

# CHASHMA INSPECTION CLAIM UPDATE #2

*December 18, 2002*

*The Chashma Inspection Updates are emailed to Chashma Mailing List, which is a group of individuals and non-government organizations monitoring the events and developments surrounding the ADB-Funded Chashma Right Bank Irrigation Project (CRBIP) in Pakistan. If you wish to be included or removed from Chashma Mailing List, please email the moderator, Mr. Mushtaq Gadi at [mushtaq\\_gadi@hotmail.com](mailto:mushtaq_gadi@hotmail.com)*

## Announcement of Future Actions

### **One-day hunger strike in front of ADB office in Islamabad:**

Chashma affectees will hold one-day hunger strike in front of the ADB office, Islamabad, on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2002. The affectees of Ghazi Barotha Hydropower Project, Tarbela Dam, Chotiari Reservoir, Mangala Dam, Gomal Zam Dam, Greater Thal Canal and Kachhi Canal will also participate in the hunger strike in order to express solidarity with the Chashma affectees. Members of Peoples Rights Movement (PRM), representatives of All Pakistan Slum Dwellers Alliance, Punjab Tenants Organization and members of various trade unions from Islamabad and Rawalpindi will also be present at the occasion. Journalists will be invited to cover the event.

The purpose of holding the one-day hunger strike is to register the protest that all the outstanding social and environmental problems are unresolved and undressed despite the fact that the project will be closed at the end of this month.

### **Collection of testimonies about corruption in land compensation**

There is a widespread corruption and rent seeking involved in on going land compensation process. Land collector and local staff of the revenue department don't pay any compensation to affectees without receiving 20 percent commission. Affectees feel that this is an extreme of injustice because there is already substantial under valuation of assets including land, trees, crops, building and other structures. They have also been deprived from the option of land for land despite the fact that there is more state land available in the area than the land acquired under the project.

Affectees will gather in the office of land collector and provide testimonies about the corruptions of land collectors and local revenue staff. Documentation of testimonies will be done both in written form and through video camera. All

these documents will be further sent to the President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of Pakistan Supreme Court, Chief Justice of High Court, Local session judges, Accountability Bureau, local administration, members of Parliament belonging to the project and media.

If the corruption continues then affectees will stage a sit in before the home of land collector and relevant local revenue staff members. The purpose of that sit-in would be to tell the neighbors of land collector and other officials about their corruption and illegal activities. Affectees will appeal to their neighbors to do social boycott against corrupt officials who are doing injustice with already oppressed and poor people.