



PRESS RELEASE

(for immediate release – 21 July 2010)

Launch of regional briefing – business & human rights in South Asia

Today the non-profit Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is launching its first-ever regional briefing: “Business & human rights in South Asia – a round-up of recent developments”. The nine-page briefing is available here:

www.reports-and-materials.org/South-Asia-regional-briefing-Jul-2010.pdf

This capsule briefing provides a reality-based snapshot of business & human rights issues in South Asia, with references to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. It highlights key developments reported over the past year, emerging issues, concerns raised by local NGOs and civil society about alleged abuses by companies, responses by companies to allegations, and positive initiatives by companies.

Chris Avery, Director of the Resource Centre, said: *“We are pleased to be issuing our first regional briefing today, covering the important region of South Asia. The briefing is concise and accessible, not comprehensive. We plan to issue annual region-by-region briefings on business & human rights developments, based on our regional researchers’ unique overview of their regions.”*

Companies mentioned in this briefing include: Bahria Town, Ballarpur Industries, Barclays, Bayer, Bayer Crop Science, Bharti Enterprises, Blue Mango, Brandix, Defence Housing Authority, Dell, Depilex beauty salon, Dow Chemical, Forbes Marshall Group, Garib & Garib, GlaxoSmithKline, Green Hotel, H&M, Habib Rafiq, Himagiri Hydro Energy, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Prudential, Ikea, IndianOil, Jaipur Rugs, La Boulangerie, Lanka Walltile, Merck, Metro Group, OnTime Technologies, People Tree, POSCO, Rahim, Reliance, RL Denim, Sammaan, State Bank of India, Tata Group, Tata Steel, Union Carbide, Vedanta, West Seti.

Also today, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre announced the appointment of Dr. Harpreet Kaur as its new South Asia Researcher & Representative, based in India. The announcement is available here:

www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/SouthAsiaAppt

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org) tracks the human rights impacts (positive & negative) of 5000 companies in over 180 countries. The site is updated hourly and receives 1.5 million hits per month.

Mary Robinson chairs its 80-member International Advisory Network. Its 22 Academic Partners include leading institutes in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America.

The Centre has regional researchers based in four regions:

- *Aliou Diouf, Francophone Africa Researcher, based in Senegal*
- *Harpreet Kaur, South Asia Researcher, based in India (starting 2 August 2010)*
- *Abiola Okpechi, Anglophone Africa Researcher, based in South Africa*
- *Ella Skybenko, Eastern Europe/Central Asia Researcher, based in Ukraine*

Later this year we will appoint an East Asia Researcher (based in Hong Kong). We are seeking funds to establish regional researchers in Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

For further information about the Resource Centre, see the "[About us](#)" section of the website.

If you have questions about this regional briefing, please contact:

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See the Resource Centre website for [contact details](#) of additional team members based in India, Senegal, South Africa, UK, Ukraine, USA

SUPPORT THE RESOURCE CENTRE: Please consider donating to Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, to enable us to continue our work in South Asia and internationally, and to offer our website, special portals, Weekly Updates and regional briefings to a global audience without any charge. As we do not accept donations from companies or company foundations, donations from individuals and foundations are essential for our work to continue.

Donate online: www.business-humanrights.org/Aboutus/Makeadonation

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is a non-profit organization. In the United States we are a tax-exempt non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In England & Wales we are a Registered Charity, number 1096664.

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