Grassroots Coal Fights Around the World

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Everywhere there is Coal, People Oppose It
• Pollution from coal plants leads to 670,000 premature deaths every year
• In 2014, coal declined 1.6%, while the economy grew 7.3%
• China/U.S. climate deal including new U.S. emission targets and first peak CO2 pledge from China
India

- Grassroots coal movement galvanized by the deaths of villagers protesting the Sompeta coal plant
- More than 100,000 premature deaths every year from coal-fired power pollution
- For every new coal plant built six have been shelved or cancelled since mid-2012
- The Supreme Court cancelled over 200 coal allotments after the Coal-Gate scandal, while projects relying on imported coal near bankruptcy
• Economic pressures and the switch to less labor intensive mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining led coal mining jobs to go down 85.7% in Spain
• MTR mines operated without permits
• Local residents and regional environmental groups built an organized resistance and brought legal challenges against the companies
• After 20 years of activism, the Regional government of Castilla y León cancelled MTR in the Laciana Valley
Despite reports showing viable alternatives, the World Bank is pushing for a new coal-fired power plant in Kosovo.

In 2013, local groups released a series of provocative ads on primetime television exposing the health risks of coal and prompting a national discussion. This was followed by a new series of ads in 2014.

This will be the test of the World Bank’s commitment to its new coal policies.
Communities in Turkey have organized against coal long before the Soma disaster killed over 240 miners in 2014.

In Gerze, activists targeted a beer brand owned by the company and organized a demonstration with 10,000 people. In 2013 the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization rejected the EIA for the fourth time.

Community members and activists in Soma who were attacked while protecting olive trees from being illegally razed for a coal mine were vindicated when a Turkish court declared the project illegal.
Thousands joined a 5 day march to oppose the 1,320 MW Rampal coal plant adjacent to the Sundarbans, a World Heritage Site that protects Bangladeshis from deadly storm surges.

Authors, artists, and other notable people have joined the fight.

Meanwhile 80,000 home solar systems are installed every month in Bangladesh.
• While activists have faced harassment and arrest, the refusal of locals to sell their land has delayed the Batang coal-fired power plant in Central Java for 3 years.

• Activists have traveled to neighboring Cirebon to meet with fishing villages that had lost their livelihoods after the construction of a coal-fired power plant.

• Representatives traveled to Japan to tell the government, which is supporting the project through JBIC, about their struggle.
Australia

In February, 2014, a massive fire started at the Hazelwood mine. It burned for 45 days, forcing residents of nearby Morwell do live in a mixture of toxic smoke.

Since January 2014, a diverse coalition has worked to blockade the Maules Creek mine and protect the Leard State Forest.

Activists, tourism operators, and landowners are working to stop the Adani Carmichael coal mine and Abbot Point terminal in the Great Barrier Reef.
Thank You

For More Information
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http://www.sierraclub.org/international/supporting-grassroots-movements