



Sumaira Abdulali

Sumaira's interest in environment was first translated into action when, following a request for help from local fishermen, she cleared encroachments on a public village road by a Mumbai Industrialist in 1998. Thousands of fishermen in Alibag District supported the campaign. She undertook Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Bombay High Court which was appealed in the Supreme Court against Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations and a proposed casino at MandwabyanotherMumbaibusinessman.

Since 2003 Sumaira has worked, individually and through 'Awaaz Foundation', on environmental issues such as noise pollution, illegal sand mining, illegal construction, mining in bio diverse forests, marine pollution and oil spills, eco-friendly festivals, protection of trees and on civic issues such as laws on tobacco sale to children. She convened an NGO movement for protection of public-interest activists, 'Movement against Intimidation, Threat and Revenge against Activists' (MITRA).

Sumaira filed public interest litigation (PIL) in the Bombay High Court against relaxation of the Noise Rules to permit use of loudspeakers upto 15 days a year upto midnight in 2002 along with the Bombay Environmental Action Group and two doctors. She organized the first two major seminars on noise pollution in 2004 and 2006. Awaaz Foundation was registered in February 2006