

Statement

To Our Friends in Bengal

jeudi 22 novembre 2007, par [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date de rédaction antérieure : novembre 2007).

See also the second statement issued on this question by several of the authors : [Second Statement by Chomsky, Tariq Ali et al on Nandigram](#)

News travels to us that events in West Bengal have overtaken the optimism that some of us have experienced during trips to the state. We are concerned about the rancor that has divided the public space, created what appear to be unbridgeable gaps between people who share similar values. It is this that distresses us. We hear from people on both sides of this chasm, and we are trying to make some sense of the events and the dynamics. Obviously, our distance prevents us from saying anything definitive. We continue to trust that the people of Bengal will not allow their differences on some issues to tear apart the important experiments undertaken in the state (land reforms, local self-government).

We send our fullest solidarity to the peasants who have been forcibly dispossessed. We understand that the government has promised not to build a chemical hub in the area around Nandigram. We understand that those who had been dispossessed by the violence are now being allowed back to their homes, without recrimination. We understand that there is now talk of reconciliation. This is what we favor.

The balance of forces in the world is such that it would be impetuous to split the left. We are faced with a world power that has demolished one state (Iraq) and is now threatening another (Iran). This is not the time for division when the basis of division no longer appears to exist.

Noam Chomsky, author, *Failed States : The Abuse of Power and the Assault on Democracy*.

Tariq Ali, author, *Pirates of the Caribbean : Axis of Hope* and editor, *New Left Review*.

Howard Zinn, author, *A Power Governments Cannot Suppress*.

Susan George, author, *Another World is Possible if, and Fellow*, Transnational Institute.

Victoria Brittain, co-author, *Enemy Combatant : A British Muslim's Journey to Guantanamo and Back*, former editor, *Guardian*.

Walden Bello, author, *Dilemmas of Domination. The Unmaking of the American*

Empire, and Chair, Akbayan, the fastest growing party in the Philippines.

Mahmood Mamdani, author, Good Muslim, Bad Muslim : America, The Cold War and the Roots of Terror.

Akeel Bilgrami, author, Politics and the Moral Psychology of Identity.

Richard Falk, author, The Costs of War : International Law, the UN and World Order After Iraq.

Jean Bricmont, author, Humanitarian Imperialism : Using Human Rights to Sell War.

Michael Albert, author, Parecon : Life After Capitalism, and editor, ZNET.

Stephen Shalom, author, Imperial Alibis : Rationalizing US Intervention After the Cold War.

Charles Derber, author, People Before Profit. The New Globalization in an Age of Terror, Big Money and Economic Crisis.

Vijay Prashad, author, The Darker Nations : A People's History of the Third World.