

**AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH  
(AIUB)**

**AN ASSIGNMENT ON:**

**“WHY THE BHOPAL TRAGEDY BEING DISCUSSED AGAIN AFTER  
TWENTY FOUR YARS”**

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Semester: Summer 2009-2010**

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**Date of Submission: Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2010**

## Introduction

Bhopal Gas Tragedy was an Industrial Disaster that took place at a Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant in the Indian city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. At midnight on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1984, the plant accidentally released methyl Isocyanate (MIC) Gas, exposing more than 500,000 people to MIC and other chemicals.

## The Incident

3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1984, shortly after midnight, Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas leaks from a tank at the UCIL Bhopal plant. According to the state government of Madhya Pradesh, approximately 3,800 people die and several thousand other individuals experience permanent and partial disabilities.

The plant released 42 Tones of Toxic Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) Gas, exposing more than 500,000 people to toxic gases. The first official immediate death toll was 2,259. A more generally accepted figure is that 8,000- 10,000 died within 72 hours, and it is estimated that 25,000 have since died from gas-related diseases.

## The Misery

The moment the Bhopal gas disaster took place, the Union Carbide Company adopted a policy of suppression vary and suggestion falsify. Concerted efforts were made to spread the message of disinformation.

More than 25 years later, on 7 June 2010, a court in Bhopal has pronounced a guilty verdict on the Indian section of Union Carbide and also convicted seven former UCIL (Union Carbide India Limited) officials as being guilty under Sections 304-A (causing death by negligence), 304-II (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 336, 337 and 338 (gross negligence) of the Indian Penal Code. All of them are Indians. They were each sentenced to two years imprisonment and a fine of Rs.100,000 (approximately US\$ 2,097). UCIL has been awarded a fine of Rs. 500,000 (approximately US\$ 10,483). However, there was no mention in the verdict of Warren Anderson, the then Chairman of Union Carbide Corporation who skipped bail, fled the country and has been declared an escapee after he refused to return to India from the US and stand trial.

The eight people convicted today for the world's worst industrial disaster include:

Former Union Carbide Chairman Keshub Mahindra

Vijay Gokhle, then Managing Director of Union Carbide

Kishore Kamdar, then Vice-President of Union Carbide

J Mukund, then Works Manager, Union Carbide

R.B.Roy Chowdhury, Asstt. Works Manager, UCIL, Bhopal (now deceased)

S.P.Choudhury, then Production Manager of UCIL, Bhopal

K.V.Shetty, then Plant Superintendent, UCIL, Bhopal

Shakeel Qureshi, then Production Assistant, UCIL, Bhopal

The main convict Mr. Warren Anderson who was the head of Union Carbide is still free and living a peaceful life at his home in America. Everybody is blaming that the then ruling Government of Congress Party is responsible for letting Mr. Anderson flee America. He was arrested once long time back upon his arrival but fled away outside India after being granted a bail. After that he remained untouched.

Now there is news floating of Anderson last words as he fled India that he was free to go home as there is a law of United States. What has Congress to say now? Even if Warren Anderson had pleaded to the government of thorough investigation and that this kind of disaster would never happen, the worst industrial disaster was already in books. Calling it a "Systemic Failure" would not appease the citizens any more.

Now Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is backing up Mr. Arjun Singh who was the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh at that time. He says that the law and order of our country had deteriorated if he(Mr. Anderson) was not sent out of Bhopal. He also said that the Government is trying its best to extradite Mr Warren Anderson to India.

The verdict given in connection with Union Carbide Gas Leak Tragedy is too lenient to the victims of the accident. The accident was one of the biggest industrial catastrophes in the world and resulted into massacre of 500,000 people. It took almost 25 years to get a verdict and eight people are accused but the punishment given to accused seemed to be similar to the punishment for ordinary cases such as road accident etc. Only 2 years

jail and amount of Ps. 1 lakh fine can not be the price of 500,000 lives. The victims of the tragedy are forced to experience another tragedy after waiting for right justice.

## Conclusion

Finally after waiting twenty five long years the victims of the tragedy got the verdict. Punishment given to the accused is too light and as result protest is being made from all levels. It is very shameful that the people who were behind it are not punished severely but given a very short punishment just for the sake of judgment. Only two year jail and 1 lakh rupee fine can not be proper punishment for such a devastating incident. The verdict became another tragedy for the victims.

Search Key Words (Searched Using "Google.com")  
bhopal tragedy, revisiting the bhopal tragedy, life at bhopal

### Words & Character Counting (Main Report Only)

Word: 975, Character (no spaces): 4,932

### References

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