

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)
Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee**

Press Release: 14 January 2009

**Condemn Brutal Massacre of 17 Adivasis in Fake
Encounter near Singaaram in South Bastar!**

**Observe Black Day and Bandh on 26 January in
Protest against the repressive, blood-thirsty
regime of Raman Singh!**

Police and SPOs once again unleashed massacre on January 8 near Singaaram village under Gollapalli PS in South Bastar. About 200 goondas and Khaki uniformed killers raided Singaaram and other nearby villages, took 17 persons including four women to a canal and butchered them in a brutal manner. The thugs gang-raped the women before murdering them, which was revealed by media on the basis of evidence provided by many villagers. After seeing the badly mutilated bodies of the dead, villagers also told the media that all the victims were hacked to pieces barbarically with knives and axes. To cover up such a heinous massacre as an “encounter”, police concocted a story that three SPOs and one constable were wounded during the “encounter” that continued for more than an hour. As the actual truth started flashing out in the media and the police story of the “encounter” got exposed, the SP of Dantewada hurriedly shifted away the so-called wounded from Dantewada to a hospital in Sukma so that they would be out of reach of the media persons. The manner in which the dead bodies were disposed was yet another grave crime committed by the killer police. These murderers simply threw away all their legal responsibilities, such as conducting *Panchnama*, post-mortem, *et cetera* after the so-called encounter, to the winds. What better example could there be for the unconstitutional atrocities perpetrated by the very same fellows who cry hoarse about upholding the “constitution”?

New Home Minister of the state, Nankiram Kanwar, congratulated the police forces for this “encounter” in a great hurry on the very evening of January 8 in Raipur. Further, he claimed in a press meet that it was a great success for the police. Even after it was confirmed beyond doubt not only by the media but also by local representatives of the CPI and Congress party that the encounter was in fact a fake one, Raman Singh government, instead of arresting the culprit police officers and the SPOs, hushed up the incident by merely issuing an order for magisterial enquiry. The government did the same in the case of *Kodenar* and *Hulghat* massacres also that took place a few weeks earlier.

The visit by the state Governor Mr. Narasimhan to the Jegurugonda “relief” camp just 3 or 4 days before the January 8 massacre and his attempts to boost up the morale of *salwa judum*, and later, the claim by the most hated leader of *Salwa Judum* from Konta area, Sattar Ali, that ‘*salwa judum* got a new spirit’ – all these indicate undoubtedly that the conspiracy for the massacre was hatched at the highest echelons of the government for which none else than the Chief Minister Raman Singh, Home Minister Nankiram and the Governor Narasimhan should be held responsible.

In fact, several massacres were perpetrated since 2005 when *salwa judum* was started. About 800 people were killed. More than 150 women were gang raped. Most of them were murdered after the rape. Thousands of houses in more than 750 villages were burnt to ashes. Property and belongings of the people was looted. Thousands of villagers were forcibly shifted to the so-called relief camps and about 2 lakhs people were forcibly evicted from their villages. Today in Dantewada and Bijapur districts there is no civil administration at all, even for name-sake. *Salwa judum* itself has become a terrorist institution that is being run by the government itself by vesting all kinds of unconstitutional powers in it. In spite of all this, faced by the counter attacks by the people and their army, the PLGA, the government could not achieve any success in its conspiracy to root out the revolutionary movement by massacring thousands of people. Moreover, several democratic and human rights activists and organizations thoroughly exposed the state-sponsored terror of *salwa judum* and raised the demand to disband *salwa judum*. Even then the government continued with its barbaric attacks. Particularly during the past 2-3 months dozens of people were murdered in fake encounters. In a word, all the encounters announced by the police in which naxalites were claimed to have been killed during the past three months were nothing but fake. Of all these, the *Singaram* “encounter” is the most barbaric and brutal massacre.

Although the government issued an enquiry order due to mounting opposition from people and all other democratic forces against the massacre, everyone knows what will be the outcome of such an enquiry. The same outcome as in the case of the dozens of massacres that took place, from *Jeeram Tharai* to *Ponjer, Maatwaada, Kodenaar, Hulghat*, etc., would be seen in the case of the latest *Singaram* massacre also. The people of *Singaram* told the media even the names of some of the killer SPOs. In spite of it, the government did not arrest them because the conspiracy of this massacre was not drawn in Bastar, but in Raipur.

Raman Singh's government had been perpetrating fascist terror under the direct guidance and aid of the central government with the sole aim of crushing the ongoing revolutionary movement in Dandakaranya for the past 28 years and the organs of new people's state power, and to transform the abundantly resourceful land of the Chhattisgarh into a grazing land to be exploited by Multi National Companies as well as Tatas, Essar, Jindals, Mittals and such other comprador capitalists. After coming to power for the second time, Raman Singh's government has further intensified the fascist terror. Behind this is certainly America's tacit guidance. The conspiracy of *Singaram* massacre is only the tip of the iceberg. The Indian ruling classes are day-dreaming to smash our just struggle by brazenly murdering revolutionaries and the ordinary masses. But history has been a witness to how the greatest fascists like Hitler bit the dust finally in the hands of the people. Anyone who knows history need not be told about what would be the fate of Raman, Karma, Nankiram, Narasimhan, Manmohan and such others. Repression begets resistance – such is the inexorable law of development of human society. The people of Bastar will certainly settle the account with the killers for the blood of their children.

We appeal to all of the toiling people, students, intellectuals, teachers, lawyers, doctors and media personnel of Chhattisgarh to raise their voice against this cruel massacre. When people were killed in Mumbai attacks, the news and condemnation of it continued to flash for many weeks. The anger roused among people against the culprits got a platform to express it. But, is it that the lives of the unfortunate tribal people of Bastar are so cheap that the government forces and the government nurtured SPOs can kill the Bastar tribals whenever, wherever, however and as many as they want? Who gave them the right to play at will with the pride of the mothers and sisters of Bastar with unlimited brutality? Let us certainly raise our voices on these issues. Let us demand severe punishment to Chief Minister Raman Singh, Home Minister Nankiram and Governor Narsimhan, the culprits responsible for this brutal massacre, and also the police officers and SPOs involved. Let us express our opposition on a massive scale against the massacre by observing 26 January as a Black Day and also observing *Bandh* on the day. Let us express our opposition against the fake Republic by hoisting Black Flag in each and every village on the day. Let

us demonstrate our anger by keeping all the shops, business establishments and such other activities closed. In this context we call upon the fighting people and the PLGA forces to intensify further the resistance struggle to avenge the blood spilled by the 17 innocent tribal women and men. Let us give a fitting reply to killer police and paramilitary forces and the terrorist SPOs deployed in Bastar.

Signed/
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