

Association For India's Development (AID)
MIT & Boston Chapters present

Reporting a black hole :
A journalist's experiences from Chhattisgarh in Central Tribal India

A talk by **Shubhranshu Choudhary**, founder CGnet (a community news platform dealing with Chhattisgarh issues).

The talk will be preceded by a screening of the documentary film, titled "India's Hidden War," made in 2007 by a team of which Shubhranshu was a part and screened in a program called Unreported World on Channel 4 in the UK.

Where: MIT, 2-105 [<http://whereis.mit.edu/?go=2>]
182 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139

When: Fri Jun 18, 7:00pm

Chhattisgarh state in central India is a mineral-rich area populated largely by several tribes (called *adivasis*). Recently, especially after the Indian government's neo-liberal reforms in 1991, the region has been in the news for a heated battle between the left-wing Maoist forces (also called Naxalites) and the state. The Maoists claim they are fighting for tribal rights and their right to the natural resources of the area. The confrontation between the Maoists and the state has resulted in increased violence and militarization and more importantly, abuse of human rights of the tribals.

Shubhranshu Choudhary is a former BBC South Asia producer. After working outside India for more than 20 years, when he returned home, Chhattisgarh was no more a quiet heaven he had left behind but had turned into "India's gravest internal security threat". He will talk about his findings about this transformation and about possible solutions. As a Knight International Journalism fellow Shubhranshu took part in developing the world's first radio network over mobile phones which he considers an important part in addressing some of the problems the world faces today.

Association for India's Development (AID) is a volunteer movement committed to promoting sustainable, equitable, and just development. In solidarity with non-violent people's struggles, AID supports grassroots organizations in India and initiates efforts in various interconnected spheres such as education, livelihoods, natural resources, health, women's empowerment, and social justice.

For more about **AID**: www.aidindia.org

For more about **AID-Boston**: www.aidboston.org