Timeline of Survival's campaign and Dongria Kondh's battle against Vedanta Resources' mine

1997: First agreement between the government and a Vedanta subsidiary, Sterlite, regarding the Niyamgiri mine

2003: Protests against the displacement of villages for Vedanta's refinery begin.

2004: New agreement between Odisha government and Vedanta

2003-4: Villagers evicted for the building of the Lanjigarh refinery; construction of refinery begins.

2005: Supreme Court’s expert committee advises that the Niyamgiri mine ‘should not be permitted’.

2007: Norwegian sovereign pension fund pulls out of Vedanta; Lanjigarh refinery starts operations.

2008: Survival launches campaign against the mine; Survival submits complaint against Vedanta to the OECD; Supreme Court gives its clearance for the mine.

2008-2009: Large demonstrations in the Niyamgiri Hills, the capital of Odisha, Delhi and internationally against the mine.


2010: Following months of campaigning, the Church of England sells shares in Vedanta on ethical grounds; others follow suit. Amnesty releases damning report on Vedanta's operations in Odisha

Victory: The findings of an investigative committee sent to the Niyamgiri Hills persuades the Indian government to block the development of the mine.

2011: The issue returns to India’s Supreme Court, where the decision to block its development is challenged.

2012: Vedanta's refinery is closed, due to a lack of bauxite. The company admits that it has spent more than $800m expanding the site, yet it had not secured all the required permissions; the closure contributes to a fall in Vedanta's share price.

2013: Victory: Supreme Court declares that the Dongria Kondh must hold village councils (‘gram sabhas’) to decide about the mine. All twelve villages voted unanimously against the mine.