



COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Press Release

January 5, 2011

Revolutionary homage to Civil Liberties leader Comrade KG Kannabiran!

KG Kannabiran (KGK), the civil liberties leader, democrat and close friend of Indian revolution, breathed his last on 30 December, 2010 in Hyderabad. He was 82. His demise had left a void in the civil liberties movement of India. Kannabiran's whole life was dedicated to the civil rights movement and he fought on behalf of the poor people in the bourgeois courts to protect them from the injustices of this system. He stood firmly with the oppressed people fighting state violence on them. He always stood in support of the revolutionary masses. KGK's life was inseparably intertwined with the more than four decade long revolutionary movement in our country. He did not cave in even in the face of severe repression on the civil liberties movement in Andhra Pradesh or all over India. In this whole period he stood firmly with the oppressed people fighting state violence on them. He was not only a civil rights leader but also an efficient and bold lawyer who undauntedly argued for the just things he stood for. In the post 70s, he left an indelible mark as a rare personality who had carved a niche in the field of civil liberties and also as a people's lawyer in India.

Kannabiran was influenced by communist politics in his youth and since the wake of Naxalbari he walked in step with the revolutionary movement in our country waged under the leadership of Maoists. Kannabiran's activity as a civil rights leader started in the 1970s and his services in this field continued for four decades. After emergency he took up responsibilities as the President of Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC) in 1978 and served in that post till 1993. He was elected the national president of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) in 1994 and served in that post till last year. In this course he came closer to the revolutionary movement as the well-wisher of the oppressed people. He proved since the dark days of the emergency period of Indira raj that the "encounters" staged by the state are nothing but brutal murders. Even in his last days, as an unflinching civil rights leader he strongly raised his voice against the brutal murders of Comrades Rajkumar (Azad), Patel Sudhakar, Apparao and accused the state of perpetrating these murders.

Since the days of emergency, KGK had stood in full support to all the agitations led by prisoners and political prisoners. During the historic jail agitation led by Maoist political prisoners in 1994-1995 in AP, KGK participated in the talks with the government. Thus he strived for the release of hundreds of prisoners which included several revolutionary leaders. Due to the legal services offered by KGK, a number of prisoners could escape the dark dungeons of the jail and gallows. Many among them had once again joined the revolutionary movement. In his last days, he worked as the President of Andhra Pradesh chapter of Committee for Release of Political Prisoners (CRPP).

KGK had persistently argued in courts for years together in the Parvatipuram, Srikakulam, Secunderabad, Ramnagar and Bengaluru and several other conspiracy cases and had proved that revolution is no conspiracy and that revolutionaries are not conspirators. He offered free legal service to poor people on whom false cases have been foisted. KGK's legal service were not limited to AP alone, he freely offered his services to the dalits and poor peasants who fought against age-old feudal oppression in Bihar and other struggle areas. Due to his services, many peasants could escape the gallows. The revolutionary masses, dalits, adivasis and national liberation activists would always fondly remember KGK for the legal services he rendered to their movements as well as the moral support. He gave material help to fellow civil rights activists' families when the activists faced state repression. The values and standards he established in his 50 year career as a lawyer are of a higher quality and worth emulating.

KGK propagated about the callousness of the state in the Indravelli massacre of adivasis in Adilabad, the burning of adivasi villages in Manyam of Eastern Ghats and other atrocities on them. From the 1980s till Operation Green Hunt, the latest offensive of the state on the fighting masses, KGK had consistently and staunchly fought against the state terror on the adivasis and was in the forefront in building a country-wide democratic movement against it.

KGK played a crucial role during the talks between the CPI (Maoist) and the government in AP in 2004. He criticized the government when it withdrew from the talks and began a grave offensive on the Maoists and exposed the sham behind its mantra of peace chanted till then. Even when the revolutionary movement faced a setback in AP he fought firmly against state violence and inspired others.

KGK was a voracious reader and a prolific and creative writer. He wrote extensively against state violence and on people's issues. He wrote on the anti-people provisions in the constitution and the inadequacies

in the laws. Particularly during his last days his writings on revolutionary leaders who were brutally murdered by the state eulogizing their contributions had earned an eternal place in the hearts of the oppressed masses.

The Central Committee of CPI (Maoist) expresses its deep grief at the demise of Comrade Kannabiran and humbly pays revolutionary homage to him on behalf of the whole revolutionary camp. It is sending its deep condolences to his family members, colleagues in the civil liberties movement and friends. Our party sees this decades-long service of KGK for genuine democracy, independence and oppression-free India as an inseparable part of the broader movement for the establishment of people's democratic society. The establishment of a New Democratic society would ensure in the real sense all the democratic rights fought for by comrades like KGK to all the marginalized and deprived people of India and we once again appeal to all on this solemn occasion to vow to carry on the struggle for such a society. It is appealing to all democrats, intellectuals, lawyers and writers to continue the ideals and values he established and to continue his fight for the democratic rights of the oppressed masses of India. That would be the real homage one could pay to this great democrat.



(Abhay)

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