

Seditionist or Prisoner of Conscience
State power, civil liberties and the case of Dr. Binayak Sen

Friday, 28 January, 2011 at 4.00 PM
Lecture Hall, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

The Sessions Court of Raipur, Chhattisgarh sentenced Dr. Binayak Sen and two others to life imprisonment under charges of sedition on 24th December 2010, which has drawn nationwide and international criticism. Dr. Sen, a medical practitioner working in one of the most backward areas of the country, is a sharp critic of the violation of human rights by the Chhattisgarh government machinery, in the name of containing Maoist violence. The judgement, indicting Dr. Sen for 'sedition', has opened up a larger debate on the relationship between the state, its institutions like the judiciary, and the democratic values they are supposed to uphold.

The panel discussion will focus on the nature of the judgement in the Dr. Binayak Sen case and its historical burden. It will also analyse the political framework of the civil liberties movement and its relation with the state.

Introduction: **Dr. Rajesh Kasturirangan**, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore

Panelists

Siddharth Narrain

Legal Researcher, Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore

Disaffection and the State: A Brief History of the Sedition Law in India

Dr. V Krishna Ananth

Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; Advocate; Freelance columnist, Chennai

Mainstreaming Resistance in the Neo-Liberal Context: Prospects and Challenges

Prof. Nagaragere Ramesh

Member, People's Democratic Forum, Bangalore; Former Principal, National College, Bangalore

Experience from the human rights movement in Karnataka

All are cordially invited

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