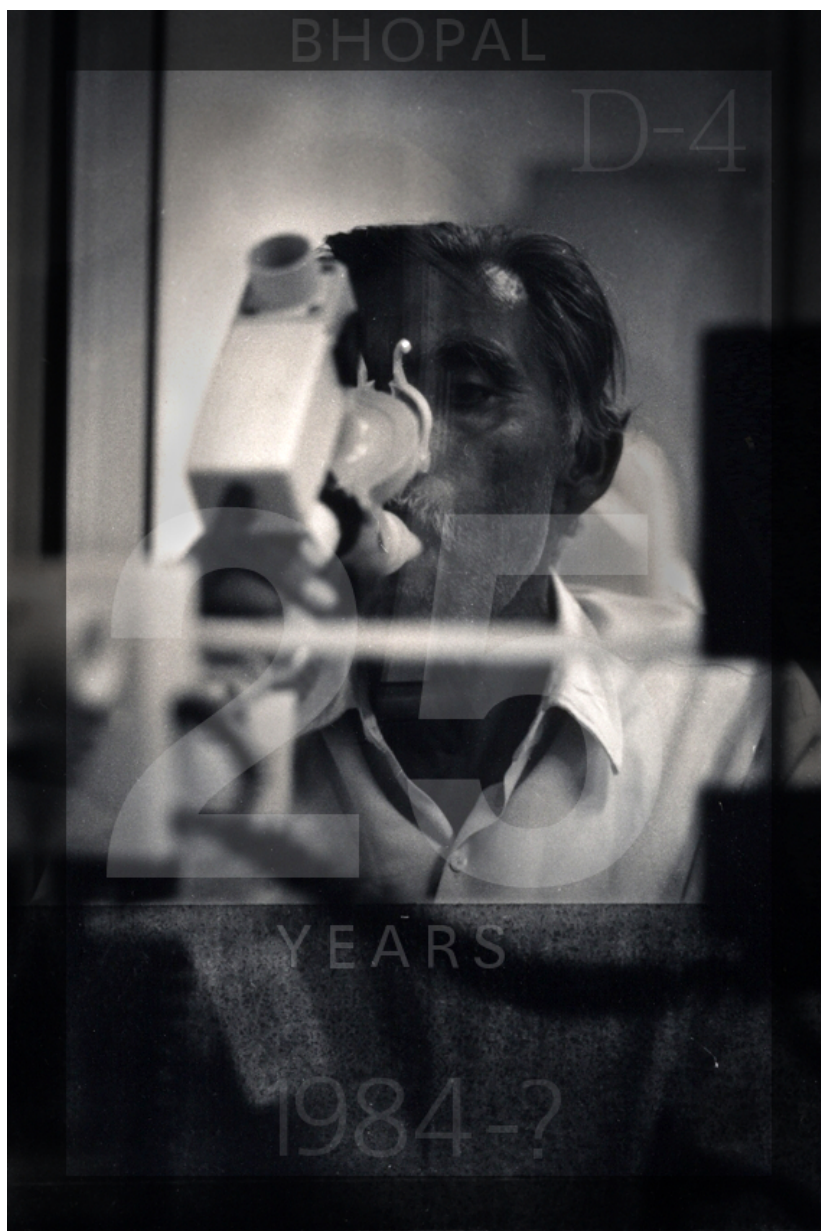
The center is committed to make available the best possible medical care, treatment and community based rehabilitation for these children.

Chingari envisions a society which is sensitive to disabled people. It also believes that through its health care work amongst the children affected, it can raise awareness in society about the deadly impact of toxic chemical industry.

You can **help these childs with donations**



© Kostas Piliakos



© Stéphane Boulliet

R.K. Namdev, 67 years old

Test of the pulmonary capacity (BMHRC, Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Center). Many people kept a respiratory insufficiency following the exposure to gases.

R.K.Namdev is strongly weakened: he weighs 47 kgs.

The pulmonary test analyzes a possible improvement of the pulmonary capacity after a catch of bronch-dilatators.

Champa Devi

Women raising the sign of **Chingari Trust**. Champa and Rashida Bee are survivors of gas but they still have after-effects. They were the pioneers in the fight for justice in Bhopal by creating, since 1987, two trade unions of women survivors: the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMUS), and the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmachari Sangh (BGPMSKS).

Champa : "We don't want Warren Anderson put to death. We want to see him put in a dark cell somewhere, in prison. We want him to feel what we felt, when we were separated from our children, when our husbands died, when we couldn't see our families any more." Rashida Bee: "Why, we asked them*, are you following a double standard** ? A human life is worth the same, whether they live in America or in the jungles of India. A human life should be worth the same."

You can **help these childs with donations**.

* Meet with the director of the headquarters of Dow Chemical

** About a case in which Dow acquired an asbestos factory that Union Carbide had owned, and in that instance, Dow was accepting U.C.'s pending liabilities, because America is a powerful country, but India is a poor country, and that's why Dow doesn't accept responsibility.", specifies Rashida Bee.



© Michal Patault



© Kostas Piliakos

Locomotor deficiency

Problems with the birth-defects are multiple, and concern as well newborns of mothers exposed to gas, as mothers contaminated later by polluted drinking water.

The problems can be physical: malformations like cleft palate and others much heavier.

They also touch the nervous system with defects of coordination of the members, paralysis, backwardnesses...

The children who cannot walk are rather numerous.

Contamination of water: still how much victims ?

A **very recent report** [1] proves that tens of thousands [2] people continue to be contaminated by the toxic chemicals resulting directly or indirectly from the catastrophe of Union Carbide, still 25 years afterwards. This report shows well that these chemicals and heavy metals are present in the grounds, plants and animals, and even in the mother's milk of the mothers nursing their children. Conclusions of this report completely counteracts the recent statements, made by 'Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Minister' Babulal Gaur, who said: "The plant is being opened [3] to help people get rid of the apprehension and misconception that the chemical wastes lying in the factory are still harmful and are polluting the ground water of nearby localities".

A major international scandal

The company, Union Carbide (now owned by Dow Chemical), claims that "All liabilities regarding the disaster were settled when Union Carbide concluded a \$470million compensation settlement with New Delhi in 1989" But, this 'settlement' only pertains to the civil suit and, in fact, Union Carbide and its CEO are fugitives from Indian justice on CRIMINAL CHARGES of culpable homicide. Furthermore, the civil settlement only ever covered injuries arising from gas exposure and NOT birth defects or any of the later environmental poisoning and related illnesses.

[1] Report published on decembre 1, 2009

[2] Approximately 30.000 people drink and wash themselves with contaminated water, every day

[3] The Indian authorities wanted to open the site for the 25 years of the catastrophe. What will not be done (click for more informations).



© Stéphane Boulliet

Annexes

Union Carbide disaster| History

- * 1978: The factory of Union Carbide pesticides, subsidiary of the American multinational, is built in Bhopal to serve the program of food self-sufficiency carried out by the Indian government via the "Green Revolution".
- * 1982: The factory records a broad deficit, involving the dismissal of part of its qualified personnel. Safety is put at evil and the incidents multiply.
- * 1984: 40 tons of MIC (Methyl Isocyanate), an extremely toxic gas, escape from the factory, resulting in the death of 8.000 people. The factory ceases any activity.
- * 1986: The Group for Information and Action in Bhopal (GIAB) becomes the hopper between Bhopal and international activism. The following year, two groups of women survivors are formed: the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMUS-Bhopal Gas Affected Women Organization), the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mabila Stationery Karmwhari Sangh (BGPMSKS-Bhopal Gas Affected Stationary Women Employees Union).
- * 1989: The Indian Supreme court will not require of Union Carbide Corporation not more than 470 million dollars to compensate the victims. That means approximately 715 € per anybody. The treatment, research or the rehabilitation long-term are not the subject of any clause. Justice does not decide either in the charge of UCC for its industrial crime. The victims feel the decision like a treason. They consider the compensation insufficient (3 billion dollars initially requested) and denounce complicity between the Indian State and the multinational.
- * 1991: Following the pressure of the militants, the Indian Supreme court revises its judgement. It will return at the Indian State to pay the difference and to engage in the rehabilitation. This transfer of responsibilities aims at reassuring the foreign investors.
- * 1994: The government puts an end prematurely to the 24 research projects of the Indian Council of the Medical research on the effects of the catastrophe.

- * 1996: Sambhavna Trust Clinic is founded thanks to international private gifts, with an aim of offering a therapy adapted and free for the victims.
- * 1999: A study undertaken by Greenpeace reveals the extent of the poisoning of the grounds and the ground water. The level of toxic products is sometimes 6 million times superior to the normal. Water that 25.000 people consume is highly contaminated since the activity of the factory.
- * 2001: Dow Chemical, first company of world chemistry, repurchases Union Carbide Corporation.
- * 2002: The Supreme court declares that the State is held to provide drinking water to the 25.000 people obliged to consume contaminated water.
- * 2004: Contaminated districts are supplied out of drinking water but in quantity definitely lower than the needs.
- * Rashida Bee and Champa Devi Shukla are rewarded for the "Goldman Prize" for the environment in answer to 20 years of exemplary fight.
- * 2006: The ICJB, International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal, launches a campaign aiming at claiming justice and repair. After a walk of Bhopal to Delhi, an hunger strike and many non-governmental actions, Indian the Prime Minister grants part of their claims.
- * 2007: Rashida Bee and Champa Devi Shukla create the annual "Chingari Award for Women Against Corporate Crime" rewarding for the women who fight against the crimes of large companies through India.
- * 2008: The ICJB launches a second campaign to press the Government to hold its promises. A Special subcommittee in the long run on Bhopal will have to deal with all the relative files with health, the economic reintegration, the drinking water and environmental protection.
- * 2009: 27 members of the American Congress has a presentiment of Dow Chemical Company to decontaminate the factory and the polluted grounds of Bhopal.
- * The examining magistrate of Bhopal subjects to the Indian government a warrant for arrest against Warren Anderson, the ancient chairman of Union Carbide Corporation.

Internet links

Help organisms

Bhopal Medical Appeal / Sambhavna Clinic:

[internet website](#) | [groupe FaceBook](#) | [twitter](#)

[Chingary Trust](#)

[Students For Bhopal](#)

[ICJB: International Campaign For Justice in Bhopal](#)

Act

[Donations to the Sambhavna clinic](#)

[Donations to ICJB](#)

[Petitions](#)

[Post cards](#)

[Other actions with SFB](#) (Students For Bhopal)

Informations

Bhopal XXV: [Internet website](#) | [FaceBook group](#)

[Bhopa Bus](#)

[Water Bhopal](#)

[B'eau-pal](#)

[Truth about Dow](#)

[It was five past midnight in Bhopal](#)

[Animal's people](#)

[The yes Men: Hoax for the 20 years of the disaster](#)

Bhopal XXV | The photographers



© Micha Patault

Micha Patault

Born in 1979, lives and works in Paris.

Micha Patault developed his artistic approach at the Beaux-Art de Marseille. He then left his home town to study Hindi and Indian Culture at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisation Orientales (INALCO) in Paris, before devoting himself to photo-journalism.

Inspired by his double training, he proposes a photo-journalism “d’auteur”. Guided by sociological reflection, he seeks to document his subjects with attention to aesthetic choices. His photography is socially engaged and serves to communicate international causes. He is fluent in the language of the region he investigates, committed to promoting intimacy, familiarity and independence.

Since 2005, he has made around ten trips to Bhopal where he works as an independent photographer collaborating with NGOs, and with the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (ICJB). He will publish a book of photographs “No More Bhopals” with Enrick B. Editions, which will be available on September 2009. His last work seeks to make palpable the tragedy of Bhopal and to portray the real consequences of the disaster, as well as the struggles for justice and dignity.

www.michapatault.com



© Kostas Pliakos

Kostas Pliakos

Kostas Pliakos was born in Athens, Greece in 1969. He thought that he could become an economist but he only managed to obtain his degree. That's because he has been infected early by the journalism virus. He has studied photography at the Hellenic Cinema & Television School Stavrakos (CILECT) and journalism at the Panteion University of Athens and later he did postgraduate studies in editing processes and digital editions in Spain. He works as a newspaper journalist since 1998 and for the last 10 years in the well-known Greek newspaper «Eleftheros Typos» as a global news editor. He has covered stories in many countries worldwide. He also collaborates with many magazines and agencies.

He developed a passion with photography since he was a child and every so often he publishes his stories and pictures in magazines and agencies.

His work has been exposed in a personal exhibition entitled «Mexico: Memories from the Heart» (2004) and he took part in two collective ones (2003, 2007). He worked on Bhopal disaster in 2008.

He lives in Athens, Greece.

www.kostaspliakos.com



© Stéphane Bouillet

Stéphane Bouillet

Stéphane Bouillet was born in France in 1976. He always wanted to be a veterinarian, dreaming of wildlife and trips. Once the diploma in the pocket in 2000, its attraction for the photography grows and its first trips (Guyana, Congo...) mix study, protection and photography of wildlife.

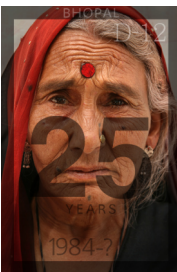
Gradually, it became aware that problems of the wild animals (poaching, biotope destruction...) were closely related to the problems of autochtones.

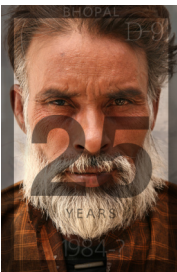
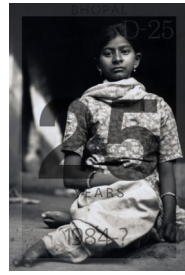
In 2006, he thus forsakes tripod and teleobjective to approach human with a minimalist material, and sets up his website and the concept "ReMedAct: Look, Meditate, Act", which goal is to make meditate on a problem by the means of the photographs, and especially to make act and change the conscience of people. In 2008, he buy a middle-format in order to collect the soul and the weight of ages in its portraits: the goal is to manage to fix, and then to transmit an emotion through a photograph. Then one touches people, one makes them change, even act... And there only the bet is won. Reports are now the big part of its work, mixing increasingly human and ecology. However, the Blad awoke in him leaning artistic, revealed in its last subject Wast(m)e on the industrial waste lands and... human waste.

He worked on Bhopal in 2008: what is revolting, is that the factory was not cleaned and that the ground water was contaminated, leading to a 2nd generation of victims. Moreover, many victims always require a judgement for the ex-chairman of Union Carbide...

www.stephanebouillet.com

Bhopal XXV | The 30 photos





Photographies © 2009 Micha Patault | Kostas Pliakos | Stephane Bouillet

Concept, text, graphic conception: Stephane Bouillet

Edition Decembre 2009