

## **BHOPAL – DECEMBER 2007**

Susan Moffat, Engender Board member is currently volunteering in Bhopal at the Sambhavna Medical Clinic. Community activists are still campaigning for justice 23 years after the Union Carbide chemical gas leak which killed 8,000 people and continues to have long lasting health effects on the generation who experienced this and on the generation born since 1984. The struggle for justice in Bhopal is one of the longest running fights against corporate crime and government collusion. Women have had, and continue to play a leading role in the many organisations and campaigns which have evolved since 1984. Rashida Bee and Champa Devi Shukla, two Bhopali women survivors of the gas leak who have been leaders in the campaign for justice, were awarded the Goldman prize for environmental activism. With the funds from this they established the Chingari Trust, which this year launched the Chingari award.

## **CHINGARI AWARD FOR WOMEN AGAINST CORPORATE CRIME INDIA 2007**

This is arguably the world's first award for women fighting corporate crime. The award was presented on 5 December as part of the week long activities surrounding the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the 1984 gas disaster in Bhopal. The award is unique in that it celebrates the strength of women. The awards panel is also made up of women.

Inspired by their own slogan '**We are Flames, not Flowers**' Rashida Bee and Champa Devi instituted the Chingari (flames / embers) award which will be an annual prize to recognise one woman who is working at great personal risk and hardship to expose and fight human rights excesses of corporations.

The award this year went to Mukta Jhodia, a tribal woman who has taken on the Uktal Alumina bauxite and mining processing project in Kashipur, Orissa which is planning to mine the bauxite rich plateaus which people live and work on.

[www.chingaritrust.org/](http://www.chingaritrust.org/)

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