

ROHSTOFFE 3

JHARKHAND, INDIA

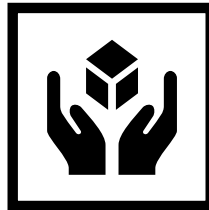
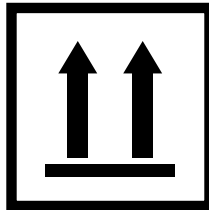
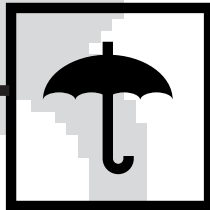
Resource conflicts and the indigenous peoples' autonomy movement

Talk by **Sanjay Basu Mullick** (in English)

Thursday, 25. October 2012, 18:30 – 20:00.

Room F 012, Universität Bern, Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36.

The Indian state of Jharkhand was founded in 2000 after a long struggle for independence. Jharkhand is part of the central Indian 'tribal belt' with a high proportion of 'Adivasi' (or 'original inhabitants') and extensive forests. It's rich in natural resources, especially coal and other minerals and metals. The historic resistance of the Adivasi against the expropriation of their ancestral lands and forest took the form of a series of insurrections against the British colonizers, such as the famous 'Birsa Munda' uprising from 1895 to 1900, and turned into a civil disobedience movement in independent India.



With the neoliberal economic reforms from the mid 90ies and the subsequent economic boom, the pressure on Jharkhand's resources has increased. Various grassroots movements try to defend the Adivasis rights over land, water and forest by democratic means. Simultaneously, the armed conflict between the Maoist guerrilla and the state's security forces puts them under heavy pressure due to the militarization of the forest areas - what some observers believe to be a strategy to displace the rightful owners of the land to clear the way for the exploitation of natural resources by mining corporations.

Sanjay Basu Mullick, activist and researcher, was one of the most notable leaders of the Jharkhand autonomy movement. Currently he is a senior adviser for the grassroots organization *Jharkhand Save the Forest Movement* and the *Institute of Community Forest Governance*. He published various books on the Jharkhand Movement and forest rights.

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