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HEADLINE: BRAZIL-ENVIRONMENT GREENPEACE BRINGS CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOW CHEMICAL TO BRAZIL

BODY:

Sao Paulo, Jan 16 (EFE).- The environmentalist group Greenpeace staged one of its trademark colorful protests here Thursday at the Latin American headquarters of Dow Chemical, which it accuses of committing "corporate crimes" in various parts of the globe. Greenpeace accuses Dow and other multinationals of taking full advantage of globalization, but refusing to take responsibility for the environmental damage it causes to poor countries. The activist group is pressing the world's largest plastics manufacturer to clean up areas "polluted by its operations" in Latin America and do more to help with the recovery from a disaster at a pesticide plant in India 18 years ago.

The protest was staged a week before the beginning in Porto Alegre, Brazil, of the World Social Forum, a gathering of opponents of globalization.

In front of the Dow Chemical offices in Sao Paulo, Greenpeace activists displayed a large sign reading "**Bhopal** - Corporate Crime" and with a drawing of a skull bearing the company's logo.

They also displayed pictures of the tragedy in **Bhopal**, India, and delivered letters to the multinational company demanding justice.

In December 1984, **Bhopal** suffered the worst industrial accident in history when the Union Carbide plant leaked toxic gases which killed 8,000 people in two days.

The after-effects of the accident have persisted for the past two decades, killing 20,000 and undermining the health of another 150,000, according to Greenpeace figures.

Union Carbide closed its plant in **Bhopal** and left the city, but was later acquired by Dow Chemical. Greenpeace now wants the parent company to clean up the remaining toxic residue from the accident.

The corporation began operating in Brazil in 1971, generating average annual earnings of \$ 1.3 billion. Greenpeace argues that at least one of Dow's operations is contaminating the soil with dangerous chemicals.

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