

CPI(Maoist)Information Bulletin-6

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Homage to Martyrs

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Hail the martyrdom of Maoist leaders of Karnataka comrades Abhishek, Manohar and Naveen! Let us vow to fulfill their dreams of turning Malnaad (Western Ghats) into a guerrilla zone and base area!!

Western Ghats has once again become soaked with the blood of our beloved martyr comrades. On Nov 10, 2008 three of our beloved comrades—Devendra, Manohar and Naveen—achieved martyrdom after a heroic battle with the commandos of the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) of Karnataka. One commando was also shot dead in the course of the encounter which took place in Mavinahola, near the famous temple town of Horanadu. The site of the encounter falls under Kalasa PS in the famous coffee-growing district of Chikmagalur. The encounter was said to have taken place for over two hours between 1 am and 4 am and two other Maoists were said to have escaped.

Comrade Abhishek hails from Soraba Taluk of Shimoga district. He was a post-graduate from Kuvempu university in Shimoga. He also got involved in several progressive movements in his district of Shimoga along with Manohar. He grew with the movement as a leader of the student wing Pragatipara Vidyarti Kendra. He was a member of the EC of AIRSF for several years. He was elected to the state committee of Karnataka in the state conference held in end of 2000. He worked in the Western Ghats right from the time the guerrilla squads entered the area in 2001 and worked there till 2003.



Comrade Manohar also hails from Soraba taluk. He completed his graduation from Shimoga and was involved in several progressive movements in his native district. Manohar initially carried on revolutionary activities in Raichur. He then returned to Shimoga and joined a local newspaper as a reporter. He escaped in an earlier encounter with the police while he was in Raichur. Later he was arrested and served a two year jail term and returned to Shimoga, where he first worked among students and youth and later among the peasantry of western ghats. He was a member of the district committee at the time of his martyrdom.



Comrade Naveen, hails from Mudigere of Chickamagalur.

**Let us pledge to avenge the Gollapalli massacre of 17 adivasis by the fascist
Raman Singh government!**

**Such massacres cannot boost the sagging morale of the police force in
Chhattisgarh!!**

In a repeat of the gory massacre of 17 people including many local adivasis in Kanchala in Pamed tehsil of Bijapur by the AP Grey Hounds in February last, the Chhattisgarh police had picked up 17 adivasis in the district of Dantewada and murdered them on January 8 near Singaram under Gollapalli PS of South Bastar. The bodies of the dead were thrown near a canal. Four adivasi women were raped by the khaki mercenaries of Manmohan Singh and Raman Singh before murdering them. Bastar Inspector General of Police A.N. Upadhyya and Dantewada SP Rahul Sharma were desperately concocting the story of an encounter and trumpeting it as a big success by the police against the Maoists.

The police story of a so-called encounter, however, had few takers. The local villagers and women, who were seen grieving over their dead relatives, categorically denied that it was a real encounter and asserted that all the 17 people were abducted by the police, murdered in cold blood, and the story of an encounter was put forth. The villagers said they did not know the reasons why the victims were picked up and murdered when they were neither wanted by the police nor were involved in any unlawful activity.

The reasons, of course, are of the ongoing civil war in as well as their counterparts in and Orissa, have been at the offensive by the Maoist-led and AOB. The series of severe losses suffered by the forces of the state, both in power, had sent shivers down terrorist campaign called salwa achieve its objectives. On the terrorist organization had drawn a few offsprings of George Bush judum turning out to be a big offensive by the PLGA, the Delhi have been desperately the innocents just to show that they had achieved a big victory over the Maoists.



not unknown to keen observers Bastar. The Chhattisgarh police, neighbouring Andhra Pradesh receiving end with the daring PLGA in Dandakaranya, Orissa successes by the PLGA and the vastly superior commando terms of numbers and fire-their spines. Their savage judum had utterly failed to contrary, the state-sponsored universal condemnation barring or Ehud Olmert. With the salwa flop in the face of the heroic reactionary rulers in Raipur and itching to enact a massacre of

They tried it in Kanchala but it had only back-fired. The Maoists smashed the entire intelligence network of the AP Greyhounds and the Chhattisgarh police along the Andhra-Chhattisgarh border in the aftermath of Kanchala massacre. At least 60 police agents were wiped out in Dantewada and Bijapur in the past one year. All these agents confessed before the *jan adalats* (people's courts) that they had been employed by the police officials, paid monthly salaries, and given material incentives and, in return, they had passed on information regarding the movements of Maoist guerrillas. The destruction of the enemy's informer network deprived the police of its eyes and ears. As a result, the police achieved little success in their war against Maoists whereas the latter could inflict severe blows on the enemy forces that led to considerable demoralization among the enemy forces in the past one year. As reported in an earlier issue of this *Bulletin* scores of specially-trained elite commandos had gone on leave unwilling to work in Dandakaranya due to fear of reprisals from the Maoist guerrillas. Hence the top political-police brass of Chhattisgarh has been itching to do something big to at least show to the public that their mercenary forces too were getting results.

It is not for the first time that the Chhattisgarh police have been in the news for alleged fake encounters, the most controversial ones being in Ponjer, Satoshpur, Kodenaar, Maatwada, Hulghat in Dandakaranya and Ambikapur in North Chhattisgarh.



The fake encounter was condemned by various parties. Manish Kunjam, a leader of the Communist Party of India and president of Adivasi Mahasabha accused the police of murdering innocent villagers and then putting on Maoist uniforms to prove that they were Maoist squad members. Mr. Kunjam identified many of those who were murdered by the police-SPO gang. According to him, *"Four were from Singavaram village, eight from Danteshwarpuram, three from Korraspadu and one each from Mailasur and Puspallihave."*

Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee of CPI(Maoist) gave a call for a *bandh* on January 26 to protest the brutal massacre in Singaram.

It also called upon the people to observe the day as Black Day.

The people of Dandakarnya and the PLGA led by CPI(Maoist) shall certainly avenge the martyrdom of the adivasis in Singaram by inflicting crushing blows to the mercenary forces of Manmohan Singh and Raman Singh which have unleashed a brutal reign of terror on the unarmed masses of Dandakaranya.

In two other earlier incidents three militia comrades became martyrs when they were abducted and murdered by the police of Chhattisgarh and AP on December 29, 2008. In Santoshpur in Bijapur, two militia members were killed in the early hours of December 29. One was a jan militia commander comrade Aitu of Dharavaram aged 25 years. Another is also named Aitu who was a local militia squad member from Santoshpur aged 35. In another incident on the same afternoon, one local militant was abducted by AP Greyhounds in Yamapuram under Pamed PS and murdered.

* * *

News from the battlefield



Seven policemen wiped out in Bastar

Seven policemen were killed and three others were injured in a land-mine blast triggered by Maoist guerrillas near Golavand on Mardapal-Kondagaon road situated at about 8 km from Mardapal PS in Bastar district on November 25. Around 300 policemen were escorting the polling party on foot when the incident occurred. Fearing ambush by Maoist guerrillas, the policemen stayed overnight in Mardapal PS after completing repolling in several polling centres on the previous day and were proceeding on foot to Kondagaon in the morning of November 25 when the guerrillas laid the ambush. With the successful ambush near Golavand the total number of central and state's security forces wiped out in Dandakaranya during the year reached 88.

Maoist attack wipes out five policemen near Ranchi

Maoists carried out a daring attack on a police party near the outpost in Rahe in Ranchi district on December 5 wiping out five policemen. All the arms of the policemen were seized by the Maoist guerillas. The police party was returning to Rahe by jeep when it was fired upon by Maoists sitting in ambush.

Maoist guerrillas wipe out two Straco commandos in Purulia.

According to a newspaper report, *"The jawans of the Specially Trained Armed Company (Straco) did not even get time to cock their rifles when the 30-odd Maoists attacked them at Bereda in Purulia on December 22"*.

Led by two women commanders, disguised as villagers and carrying gunny bags, the squad of PLGA guerrillas made a surprise attack on the commandos. The jawans were on their way to the camp when they were ambushed. The remaining Straco members did not come out of the camp, suspecting that they could be trapped.

"There were about 40 jawans with Insas rifles, but they decided not to come out," said Kuldeip Singh, IG (western zone).

It was the *haat* day and there were hundreds of people on the road. Apart from the *haat*, a daylong programme celebrating the 50th year of Bereda High School close to the attack site was on. Several CPM leaders, including the party's Purulia district secretary Manindra Gope, were scheduled to attend the programme.

Three jawans were walking towards the community hall when they were attacked. When the jawans were close to the community hall, two women who had been squatting on the road stood up and took out two small firearms from a bag. They aimed at Seth and opened fire. Across the road is located a closed-down mill, outside which a group of 14 lungi-clad men were sitting. Witnesses have told the police that they had been there for at least 45 minutes. Seconds after the two women shot at the jawans, the men surrounded them and started firing. Seth and Chinmoy were shot at from point-blank range and couldn't even raise their rifles. Pandey, the third jawan, who was critically injured, tried to take shelter behind the Maoists, thinking they were locals, and was stabbed on the back. Before falling to the ground, he managed to fire in the air, alerting his colleagues.

Three policemen wiped out in three separate incidents on same day

Three police jawans were wiped out in three separate attacks by Maoist guerrillas in Chattisgarh and Orissa on November 24. In the first incident which took place 12 km from Madu PS in Bastar district one policeman was killed in a land-mine explosion. Two other policemen were injured. In another incident in Chattisgarh one policeman was killed when Maoists ambushed a polling party which was returning with the EVM boxes from Kotinath polling centre in Chitrakoot Assembly constituency. In another incident on the same day in AOB (Orissa), one commando of Special Operations Group (SOG), Anand Patnaik, was wiped out in an encounter that took place in Suddakonda forest ten kilometers from Kalimela PS area in Malkangiri district.

Policeman shot dead by Maoists in Munger

A personnel of the Government Railway Police was shot dead by Maoists in a coach of the Bhagalpur-Muzaffarpur Inter-City express between Abhoypur and Kajra stations in Bihar's Munger district in the afternoon of December 25. The guerillas brought the train to a halt by pulling the alarm chain of the coach and opened fire.

One policeman annihilated in Bijapur

In Savanur village under Gangalur PS in Bijapur district, one constable, Pramod Patel, was killed in an encounter with Maoist guerrillas in the morning of December 29 at about 8 am. The encounter took place at about 8 km from Gangalur. The injured policeman was taken to Bijapur by road due to non-availability of helicopter and he died by the time he reached the hospital.

Maoists annihilate notorious NSS leader Dhanai Kisku

In a dare-devil attack, CPI (Maoist) guerrillas gunned down Dhanai Kisku, the general secretary of the infamous vigilante gang known as Nagrik Suraksha Samiti (NSS), near his

house at Musabani under the Ghatsila sub-division of Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district in the morning of January 5, 2009. Two motorcycle-borne Maoists sprayed bullets on Kisku. He was rushed to the Tata Main Hospital at Jamshedpur but succumbed.

NSS is a brainchild of the East Singhbhum police which propped it up in 2002-03 to carry out brutal attacks on Maoists. Police provided security, fire-arms, training and other requirements to the NSS members. NSS under Dhanai Kisku have been carrying out cowardly attacks on the Maoists and their sympathisers over the past five years. The most ghastly attacks took place in Lango and Bhitari Amda in East Singhbhum district. In the village of Lango 11 members of a Maoist squad were caught by laying a trap and were brutally murdered in 2004.

East Singhbhum SP Navin Singh said Kisku had been provided four armed securitymen ever since NSS members murdered 11 Maoists in Lango village in the district in 2004. On January 5, he went out to have his morning cup of tea at a stall sans security. *"We had given him clear instructions not to venture out unescorted, but in vain,"* the SP said. Six months ago, Maoists killed one of Kisku's bodyguards.

Maoist guerrillas annihilate four landlords in Motihari

On November 16, Maoist guerrillas carried out an attack in Rasoolpur village under Shikarganj PS in Motihari district of North Bihar and annihilated four landlords-cum-moneylenders. The four—Kapildev Yadav, Kamaldev Yadav, Bacchu Yadav and Lalan Yadav—lent loans at exorbitant rates of interest and oppressed the people of Rasoolpur and surrounding villages. Their house was blown up with dynamite. The police and SAP jawans were rushed to the village to rescue the feudal forces. By evening on the next day, Nov 17, an exchange of fire took place between the Maoists and the police in Madghubanighat Mattiya Tola which lasted from 6 to 9.30 in the night. Additional forces of CRPF were rushed to the encounter site. The police officials of Pakadidayal, Chirayya, Muffassil, Piprakothi, Nagar and other police stations had participated in the encounter.

Maoists annihilate a leader of Hindu terrorist RSS in Orissa

After annihilating a leader of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Laxmanananda Saraswati in Kandhamal district in August last, Maoists carried out another attack on a leader of Hindu fascist outfit—RSS—in the same district on November 5. The Maoist guerrillas, riding a motor-bike, went to the house of Dhanu Pradhan in Kumbarigaon village and shot him dead. Once again, despite the open declaration by Maoists accepting responsibility for the act, saffron terrorists tried to place the blame on Christian community just as they had done at the time of Laxmanananda's annihilation. The brother of the RSS leader said that his brother was killed by local Christians. At the time of annihilation of Laxmanananda Saraswati too, the police-saffron combine had suppressed the letter which the PLGA had left at the site claiming responsibility for the act and explaining the reasons for carrying out the act. Tomorrow even if the Maoists annihilate Advani, Narendra Modi or Togadia these saffron terrorist outfits may still point their finger towards the Christian or Muslim community! So much is the rabid hatred of these Hindu fascists towards the religious minorities of India.

Jharkhand Ex-Minister's ancestral house blown up

Sitting MLA and ex-minister of Jharkhand, Satyanand Bhokta's ancestral home was blown up by Maoist guerrillas in Chatra district on December 14. The inmates were sent out before blowing up the house. Bhokta has been oppressing the poor people and in the forefront of the anti-Maoist campaign let loose by the reactionary feudal-comprador forces.

Police Outpost blown up in Orissa

On December 10, Maoist guerrillas numbering around 150 raided and blew up the police outpost in Dongsaroda village in Muniguda samiti in Rayagada district of Orissa. All the records in the outpost were destroyed. Prior to the attack on the outpost an arrack distillery was set on fire. The six police quarters near the outpost were also destroyed. When the police party went for combing in the early hours a mine was triggered off causing injury to a jawan of SOG. The jawan was taken to Vishakhapatnam from Rayagada by helicopter for treatment.

Maoists torch houses of CPI (M) leaders in West Midnapore

On December 25 more than one hundred Maoist guerrillas torched the houses of two CPI (M) leaders at Madhupur under Shalboni police station in West Midnapore district.

"The armed Maoists raided the village and forced many villagers to walk along with them in a procession before attacking the houses of the CPI(M) leaders Niranjana Debsinha and Kamal Debsinha," police said.

The guerrillas first confiscated all the belongings in the houses and then set them on fire. The buildings were vacant as the CPI(M) leaders had fled the place anticipating a possible Maoist attack.

Maoists pamphlets call for Tamar poll boycott

The South Chotanagpur zonal committee of the CPI(Maoist) has called for a boycott of Tamar by-election. In a pamphlet circulated in some of the panchayats of Tamar the Maoists asked the people not to cast their vote and condemned Shibu Soren, Arjun Munda, Babulal Marandi and other leaders.

A landmine was unearthed from Pundidiri on December 28. At least 14 companies of Central and 10 of the Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) and State police were on vigil in Tamar which falls in Ranchi district. As Chief Minister Shibu Soren was contesting for the seat and many important leaders of Jharkhand were visiting the area for campaigning, the area was converted into a high security zone. Road Opening Parties (ROP), patrolling forces and intelligence have been alerted after the circulation of the poll boycott pamphlets in the area.

Saffron terrorists float a fake Maoist organization (M2) and call for bandh in Orissa

After trying desperately to place the blame for the annihilation of VHP leader, Laxmanananda Saraswati, in August last, on the Christian organizations in order to justify their attacks on the Christians, the saffron terrorists have now indulged in yet another conspiracy to defame the Maoists. They created a fake organization called M2 and claimed that it is a split-away faction of the CPI(Maoist) in Orissa.

In an audio cassette sent to the media, the Maoist leader of Orissa, comrade Sabyasachi Panda, exposed this heinous conspiracy of the Hindu chauvinist forces. He denied any split in CPI(Maoist) and clarified that the leaflet circulated in Kandhamal by M2 calling itself a break-away group of CPI(Maoist) and calling for a bandh was the handiwork of Hindu fundamentalist and communal forces. He also said that *"The communal forces who have been hit by the killing of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in August 2008 are trying to manufacture a group called M2 to create confusion amongst people and to intimidate them"*.

He lambasted the RSS, BJP, Bajrang Dal and the Biju Janata Dal and said that *"The BJD is wearing a secular mask while it is hand in glove with communal forces to maintain its Hindu votes"*.

Maoist guerrillas attack polling-police parties, injure two in Sarguja

Maoist guerrillas ambushed the jeeps carrying Ramanujganj SDPO Neeraj Chandrakar, SHO of Ramchandrapur PS Manoj Singh and police personnel in Hasandaga jungle 5 km from the PS. Maoists first attacked with hand grenades and opened fire on the police party at around 9am on Nov 19. The exchange of fire between the police-STF and the guerrillas continued till 2pm. The SDPO and SHO were injured seriously in the attack.

Attack on liquor distillery in Rayagada

In Rayagada district of Orissa a group of around 13 armed Maoists led a group of over 100 tribals in an attack on the country liquor distillery at Jagannathpur village. They beat up 11 persons including the owner of the unit. They burnt down three vehicles including a jeep of the owner and destroyed the unit. They torched the utensils and other items used for liquor making at the spot. Meanwhile the security has been intensified at the venue of Parab-2008 cultural festival which was inaugurated on January 4 at Koraput. Heavy police arrangements have been made and over 1,000 police personnel have been deployed for smooth conduct of the three-day festival owing to increasing activity of Maoists in adjoining Rayagada and Malkangiri districts.

Some tribal organisations as well as the Maoists had opposed the organisation Parab 2008 as it has become an instrument of exploitation in the name of tribal cultural festival.

Punishments to class enemies:

Bijapur: On Jan 3, 2009, Maoists annihilated 2 informers in Kongapalli village on Kotulagutta hill in Bijapur. Laxman Maurya belongs to Parpa village and another informer from the same village.

Another informer, Ursa Laxman Patel, who was captured on Dec 27 was annihilated on Jan 2, 2009 on Jangla-Bardela road. He was interrogated and punished after his informer activities were exposed before the people. Kunjami Phagu and Kunjami Munna of Daler village were annihilated by Matwada sq on Jan 2nd.

Bijapur: On December 28, over 150 Maoists raided the weekly bazaar in Kokadapara in Bijapur town on Dec 28 and annihilated 2 SPOs and one teacher. another 3 SPOs were severely injured. the dead SPOs were Korsa sannu and sannu avtti. the incident took place when the SPOs were watching a cock fight in Murga bazaar. Maoists surrounded the bazaar and shot at the targets selectively.

Malkangiri: Ponda Reddy, village head of Peta under Motu police station limits in Malkangiri district of Orissa was shot dead by Maoist guerrillas on Nov 17. They left behind a handbill staking claim for the murder. He was the sixth informer annihilated by Maoists. In 2007, Reddy's house was raided and his paddy crop was reduced to ashes. Reddy had left the village since then and returned five months ago.

Koraput: Maoists gunned down Bhogi Ramesh Kumar, a trader at Katulpeta under Narayanpatna PS in Koraput district of Orissa, on Jan 9 for acting as an informer for police. Maoists left a letter written in Telugu, in which they warned that police informers and exploiters would face the same fate.

Koraput: Maoist guerrillas annihilated a trader K. Kanta Rao on January 4 at Alamanda under Narayanpatna police station limits. The same night, they also targeted a liquor outlet located at a stone's throw from the police station, destroyed all the materials and set it on fire.

Gumla: A former Army personnel, Augustine Ekka and his nephew James, were shot dead on December 24. A note recovered from the spot stated that the duo were killed for spying on the Maoists. In a separate incident, Maoist guerrillas annihilated two other persons at Gobindpur village of the district.

Giridih: Shahdev Manjhi, a resident of Dhawadandh under Pirtandh PS in Giridih district was annihilated by Maoist guerrillas onfor indulging in criminal activities. Shahdev was earlier working with the Maoists but had turned into a criminal.

On December 13, 36-year-old Keshav Yadav was annihilated in Sariya police station, while Keshav was on his way back home. Three police informers were also annihilated in Harladih Panchayat under Sariyua PS. Maoists left some leaflets warning police informers of similar fate if they continued to indulge in such anti-people activities.

Two police informers—Bhubaneswar Sao and Sunder Manjhi—were punished with death on December 24 and their bodies were left on Giridih-Dumri road near Palganj. A note, found near the bodies, read that the Maoists have been successful in eliminating five persons whose tip-off allegedly led to the killing of an area commander Kawang in a police encounter earlier in the month.

Khammam: Two police agents—Poosam Koteswara Rao and Madakam Bandi—were annihilated by Maoist guerrillas on November 24 near Tippapur village in Charla Mandal. In a note left by Maoists near the dead bodies they explained that they had to punish these two as they were acting as agents of Charla SI Anji Babu who paid them huge sums of money to obtain information regarding the Maoists.

Warangal: A police informer belonging to Kannaigudem in Eturnagaram in Warangal ditrict of Andhra Pradesh was annihilated by Maoists on November 27. He was working as a teacher in Shankarraju palli village.

Charla: A traderJamalapuri Ramshankar of Sathyanarayanpuram in Charla mandal in Khammam district was annihilated by Maoist guerrillas on November 29 as he was working as an informer to the police. A note was left behind explaining the reasons for punishing him.

Bijapur: Balnaar block president of Congress party, Narendra Kashyap, was annihilated by Maoists on Nov 30.

Chintapalli: Maoists captured two police agents from Medur and Ramarao Palem villages in Chintapalli mandal of Vishakha agency area and annihilated them on Nov 30. In a note left behind they explained that the two were punished as they were acting as police informers

and also oppressing the people. Later, guerrillas raided the house of Lothugada sarpanch and landlord Babu Rao and distributed the foodgrains etc to the people. They also raided the shop of a trader-cum-money lender and distributed the goods to the adivasis. The pipeline control point of Essar company near Ramarao Palem was also destroyed partially.

Venkatapuram: On the night of Dec 15 a police informer, Basarikani Sunit Kumar was annihilated in Alubaka village in Venkatapuram mandal in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. In a note left behind, the secretary of Venkatapuram area committee, com Sukhdev, said that Sunit Kumar was punished for acting as a police informer despite issuing several warnings. He was involved in building informer network in the villages of Tippapur, Kalipaka, Mutharam, Seetharampuram etc.

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News from counter-revolutionary camp

(The under-mentioned reports concerning the counter-insurgency policies announced by the governments in the Centre and various states are based on newspapers and some of these have been reproduced in the same form—Editor)

NIA & UAPA: Two more new Acts in the hands of the fascist rulers

The November 26 attacks in Mumbai provided the opportunity for the reactionary rulers in Delhi to push through more draconian Acts in the name of countering terror. 26/11 was enough justification for the fascist rulers, aping their western mentors in the so-called war against terror, to snatch away even the existing, even if they be nominal, rights guaranteed to the citizens by the Indian Constitution. The two new Bills—the National Investigation Agency Bill 2008 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008—were moved by Home Minister P. Chidambaram in the Lok Sabha on December 16 and became Acts after the Parliament passed them on the 17th.

By bringing in the amended UAPA, which is nothing but POTA in a repackaged form, the Congress-led UPA government has demonstrated that it does not lag behind the BJP-led NDA that had been clamouring for the re-imposition of POTA. The UPA constituents had been posing as if they were opposed to POTA as they know that the very name provokes bitter feelings among the religious minorities, particularly the Muslims, who had been particularly targeted by the BJP government in Gujarat as well as by the Congress party in various states. Thousands of innocent Muslims were pushed into jails by utilising this infamous draconian Act. The Act was also used for the suppression of the Maoist revolutionaries who were arrested in large number in Jharkhand. The present UAPA has all the harsher provisions of the POTA the only difference being the change in nomenclature. It has a provision for detention without trial for a period of 180 days instead of 90 days, and police custody of an accused can be obtained upto 30 days instead of 15 days. Those involved in "terror" acts can be sentenced for life.

By maintaining anti-POTA posture and at the same time bringing POTA under the garb of amended UAPA the Congress party imagines that it has not alienated itself from the Muslim minority and can encash their votes in the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. It also thinks it has outwitted the BJP by proving itself as being harsh in dealing with terrorists. However, it is not easy to fool the people who are shrewd enough to see through the deceptive game of the Congress in packing old wine in new bottle. Several civil rights and democratic organisations and individuals have come out strongly against the draconian provisions in the amended Act and have been demanding for repeal of these provisions which violate the fundamental rights and will be used to target the Muslims, Maoists and all democratic struggles.

The NIA is perceived to become like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States. The NIA, in a concurrent jurisdiction framework, will take up cases under specific Acts for investigation. It will have provisions for setting up of special courts which will have hearings on a day-to-day basis. A case pending in a special court can be transferred to any such court. The superintendence of the agency shall vest with the Centre.

It empowers the Central government to decide what constitutes terror and investigate such attacks in any part of the country covering offences, including challenge to country's sovereignty and integrity, bomb blasts, hijacking of aircraft and ships and attacks on nuclear facilities.

Notwithstanding law and order being a State subject, NIA officers above the rank of sub-inspector will have special powers to pursue and investigate any terror offence.

The NIA Bill says there have been innumerable terror attacks, not only in the militancy and insurgency affected areas and regions affected by Left wing extremism, but also in the form of attacks and bomb blasts in major cities.

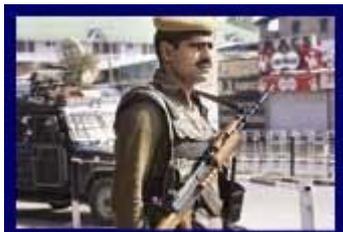
A large number of such incidents were found to have complex inter-State and international linkages and possible connection with activities such as smuggling of arms, drugs, pushing in and circulation of fake Indian currency and infiltration. Hence the Bill argued: *"Keeping all these in view, it has for long been felt that there is need for setting up an Agency at the Central level for investigation of offences related to terrorism and certain other Acts, which have national ramifications"*.

But critics point out the futility of such a federal agency. Scores of central agencies already exist and have proved to be inefficient and non-functional. The Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the Military Intelligence and other agencies lack effective coordination in tackling terror. The addition of another would only lead to more confusion and cannot serve any purpose as it has to basically depend on inputs from the existing intelligence agencies all of which have proved to be utter flops. For instance, the premier intelligence agencies in the country had failed in resolving the Mecca Masjid blast, the Samjhauta express blast, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Delhi serial blasts, or most other bomb blasts that took place in the country recently. Very often it is the innocents who had been implicated in the terror acts while the real culprits remained untouched.

In an exploitative society and a state ruled by the exploiting classes every law and agency can only serve the rulers and their henchmen. They are used to protect the real culprits who hold the reins of power while victimising the poor and innocent who are pushed into jails and harassed for no fault of theirs. The saffron terrorists who had infiltrated every arm of the state machinery, as well as the various parliamentary parties, will use these draconian laws to terrorise the religious minorities, the struggling masses, revolutionaries and those who oppose their misdeeds while protecting the real criminals in high places.

Eyes, wings for CRPF to combat Maoists : Teeth for sentinel

New Delhi, Nov. 9: Home minister Shivraj Patil has promised the CRPF air support and intelligence in its fight against Naxalites. The paramilitary force will soon have four choppers, one each in the worst-affected states. Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are the states likely to get the helicopters. Patil has also accepted a long-standing demand of the CRPF for a dedicated intelligence set-up.



The force had asked the home ministry for at least four helicopters to cover the area the Naxalites call Dandakaranya. It stretches from Andhra to Nepal, covering parts of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. The request was granted on the CRPF's 69th Raising Day on Friday, when Patil also promised planes for quick transportation of soldiers to catch up with the rebels. Ministry sources said no specifications had been finalised yet. But getting pilots could prove difficult. A Ran Air chopper hired by the Chhattisgarh government went missing on August 3 with the pilot and three crew members. It could not be found despite efforts by the Indian Air Force and the National Remote Sensing Agency. The helicopter was believed to be lost in the Abujmarh forests of Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district that is overrun by Naxalites.

Without air support, reconnaissance and transportation is tough in the Abujmarh forests that are part of the Bastar region. Naxalites operate on difficult terrain in Jharkhand, Orissa and Andhra, too. At present, the air force helps with reconnaissance in the Bastar region. But the CRPF has no means to transport its troops quickly to any spot once it gets information of Naxalite activity — the roads are often bad and there is the threat of landmines and ambushes.

The CRPF's two-year-old proposal for a separate intelligence set-up might also see the light of day. *"The CRPF not only does policing duties but also gathers intelligence to counter threats to our security. We are ready to help them have such a system in place,"* Patil said. Director-general V.K. Joshi said all operations against Naxalites were intelligence-based. There was no

point in "*just patrolling*" without information as the rebels' own intelligence was effective against security forces, he added. At present, the force is dependent on state police for intelligence. In states like Chhattisgarh, the intelligence input from the police is poor, Joshi complained. A full-fledged battalion may now be marked for gathering intelligence. The 10 anti-Naxalite COBRA battalions sanctioned by the Centre — of which two have been raised — also include an intelligence component. Men have been drawn from the CRPF for these battalions.

Prime Minister moots task force to tackle terror, Naxals

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Nov 23: The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has recommended the setting up of a high-level task force to address the emerging challenges of terrorism and Left-wing extremism in the country.

Addressing the top brass of state and central police organisations in a two-day seminar here, the Prime Minister also said it was imperative to improve the intelligence machinery and undertake police reforms to be able to deal with such threats.

The task force, chaired by the National Security Advisor, with suitable representation from central and state agencies, should draw a roadmap within 100 days to develop an integrated capability to address the challenges of Left-wing extremism, terrorism and insurgency, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also mooted the setting up of a standing committee of DGPs, comprising five states on rotation basis, to advise government on police and related legal matters.

"Side by side with this, it would be advantageous if the MHA could devise a scheme by which a certain number of executive level police personnel could be inducted into the Ministry," the Prime Minister said.

They would help MHA officials with policy formulation and induce a degree of field experience into various formulations involving police matters, the Prime Minister said.

"Risks are often unforeseen in today's work. Threats are often hidden. This has made the work of law and order professionals far more challenging than ever before. We need therefore to be able to anticipate better," he said, stressing on the need to set up a networked security architecture.

"In a period of 100 days, the task force should come out with a road map regarding the detailed steps to be taken immediately, as also the subsequent steps to be taken over the next several months so as to translate this vision of an integrated neo-centric capability into reality," Dr Singh said.

He also noted that the impartiality, capabilities and fairness of the police are frequently being questioned, and told the heads of the country's police forces that a major challenge before them will be to restore the faith of the people—especially those belonging to religious and ethnic minorities and weaker sections—in their impartiality and effectiveness. In this context, he exhorted police officers to avoid stereotypes that might enlarge "*fault lines in our society*".

Chief Ministers agree on joint anti-naxal operations

NEW DELHI, January 7: A meeting of the Chief Ministers of seven States most affected by naxal violence on January 7 broadly agreed to a suggestion of Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram for launching effective joint operations by the States to deal with naxal elements in inter-State border areas.

The meeting, presided over by Mr. Chidambaram, was attended by Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and West Bengal. All the seven Chief Ministers agreed that the battle against naxalism must be fought on twin fronts of security as well as development.

Among their priorities was employment generation for local youth in the violence-affected areas and construction of roads. Some of the affected States have a dismal record of laying

10 km of road in a year, mainly owing to poor security situation in the area.

The Chief Ministers recognised the need to effectively implement the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Several States said they had already formed specialised forces to deal with the naxal problem and some were in the process of raising such forces. The Chief Ministers informed the meeting about steps taken to fill up vacancies in State police forces.

The Home Minister drew the attention of the Chief Ministers to the need to train the police in jungle warfare. Responding to the request of some Chief Ministers to train their intelligence personnel, Mr. Chidambaram assured them that an effort would be made to augment the training facilities at the Centre. He was also not against defensive action by village community in the event of an extremist attack.

Some of the Chief Ministers stressed the need to streamline the grievance redressal machinery while others wanted technical support for training their police forces and strengthening intelligence gathering branches.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar favoured a holistic approach in dealing with the problem and said the Centre should desist from adhering to a piecemeal approach.

Orissa Govt plans to enlist Army retirees to tackle Maoists

PNS | Bhubaneswar

The State Government has decided to seek the help of retired Army personnel to combat the Maoists. A retired brigadier has been appointed as advisor to train the Orissa police to combat the Maoists. *"The main aim of recruiting the Army officials is to bolster the morale of the State police,"* a senior police official said.

The State Government has decided to appoint 1,652 retired Army officials in the police department. All the vacant posts would be filled up by retired Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels, Majors and Captains. *"We are taking steps to change rules regarding deputation procedure,"* said DGP Manmohan Praharaj, adding that only those who are fit would be appointed in the anti-Maoists operation. *"They can also be taken from Civil Police. But one has to pass a particular physical fitness test to be engaged in the operation,"* he said.

In the first step, priority would be given to strengthen the net work of informers. Police would not like to involve the general public as informers anymore but rather make a conscious effort to bring disgruntled elements within the Maoists cadres over to their side, sources said, adding that an attempt has been made to this effect. "It would show results in the coming days," a senior police official said.

The State has so far deployed four battalions of CRPF in the Maoist-affected areas. *"We have urged the Centre to send another four battalions of CRPF to the Maoists hit areas,"* he said.

The Centre has so far sanctioned five India Reserve Battalions for the State. Out of these, formation of the 1st Battalion has been completed. Training process has been kicked off for the newly recruited for 2nd and 3rd battalions of IRB. Employment process has begun to recruit for 4th and 5th battalion. *"We have also taken to expedite the process of setting up a COBRA battalion in line with the CRPF. It would come up in Koraput,"* he added.

Orissa Government to recruit 2000 SPOs to fight Maoists

The Orissa government had decided to recruit 2000 adivasis to serve as Special police Officers (SPOs) and deploy them in the five districts where the Maoist movement is strong. These districts are Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Gajapati. This move by Naveen Patnaik's government is criticized by people from various walks of life. Civil rights and democratic organizations and activists who have been strong critics of the state-sponsored salwa judum terrorist campaign and the brutal atrocities by the SPOs in neighbouring Chattisgarh point out that Naveen Patnaik government too is treading the dangerous path of pitting tribals against tribals and making the tribals as cannon fodder by appointing them as SPOs. They also charge the government of abdicating its responsibility of maintaining law & order and arming civilians to counter the Maoists. Strong opposition is brewing against the reactionary, anti-people decision of the Orissa government to deploy SPOs.

Orissa seeks more Central forces to combat Maoists

The Chief Minister underlines need for joint action by neighbouring States There is upsurge in naxal violence, says Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has requested the Centre for deployment of six more battalions of Central Reserve Police Force in the naxal-affected districts of the State.

Speaking at the meeting of the Chief Ministers of seven naxal-affected States at New Delhi on January 7, Mr. Patnaik also urged the Centre to provide a dedicated helicopter to the State for aerial reconnaissance and evacuation of injured personnel and quick movement of forces in naxalite-affected areas.

The Chief Minister also urged the Centre to enhance the modernisation of police forces scheme and to include a few more naxal-affected districts in the security related expenditure scheme.

Mr. Patnaik said that there was an upsurge in naxal violence during the last one year and 17 out of the 30 districts in the State were affected by Left wing extremist violence.

As the naxal problem cuts across the States, Mr. Patnaik underlined the need for joint action by neighbouring States.

He further said that number of measures had been initiated to build the capacity of the State police to deal with the naxal menace. The budget of the Home Department had been increased to Rs. 1,038 crores from Rs. 437 crores in 2000-2001 despite financial constraints.

Mr. Patnaik said that recognising the need to undertake socio-economic development of the naxal-affected areas more than 1000 hostels for girls had been opened in tribal areas to benefit over one lakh girl students.

The popular scheme of providing 25 kg of rice at Rs. 2 a kg to all the below poverty line (BPL) families was giving good results in terms of enhancing food security of tribal people in particular, Mr. Patnaik said. He further said that the government was taking active steps for implementation of the Scheduled Tribe and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006).

West Bengal: To tackle Maoists in Lalgarh, special force to be upgraded

Express News Service

Kolkata, November 24 After being pushed by the Union Home Ministry, the Left Front government will develop a special force to tackle Maoists in Bengal's western zone. For the purpose, the state's Special Combat Force (Straco) is being trained and equipped to undertake combat operations in the jungles.

"We already have a specialised force trained by the Army, which is camped in Lalgarh," said IG (Law & Order) Raj Kanojia. *"Now we are training them to operate in tough terrain."*

The Straco, comprising men selected from the police force, are trained by the Army through its Junior Leaders' Training Establishment set up in 2005. The number of companies — 14 now — is likely to be increased.

"The Union government wants this force to be developed on the lines of Greyhounds in Andhra Pradesh," said a top officer of the Bengal Police. *"Straco is similar to Greyhounds but we need to upgrade it by providing specialised equipment and better training. The matter was discussed at a meeting in Delhi recently where the director general of police was present,"* he added.

Threatening letters to balladeer Gaddar from YSR's Blue Tigers

Revolutionary balladeer Gaddar received letters and calls in the name of Blue Tigers threatening him that he would be killed if he stepped into Warangal. Gaddar declared that he would be going on a *Mahapadayatra* from December 11-15 in Warangal along with poets, artists and writers to bring awakening among the people and unite them in their fight for a separate Telangana state. There was all-round condemnation of the letters by various political parties and independent democratic organizations and individuals throughout the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Students of Osmania Univeristy took out a procession and burnt the effigy of blue tigers. Praja Kala Mandali, Telangana Aikya karyacharana samiti, Telangana sangharsh samiti, Maa Telangana Party, Nava Telangana Party, TRS and others pointed out that the threatening letters emanated from the chamber of the chief minister and that YSReddy himself will be held responsible if Any harm is done to Gaddar. The threats were issued in the background of Gaddar's efforts to unite the forces aspiring for a separate Telangana. And to any observer of the blood-soaked politics in the police state of Andhra Pradesh led by a factionalist gang leader from Rayalaseema, YSReddy, it does not need much brain to realize that the letters originated from the chief minister's chamber.

CRPF begins guerilla training of personnel fighting Naxalites

January 12:

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Monday started a three-month guerilla training session for the first batch of the Commando Battallions for Resolute Action (COBRA). The batch will be deployed to fight Naxalites by April 20, four months after the original deadline.

After listening to the concerns of the cheif ministers of Naxalite-hit states on January 7, home minister P. Chidambaram ordered the first lot comprising 700 COBRA men, to be deployed in Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

Chidambaram visited Chhattisgarh on Monday for the first time since he took over the home ministry and called a meeting of the unified command in the evening to review the strategy adopted against the Naxalites.

About 46 CRPF men lost their lives fighting the Naxalites in 2008 including 38 in Chhattisgarh. However, the COBRA men had been kept busy with poll duties in five states, instead of training to take on the Naxalites.

The COBRA training will continue till April 19, because the CRPF anticipates that its men will again be summoned for election duties for the Lok Sabha polls this May. CRPF men were relieved of assembly election duties in Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh earlier this month.

"The COBRA training has begun today (Monday) in two lots at CRPF training centres in Silchar in Assam and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu," a senior CRPF official said.

The trained COBRA men will be deployed on April 20 in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh and Koraput in Orissa. "We have already trained some 150 CRPF men at the Greyhounds Academy in Andhra Pradesh and they will now be the trainers for these 700 men. A second lot comprising another 700 COBRA men will be trained after the Lok Sabha elections end and should be deployed by the end of 2009," the official said. The CRPF has requested the Centre that COBRA battallions should not be posted for poll duties.

PLGA's achievements during the eighth year of its formation

(December 2, 2007 to 1st December 2008)



People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) took birth on December 2, 2000. In the past eight years, it had gained a rich experience in waging guerrilla war against a far superior, well-trained and well-equipped enemy force. It inflicted considerable losses to the enemy forces, defeated enemy tactics to crush the Maoist movement and had emerged stronger than ever before as it enters its ninth year after it completed its eighth year on December 2 this year. On the occasion of its Eighth Anniversary we present a brief picture of the achievements of PLGA in the past one year. A chart listing all the major military operations of the year is also attached.

The past year had seen a spurt in relatively big counter-offensive operations by PLGA carried out in company and battalion-size offensives successfully carried out in Nayagarh multiple raid in February weapons from the enemy in our Greyhounds commandos of AP in June wiping out 38 commandos (the forces), the Kalimela operation near Orissa's elite commando forces (SOG) were wiped out in the first Kongapalli ambush in which 12 West Bastar, Tadikel deliberate ambush in West Bastar killing six CRPF jawans, Battigudem ambush in South Bastar wiping out 12 policemen, Korepalli ambush in Gadchiroli in Maharashtra wiping out four C-60 commandos and several other actions in DK, seizure of 44 weapons from GRP in Jhajha railway station in Bihar, confiscation of over Rs. 5 crore from ICICI bank in Bihar, Burudih Dam ambush in East Singhbhum falling under Bengal-Jharkhand-Orissa Regional Committee which wiped out 11 policemen, and scores of smaller raids, ambushes and attacks on the special police forces and central para-military forces, Jail-break in Dantewada, and so on.



Overall, 88 policemen were wiped out and 69 injured in DK, 55 annihilated and 91 injured in BJ, 57 wiped out and 45 injured in AOB, 28 wiped out and 14 injured in West Bengal and 18 were annihilated and 10 injured in Orissa. Totally 271 policemen and central forces were wiped out and 274 were injured in the past one year. 454 arms were seized in the year most of which were automatic and semi-automatic rifles.

Several daring attacks on political leaders, landlords, cruel class enemies and informers also took place in the year. The attack on the convoy of West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya accompanied by Union ministers Ramvilas Paswan, Jitendra Prasada, industrialist Ashok Jindal and others had shaken the reactionary rulers. 1

PLGA has achieved several qualitative gains in the year such as the successful attacks on anti-Naxal special commando forces. It inflicted considerable casualties and losses to the elite forces like Greyhounds of AP which are being projected as the role model for every state to contain Maoist movement. It also wiped out commando forces like the SOG in Orissa, CRPF and STF in DK, STF, SAF and CRPF in BJ, C-60 commandos in Maharashtra among others. These assume

significance in the background of the preparations of the ruling classes to step up the deployment of central forces and increase special commando forces in various states.

The Tactical Counter Offensive Campaign by PLGA was carried out in the midst of the severest well-coordinated countrywide enemy offensive. In the past year, central para-military forces and Special police forces, had doubled in strength in most states where Maoist movement is strong, and have launched a massive offensive with the aim of wiping out the revolutionary movement. Besides coordination at the central level, joint operations are being carried out with coordination between neighbouring states such as AP-Chattisgarh-Orissa, Jharkhand-Chattisgarh, Bihar-Jharkhand, Jharkhand-West Bengal-Orissa, Chattisgarh-Maharashtra and so on.

PLGA has shown that it is capable of fighting the enemy on ground, water and air. After wiping out over three dozen elite commandos of the Grey Hounds on water, a helicopter was fired at near Pidiya in DK in which one flight engineer was killed on November 14.

PLGA had also played a significant role in building and defending the organs of people's revolutionary power in the countryside from attacks by enemy forces, defended the oppressed masses by repulsing the savage attacks by salwa judum-state forces, provided protection to the leadership and the camps held for various purposes, punished over two hundred informers, covert agents and notorious criminals, members of vigilante gangs and class enemies. And it also participated in production along with the oppressed masses. Several young commanders and fighters had laid down their lives in the course of the war against the exploiters, oppressors and their mercenary armed forces. No wonder, PLGA has become a powerful weapon in the hands of the working class and the oppressed masses.

As the PLGA enters its ninth year, people of the entire country look forward to greater advances in the ongoing people's war to liberate the country from the clutches of imperialism, comprador bureaucratic capitalism and feudalism.

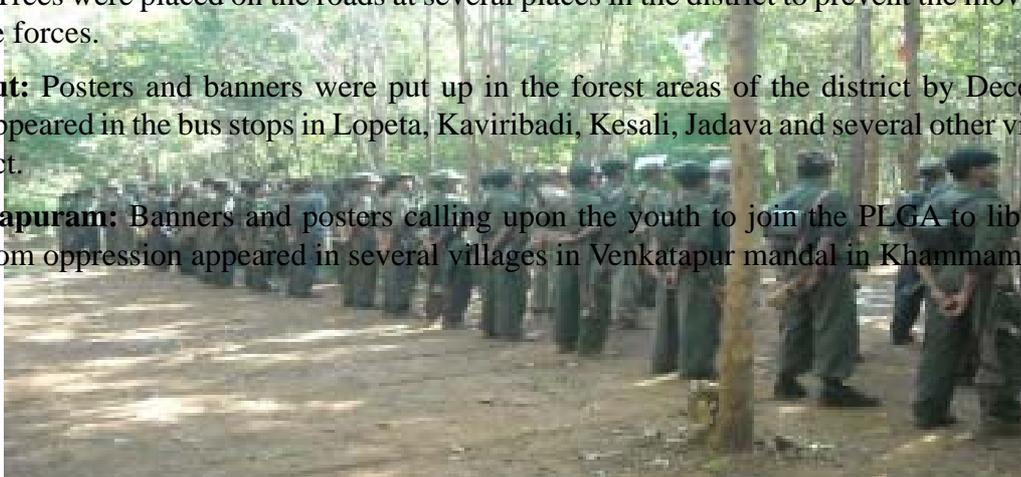
PLGA Week Celebrations

PLGA Week was celebrated throughout the areas of struggle led by CPI(Maoist).

Malkangiri: The 70 km stretch from Potteru to Motu in Malkangiri was decorated with PLGA banners. Trees were placed on the roads at several places in the district to prevent the movement of the police forces.

Koraput: Posters and banners were put up in the forest areas of the district by December 2. Posters appeared in the bus stops in Lopeta, Kaviribadi, Kesali, Jadava and several other villages in the district.

Venkatapuram: Banners and posters calling upon the youth to join the PLGA to liberate the people from oppression appeared in several villages in Venkatapur mandal in Khammam district.



The Mass Uprising in Lalgarh

After Singur and Nanidgram, now it is the turn of Lalgarh. While the first two mass eruptions in West Bengal were over displacement of the peasants from their fertile lands which were handed over to the big comprador sharks, the Lalgarh adivasi uprising was against the high-handedness and atrocities by the police and, of course, by the social fascist goons of the ruling CPI(M). It is the first mass uprising that had erupted on such a massive scale against police atrocities in post-1947 India barring, of course, Kashmir and North East. One is reminded of the mass uprising of Manipur against atrocities by the Indian Army and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in the wake of the rape of Manorama.

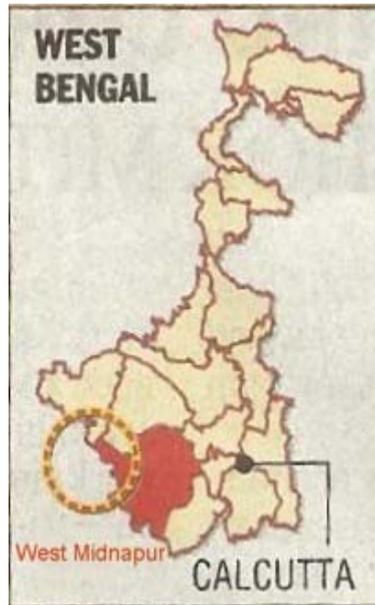
Described as the biggest state and as the second Santhal uprising in Lalgarh drew banner following the land-mine attack Bengal chief minister, a host of other VVIPs, including Paswan and Jitendra Prasad, and on November 2, 2008 near district. The convoy was when it was returning from inauguration of a mega-steel at a cost of over Rs. 12,000 of land was acquired by the so-Three policemen, including an were suspended following the

What sparked off the rebellion unleashed by the police in the indescribable atrocities on state terror, the social-fascist had pounced on the villages with beating up people on suspicion of being sympathetic to the Maoists. On November 3, West Midnapore police raided far-flung villages of Lalgarh at the Belpahari end of Jangalmahal, and detained 15 people. Three of these were school-kids who were tortured badly and charged with sedition or waging war against the state, conspiracy and use of explosives. Two are Class IX students of Katapahari High School and the third is a Class VII student of a Lalgarh school. They were returning after attending a village festival on the 3rd evening when police picked them up and lined them up with four other 'suspects' arrested in the case. These incidents provoked the initial protests. But paying little heed to the growing anger and protest of the people the police continued with their terror campaign.

In Kantaphari village one Deepak Pratihari was arrested on November 4 and his pregnant wife Lakshmi was assaulted. Another ten people, including a retired teacher and a contractor from Choto Pelia village, were arrested as police raids continued in 35 villages in Lalgarh block. The turning point came when the Lalgarh police tortured 11 adivasi women on the mid-night of Nov 6 in Chhoto Pelia. Mrs Chitamani Murmu, a poor Santhal woman, had lost her vision after being struck with a rifle butt on her left eye by a policeman. Some like Panmani Hansda suffered fractures. This brutal incident, which took place in Chhotopelia when only women folk were present at the time of the police raid, served as the spark that set off a prairie fire spreading to the rest of West Midnapore and neighbouring Bankura and Purulia districts too.

A Fine Example of Democracy

The month-long agitation was initially spearheaded by locals under the banner of the Sara Bharat Jakat Majhi Madowa Juran Gaonta, a Santhal organisation of adivasi elders, but was later led by an independent organisation that was set up exclusively to fight state repression—*Polishi Santras Birodhi Janasadharaner Committee* or People's Committee Against Police Atrocities. None of the parliamentary parties had any role in the uprising that had brought normal life to a standstill for over a month in Lalgarh, Binpur, Jhargram, Jamboni and Belpahari blocks of Midnapore West. Although they were kept in the sidelines, and despite the incessant



adivasi rebellion ever in the rebellion, the militant mass headlines for several weeks on the convoy of the West Buddhadev Bhattacharjee, and two Union Ministers, Ramvilas top industrialist, Ashok Jindal, Salboni in West Midnapore attacked by Maoist guerrillas Salboni after Buddhadeb's project being set up by Jindal crores and for which 4,500 acres called Left Front government. inspector and two constables, land-mine blast.

was the brutal reign of terror Lalgarh region committing innocent people. Along with goons belonging to the CPI(M) fire-arms, abducting and

On November 3, West Midnapore police raided far-flung villages of Lalgarh at the Belpahari end of Jangalmahal, and detained 15 people. Three of these were school-kids who were tortured badly and charged with sedition or waging war against the state, conspiracy and use of explosives. Two are Class IX students of Katapahari High School and the third is a Class VII student of a Lalgarh school. They were returning after attending a village festival on the 3rd evening when police picked them up and lined them up with four other 'suspects' arrested in the case. These incidents provoked the initial protests. But paying little heed to the growing anger and protest of the people the police continued with their terror campaign.



propaganda that the uprising was led by the Maoists, the so-called mainstream parties, barring the ruling CPI(M), were compelled to express their support to the movement for the fear of getting isolated from the adivasi masses.

A 12-point People's Charter was drawn up which, among other things, called for withdrawal of all "false cases" foisted on the people since 1998, adequate compensation to the victims of police atrocities, immediate halt to police raids on clubs run by Santhals, not to carry out raids without the presence of Majhi Maroas, etc. But the most important demand of the committee that was of immediate significance was that the SP of West Midnapore, Rajesh Singh, and the culprits responsible for the outrage on women should hold their ears and crawl with their nose to the ground, all the way from Dalilpur Chowk to Chhotopelia Chowk apologizing for the police raids and detentions since the landmine blast on November 2. They demanded that the chief minister too should apologise for the high-handedness of his police officials. And though most of the other demands were met, it was this demand that became the driving force behind the agitation that went on for almost two months with short breaks in between.

The uniqueness of the uprising lay in its democratic character right from the nature and functioning of the organisation that spearheaded it, and the manner in which the mass resistance movement was conducted. To lead the movement, committees known as Gram Committees (GCs), were formed at the grass-roots level. Each committee had five men and five women, something unheard of in the highly patriarchal and male-dominated semi-feudal social set-up in India. Moreover, every committee has to get its decisions ratified at a general assembly of the people that acted as the supreme decision-making body, which is again a fundamental departure and radical rupture with the tradition of one-man or one-woman dictatorship or the authoritarianism of a small coterie or clique in all parliamentary parties without exception and even in most of the non-parliamentary organisations in our country. Such "Gram Committees" based on genuine democratic values and traditions were formed in the villages of Belpahari, Binpur, Lalgarh, Jamboni, Salboni, Goaltore and adjoining blocks. 85 GCs were formed in Lalgarh block alone and 65 GCs in Belpahari block.

The Spread of the Mass Resistance Movement

From Lalgarh, the agitation soon spread to Goaltore, Garbeta, Salboni, Gopiballavpur and Nayagram blocks. By the 12th day papers reported that "*The situation has gone from bad to worse because the agitation is gathering support from villages of Bankura, Purulia and even parts of Hooghly.*" They also reported that all attempts by the government and CPI(M) goons to isolate the adivasis from the Maoists had miserably failed.

Villagers blocked the road from Lalgarh to Binpur initially; later the road blockades had spread upto Banspahari as people came forward to block the road between Belpahari and Banspahari to express solidarity with the campaign in Lalgarh against police atrocities. On the whole, a 65-kilometre stretch of road from Banspahari to Lalgarh was blocked during the agitation.

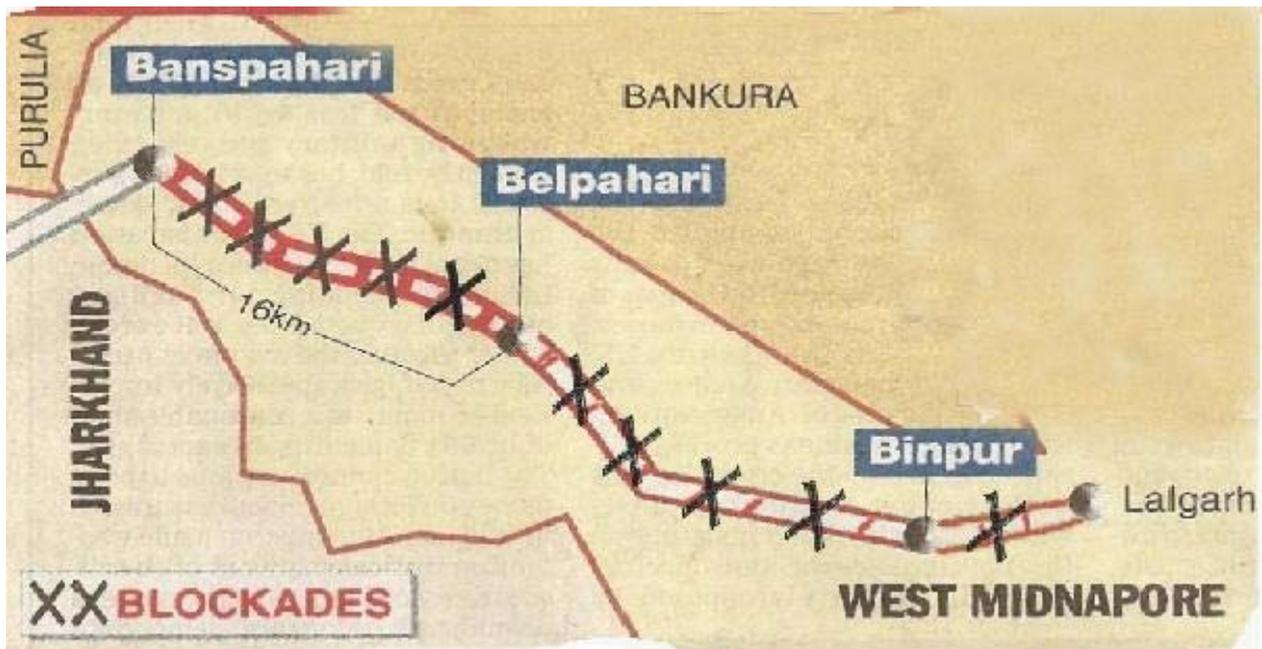
The Santhal organisation Bharat Jakat Majhi Marwa placed trees on the road to express solidarity with the agitation against police atrocities in Lalgarh, 45km away. Among other things, the Bankura protesters wanted all night raids to stop. Three CPM leaders who had gone to persuade the tribals to withdraw the blockades were beaten up. A 48-hour bandh of South Bengal was observed on Nov 28/29. Armed with bows, arrows, axe and spears people took out four separate rallies from Khoer Pahari, Nekra Pahari, Tanti Danga and Karbhanga. They shouted slogans against the police and blocked roads connecting Chandrakona in West Midnapore with Sarenga, Bankura.



The People's Committee Against Police Atrocities, which led the protests in Lalgarh, remained uncompromising on its major demand that the SP of West Midnapore should apologise before the people by doing sit-ups. Given the incessant harassment, humiliatio, torture and arrests of poor and helpless adivasis by the police for decades, such a demand came as no surprise. They demanded that the chief minister too should apologise for the high-handedness of his police officials. And though most of the other demands were met, it was this demand that became the driving force behind the agitation that went on for almost two months with short breaks in between.

The agitation drew wide support from various sections of people throughout the entire state. Students from all over West Midnapore, Purulia, Bankura and other districts of the state came out in large numbers expressing solidarity with the Lalgarh uprising. Sudents from Kolkata's elite institutions like Presidency College and Jadavpur University and some rights activists went to Belpahari in support of the movement. The Jharkhand Disam Party called a 12-hour bandh in the district on Nov 16. Traffic on NH-6 was disrupted as the Kurmi Chhatra Yuva Sangram Committee blocked the highway at Lodhasuli point in Jhargram. The town of Jhargram remained inaccessible as the Lodhasuli-Jhargram Road was blocked with tree trunks dumped at Kalaboni and Belpahari-Jhargram Road.

The mainstream Opposition parties had no other option than to extend support to the agitation. But the agitators had few illusions on these parties and denounced Jharkhand Party MLA Chunibala Hansda, and the Congress leader Manas Bhuniya who claimed to be backing the Lalgarh agitation. On Nov 25 all the opposition parties held demonstrations in support of the Lalgarh agitation which entered a fresh round on that day. Roads were dug up again at Penchapara in Salboni, 27 km from Lalgarh, and many other places like Chilgeria and some villages between Chandra and Dherua.



Trinamool Congress extended support to the agitation of the tribals but said it will not participate in the agitation. Mamata Benarjee said: *"It is not an issue where political parties have a role. The Adivasi samaj is fighting for protection. They are being arrested indiscriminately on the plea of combating Maoists. This has been going on for a long time, but now their patience has come to an end."* Mamata alleged that CPM cadres were taking out rallies carrying firearms to terrorise the tribals. *"It is a mass uprising in Jhargram. But CPM is trying to break it with arms and motorcycle brigades,"* she said. Trinamool played no more a role than holding a token demonstration in solidarity with the adivasi agitation.

CPI (Maoist) state secretary Kanchan said in a statement: *"We are with the people of Lalgarh. The chief minister will have to apologise in front of the people for torturing tribals in West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia."*

A newspaper commented: *"A visit to the remote tribal villages in Lalgarh, Belpahari and Binpur bordering Jharkhand reveals that Maoists have already established strong bases among*

the tribals and they have many squads inside 700 square km forests of the district." Another paper reported that "CPI(Maoist) leaders held meetings at Patharkumkumi jungle near Lalgarh with the locals to decide what the tribals would do if the administration sits with the Police Santrash Birodhi Janaganer Committee (PSBJC) by November 28."

The administration tried to buy off the leaders of various santhali organizations and succeeded in winning over a few tribal heads but this had no impact on the agitating adivasis who refused to heed the calls of the tribal leaders. On November 14, Marwa leader Munshiram Murmu was beaten up when he tried to persuade a group to lift a blockade in Jhargram town. Three CPM leaders - Ranjit Hembran, a former pachayat samiti sabhapati and Ramu Duley and Tulu Hembran, zonal committee leaders were on their way back home to Sarulia when they were struck by arrows at Sarenga area on Nov 19.

Thus the government had not only failed in these attempts to 'divide and rule', but even new organizations like that of the non-*adivasi* Kurmi (Mahatos) joined the agitation against police atrocities thereby giving the agitation a general character. People from 91 villages held a meeting at Kantapahari in Sonajhuri jungle and discussed ways of intensifying the agitation. District police officers sent an SOS to Writers' Buildings, seeking directives on how to contain the 'rebellion'. By end of November, the agitation had spread to over 400 villages. Deputy superintendent Shyamal Lalgarh police station, includes Belpahari, and Shilda has become can't go even 500 metres from the police roadblocks." "We don't call it a tribal movement," said Sidhu Soren, secretary of the from the Dalilpur meet. "Most apex committee elected villagers, cutting across endorsed our 11-point charter of demands against the police. We will till the administration concedes to our demands."

Deputy Ghosh, now posted at said: "The large area that Banspahari, Lalgarh, Binpur a free-zone for Maoists. We metres from the police roadblocks." "We don't call it Sidhu Soren, secretary of the from the Dalilpur meet. "Most caste and creed, have charter of demands against continue with the blockade till the administration concedes to our demands."

An interesting episode officer who refused to Lalgarh. The additional Sisir Das, quit his job on Nov 8. He was police in 24-Paraganas. police camp at Kalaimuri to move into the forest as being suicidal as it and could have been



Jonaki Tudu, an 18 yearold tribal girl at a protest near Belpahari

When he was subjected to "foul behaviour" by his superiors he resigned the job.

Desperate attempts by Buddhadeb to intensify and justify state terror and state-sponsored terror

Unable to suppress the mass agitation that has been growing by the day, the social-fascist CPI(M) government had drawn up a heinous plan of pitting *adivasis* against *adivasis* as done by the BJP-Congress in Chattisgarh in the name of *salwa judum* that had earned world-wide condemnation. And, hordes of CPI(M) goons pounced on the villages, in Nandigram style, and unleashed a wave of terror on the tribal masses. At least 50 truckloads of armed CPM men, flaunting the banner of *Adivasi O Anadivasi Shramajibi Janasadharan*, and accompanied by policemen, cleared all the blockades along the entire 22-km stretch from Gurguripal near Midnapore town to Dherua on December 4. They issued warnings of death to the *adivasis* if they continued with the agitation. A similar operation has been planned from Kalabani, from where two top district officials had been arrested by the people a day before.

The entire operation was master-minded by CPM district secretariat members Bijoy Pal and Satyen Maity, confidants of the party's West Midnapore secretary Dipak Sarkar. To give it an *Adivasi* face, the social-fascist brigade showcased partymen Pulinbehari Baske and Kanai

Murmu, who held several meetings, urging the tribals to give up the agitation. CPM leaders, as in Nandigram and elsewhere, took care that the media did not accompany them so as not to reveal the atrocities committed by them to the outside world. The villagers said these armed men were outsiders from West Midnapore's Garbeta, Cheruah and Jamtala. CPM's motorbike brigade was deployed to remove the blockades from Bhadutala to Bhipur taking advantage of the absence of the agitators belonging to the People's Committee against Police Atrocities who were having a meeting in Narcha village that night. However, this repeat of the Keshpur-Garbeta experiment of sending the infamous "bike brigade" only boomeranged. The adivasis replied in the same vein going around on motorbikes and putting up posters of the 'People's Committee Against Police Atrocities'.

In Belpahari area, the Maji Maroas, led by former members of the Jharkhand Party, namely Manik Tudu and Baburam Tudu, and accompanied by CPM goons, took out a rally that went through the forest hamlets Singadoba, Simulpal, Loboni, Thakurpahari and Odulchua touching the villages along the Jharkhand border. Raising slogans against Maoists, the state-backed tribal leaders and the social-fascist goons issued threats to the Adivasis and warned them of grave consequences if they did not stop giving food to the Maoists.

On December 4, the chief minister announced in the Assembly that the organisation leading the tribal protest in West Midnapore was being steered by a Trinamul Congress leader who is the brother of a wanted Maoist. The leader of the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities, Chhatradhar Mahato, *"is the brother of the wanted Maoist action squad leader, Sasadhar Mahato. Sasadhar's group is known as the Lalgadh squad"*, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee said.

"We have come to know that the Lalgadh squad had carried out the November 2 blast. Sasadhar is an underground Maoist action squad leader, while his (elder) brother Chhatradhar is leading the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities and creating trouble. Chhatradhar is a Trinamul leader," he said.

"Can a dialogue work with these men?" Bhattacharjee asked. *"These Maoists are trained in Jharkhand and are being sent to our state to unleash violence."*

To cover up the state terror unleashed by his government and the social-fascist terror by his storm-troopers of CPI(M) on the adivasis, Buddhadeb tried to place the blame on "outside forces" for "fomenting trouble" in the districts bordering Jharkhand. He accused the then-chief minister of Jharkhand Mr Sibusoren for "instigating trouble" in the state's three bordering districts—Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore (West)—and said that Sibusoren was bent on merging these three districts with Jharkhand. He alleged that Mrs Chhunibala Hansda of the Jharkhand Party (Naren) was directly involved with Maoists and that *"Mrs Hansda's party members are Jharkhandis by the day and Maoists by the night."* Mrs Hansda countered that it was dissident CPI-M cadres who made up the Maoist ranks.

Biman Bose, CPI-M state secretary too squarely blamed Mr Sibusoren for the tribal agitation in West Midnapore. Mr Bose also alleged that the Centre has been acting against the interest of the state since the withdrawal of support by the Left parties to the UPA government.

"This was the reason behind the Centre not acceding to the request of the state government to send CRPF to West Midnapore and withdrawal of the existing central force from the district," Mr Bose alleged.

However, all these strong-armed tactics and disinformation campaign unleashed by the social fascist CPI(M) and its government in West Bengal against the legitimate, democratic and just mass movement failed miserably in face of the unity and democratic awakening of the adivasi people. The vigilante gangs of the CPI(M) were resolutely countered; the tribal leaders who were bought off by the police and administration were effectively isolated and some were even punished; and all attempts to water down the agitation were trounced.

Chief of the Gaonta, Mr Nityananda Hembram, faced punishment for agreeing to call off the agitation without prior permission from the full Majhi-Madowa body. The People's Committee Against Police Atrocities branded the six Santhal outfits that helped the administration remove blockades from Jhargram and who had attended peace talks as traitors. *"They betrayed us by helping the administration,"* said Sidhu.

On Nov 23, a CRPF jawan in Purulia had to be transferred to Calcutta after being caught molesting a homemaker by villagers who held him hostage for over two hours.

A significant victory for the Masses

On Nov 27, bowing to pressure from the Police Santrash Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC), or the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities, the West Bengal government had to withdraw all thirteen police camps from Ramgarh, Lalgarh, Belpahari and Salboni areas of West Midnapore as protestors dug up the road branching off from NH 6 to Jhargram, cutting off the town from the rest of the state. These camps were set up on November 10. The PSBPC had sent a deputation to the OC Ramgarh Police the previous day and demanded that the police camps be withdrawn within 24 hours or they would confine police officers in the camps and boycott police and civil administration. The setting up of police camps in school buildings had prevented the children from continuing their studies at schools and drew the anger of the masses. The camps which were withdrawn had been operating from Kalaimuri, Koima and Pirakata in Salboni and Chhurimara and Jamtalgera in Belpahari police station areas. The police outposts were at Pirakata and Ramgarh. Most of the 700-odd policemen posted at these camps and outposts moved out by 27th night. Two police camps from Lalgarh Ramakrishna High School and Lalgarh Saradmoni Girls' High School on December 1.

".... the withdrawal of the police camp was a virtual 'surrender' to the Maoists as this was part of the Maoist-backed PSBPC's 12-point demand" decried a newspaper.

"The police may have been withdrawn from the camps but our main demand has not been met yet. The district superintendent of police is yet to apologise to the villagers at Dalilpur. So, there is no question of withdrawing our agitation. We will soon hold a meeting to decide on our future course of action," said Chhatradhar Mahato, leader of People's Committee Against Police Atrocities.

The PSBPC leaders declared punishment on the Lalgarh OC Mr Sandip Sigha Roy as the government has not yet taken any steps against the OC for torturing the tribal women. Earlier, seven of those arrested by the West Midnapore police who were produced in court and remanded in police custody till November 14, were released and charges of sedition, conspiracy, illegal assembly, use of explosives and attack on ministers foisted upon them— Gopal Karanda and Dipak Pratihar from Lalgarh's Katapahari, and Sahadeb Mahato and Lakshmiratan Murmu from Salboni's Birdhanpur— had to be dropped after ten days as no evidence could be found against any of them.



Thus the withdrawal of the police camps and fulfilment of some other demands did not end the mass agitation that continued to block the roads after allowing the withdrawing troops to pass by. They demanded punishment to the police officials responsible for the torture of adivasi women. To appease the agitators, the state government ordered an inquiry into the torture of tribal women on December 1st but this move was dubbed by the PSBPC as nothing but a "farce" intended to hush up the case since the so-called administrative probe was conducted by an officer of the department against which they have serious charges.

"If the government was really serious enough to probe the police torture, they would have had it conducted it by a retired judge of High Court," the PSBPC leaders said. They warned that they would block National Highway 6 and rail tracks from December 4 if West Midnapore officials did not heed their demands.

The mass agitation became further intensified as adivasis blocked fresh roads at Sankrail and Nayagram blocks on December 1st. They also demanded the withdrawal of the main police camp from Lalgarh town. The town of Jhargram was cut off again from the rest of the state. The fury of the people also took the form of several attacks on the CPI(M) offices and goons. When CPM cadres forcibly cleared the road blockades put up by the tribals in the area the latter set ablaze a CPM office in Belatikri area of Binpur, West Midnapore on December 1.

The Midnapore West district police had to bow to the demands of the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) yet again on December 4 and release four of their activists arrested earlier for digging up the State Highway 9 at Kalaboni in Jhargram.

"We will remove the blockade ourselves only if the officials decide to go to Dalilpurchawk and solve the problem of Lalgarh. But we will continue with our stir if you neglect our demands," said Prankrishna Soren, a schoolteacher. *"Why are police and administration fearing common*

people? Are police officers and civil officials feeling guilty themselves? Why don't we have one standard road, electricity and pure drinking water even six decades after Independence," asked Shyam Chand Murmu, a protester.

The month-long Adivasi agitation under the banner of the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) at Lalgarh, Jhargram, Belpahari, Binpur and adjoining blocks of Midnapore West was called off on the evening of December 7 with the district administration conceding 10 of their 12 demands. Agreement was reached on ten issues including the release of three schoolboys, withdrawal of cases against others held on charges of involvement in the land-mine blast of Nov 2, withdrawal of police camps, meeting the expenses for the treatment of villagers injured during police raids, removal of the inspector-in-charge of Lalgarh PS, end to night raids by the police, setting up an enquiry committee to investigate the atrocities committed by the police as well as CP(M) cadres and compensation for the damage to the houses during police raids, and so on. The administration agreed to consider the criminal cases filed against the Adivasis and other indigenous people for their alleged Maoist links since 1998, particularly in cases where charge sheets have not been submitted. The committee, headed by the principal secretary of the backward class welfare department, will begin meeting on 15 December. After the committee report is submitted, the PSBPC demand for Rs 2 lakh compensation to each of the affected people will be considered by the government. Buddhadeb himself apologized for the police atrocities on adivasi women.

A day after the truce in Lalgarh came the Rs 8-crore government bounty for Adivasi development in the trouble-torn Jangalmahal. West Midnapore district magistrate Narayan Swaroop Nigam announced the package for Lalgarh, Belpahari, Jamboni and the adjoining areas of Jhargram. The package includes augmenting drinking water facility, setting up of hostels for tribal students and upgrading the existing ones and a land development programme to facilitate cultivation.

The People's Committee Against Police Atrocities that was leading the tribal agitation said West Midnapore police had been given a week to visit the area and apologise for alleged atrocities on tribals. Committee leader Chhatradhar Mahato, however, was categorical. *"The administration did not meet our main demand: the SP will have to visit our area and apologise for the police excesses on the tribals of Lalgarh after the Salboni blast (on November 2). We are giving the administration time till December 14 to meet that demand,"* he said.

The month long agitation by the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) against police atrocities on innocent Adivasi women of Lalgar in Midnapore West pushed the state government to take up Adivasi issues.

In the aftermath of Lalgarh agitation many plans were announced for the development of the Adivasis. After granting a special package of Rs 32.60 crore for Adivasi development, the state government has allotted Rs 103 crore as scholarship to be given to around four lakh Madhyamik- passed Adivasi students in the state, of which, Rs 17 crore would come from chief minister's relief fund while Rs 69 crore will be given by the state backward class welfare department. But, Mr Jogneswar Murmu, president of the Jhargram subdivision Adivasi cell, ridiculed government's concern for the Adivasis. He said whatever fund is being allotted afresh for their upliftment will be of no use. *"For, the funds will find their way to ruling party coffers as the implementing agencies remain unchanged or it will be returned at the end of the year after remaining unutilised,"* he said. For example, Rs 9 crore meant for construction of dwelling houses for the tribals in the state, is still lying unutilised and is ready for return too as the financial year is at its fag end. *"The bodies that could not spend Rs 9 crore in a year how could they utilise a hefty amount like Rs 32.60 crore ?,"* the Adivasi leader added.

According to Mr Chhatradhar Mahato, the PSBPC leader, sanctioning funds for giving scholarships to Adivasi students is another big "hoax" of the government to coax them. *"How can tribal students get good grades in examinations enabling them to grab scholarships?"* he asked.

Cases have been started against several Lalgarh policemen, including a former inspector-in-charge, who had been accused of harassing tribals and molesting women while raiding villages in search of Maoists.

District superintendent of police R.K. Singh confirmed the case against inspector Sandip Sinha Roy, who had been asked to go on leave after the tribals launched an agitation against the alleged atrocities, but refused to identify the other officers who went on the raids. *"Cases*

of assault, molestation and ransacking have been started against Sinha Roy on the basis of complaints lodged by tribal women," he said.

But the women victims refused to attend a hearing called by the Midnapore range deputy inspector-general at Kharagpur, over 50km from their village, Chhotopelia. The People's Committee Against Police Atrocities said the DIG should visit the village if he wanted to talk to them. The tribals have threatened to block roads and rail tracks if Singh does not apologise for the "atrocities" by January 2. And on January 8, it announced it wouldn't dig up roads, but stuck to its stand of shutting out police. Chhatradhar Mahato, the leader of the People's Committee Against Police Atrocities in the West Midnapore town, said the decision not to obstruct roads had been taken because "common people are suffering". However, he made it



clear the boycott of the police, renewed after a committee meeting on January 6, would continue.

"We found that despite our demand, the West Midnapore superintendent of police did not come to Dalilpur or any other place in Lalgarh and apologise. So we have decided to boycott the police," said Chatradhar.

"No policemen will be allowed to enter the villages and those who do, will be confined", he said.

People should emulate Lalgarh to counter state terror

Lalgarh uprising stands out as a shining example of how people can ensure their lives and liberty in face of ever-growing state terror and state-sponsored terror by waging a resolute, united, militant mass resistance movement. It stands out as an example of how people can achieve victories by basing on their own strength and programme and their own independent organisation instead of depending on the self-seeking anti-people parliamentary political parties and authoritarian organisations. Lalgarh stands out as a living example of the collective consciousness and collective participation of the masses. It demonstrates the strength and power of the democratic organisation of the masses; of how the mass of the ordinary people can become part of the decision-making process and how they can make history by active participation in the people's movements at the grass-roots level. Today, as the reactionary ruling classes of India, in collusion with the imperialists, conspire to strengthen and further fascise the state apparatus in order to unleash the most cruel state terror to suppress the struggling masses in the name of "fight against terror", Lalgarh shows a way to unite the masses into organised resistance along democratic lines. And if the fascist ruling classes do not heed such democratic yearnings of the masses Lalgarhs will have to become really red and assume the form of armed uprising to establish revolutionary people's power in the vast countryside as witnessed in parts of Dandakaranya and Bihar-Jharkhand.

**Interview with comrade Kosa, Secretary of DKSZC
and member of Central Committee, CPI (Maoist)**



MIB: The elections to Chattisgarh Assembly have been just completed and the Party had given a call for boycott of polls. How did the campaign take place?

Comrade Kosa: Our Maoist Party has been taking up the campaign for boycott of elections to assembly and parliament ever since it entered Bastar 25 years ago. This time also we took the campaign throughout the areas of our struggle exposing the futility of elections and the exploitative class nature of the bourgeois-feudal parties. Our campaign received enthusiastic response from the people. Wherever we went people vent their anger and hatred towards the fake elections and spoke of how their lives had worsened during the rule of successive governments whether of the Congress or the BJP. They vowed to teach a lesson to the election parties if they ventured into their villages for electioneering. Lakhs of leaflets were released, posters and banners were put up in thousands of villages. Road blocks were placed on all roads leading to the villages in the interior regions. No election candidate or representative visited the villages in most parts of the six districts where elections were held on November 14. And on the polling day, in spite of the deployment of heavy police and central paramilitary forces, polling did not take place in at least 14 PS areas.

MIB: Reports say polling percentage had been quite high despite the boycott call. How do you explain the high percentage even in areas said to be under Maoist sway?

Comrade Kosa: The so-called high polling percentages is a fiction fabricated by the government and the media. How can there be a high percentage when voters had not even gone to exercise their franchise in hundreds of polling booths in Bastar range? And when even polling personnel and policemen did not reach many polling centres? These facts were even reported in some papers. In many centres the polling personnel and police stayed for just an hour or two and fled with the ballot boxes and later placed votes claiming a high percentage of turn-out in Naxal-dominated areas.

There have been reports in the media of rigging and other electoral malpractices in several villages. Scores of polling officials and police officials were suspended and cases were filed against them. For instance, in Gougunda centre in Konta Assembly constituency polling had to take place thrice due to electoral fraud. The polling personnel did not go to the polling centre on Nov 14. When repolling was done on Nov 24 once again the polling party did not reach the place but they themselves placed votes in the ballot boxes sitting in their vans. Cases were filed against 15 polling personnel and police officials and seven were suspended from their jobs. Finally repolling was again conducted on December 4 under the heaviest security. And even this had turned out to be a damp squib. Out of the 711 registered voters only 10 votes were cast in spite of the presence of over 1000 policemen at the time of repolling and threats and intimidation of voters.

While the extent of rigging could not be gauged or reported in the media on November 14 when polling took place in 39 Assembly constituencies, the news of massive rigging and malpractices began to trickle slowly as complaints were filed by opponents. As of now complaints to the election commission regarding rigging in scores of villages are pending. The extent of rigging could be gauged by the fact that in one polling centre in Maraknaar (K) Ramakrishna

Nagar, out of 504 voters, 503 were said to have exercised their franchise! An unheard of miracle in the annals of Indian parliamentary democracy!! Overall, I can certainly say that hardly 5 % of the votes were actually cast in all our areas and the so-called high percentages are only stage-managed. Moreover, none can imagine that BJP could have won in the areas of strong Maoist presence where the entire masses have been resisting the salwa judum-police atrocities and people would have voluntarily gone to cast their votes.

MIB: Have the political parties conducted election campaign in the Maoist areas? What was the programme of the Party to counter this campaign?

Comrade Kosa: I can categorically state that there has been no election campaigning by any parliamentary party in hundreds of villages in the areas of armed struggle and where our people's government exists. Local media continuously reported that there were neither leaflets, posters nor banners in the entire interior regions not to mention direct propaganda by the political parties. The only campaign material the media personnel found in hundreds of villages was that of the Maoists calling for the boycott of elections. Police openly advised the candidates and their representatives not to venture into interior areas and that they will not be able to provide protection for their meetings and visits to the vilages. Even in the roadside villages the campaigning of the parties was on a very low key. And where election meetings were held under heavy police protection people hardly turned up to hear them.

In hundreds of villages people's militia laid roadblocks by felling trees or placing burnt trucks, and the election parties had to return half-way. Masses were mobilized on a large scale to disrupt the fraud of elections. And where the parties managed to hold small meetings people questioned them to openly declare their stand on various issues, particularly on the savage terror unleashed by salwa judum-police-CRPF goons and the violation of the fundamental rights of the people. It is interesting to note the fact that none of the parties spoke against Maoists when they visited the villages and the Congress party did not have anything in its election manifesto on the issue of Naxalism for fear of distancing themselves from the people.

MIB: How many forces, both state and central, were deployed in Chattisgarh, particularly in Bastar range during the election campaign? And what measures were taken up to counter these forces?

Comrade Kosa: There has been a massive deployment of police and para-military forces in Bastar range during the elections. In order to stage-manage the elections by terrorizing the people, polling was held in two phases under the shadow of the gun. In addition to the existing 20 battalions in Chattisgarh—most of it in the districts of Dantewada, Bijapur, Narayanpur, Kanker, Bastar and Rajnandgaon—an additional 40 battalions were sent by the Centre. Another battalion of state's elite anti-Naxal special force, the STF, and over 5000 SPOs were deployed during election time. Totally I can say that around 60,000 armed troops were deployed on November 14 to complete this fake democratic exercise.

To counter these forces our revolutionary power and the mobilized in big number to take Besides, our Main, Secondary police-central forces and salwa places. On the polling day itself of fire between PLGA forces and

A day prior to the polling, roads placed in most roads in the used several creative methods different types of improvised police from entering the villages the enemy's forces. In one area booby traps were placed causing a result, the police parties had to retreat winding up their combing operations mid-way. Raids were conducted on polling booths and EVMs were seized in some places. Two helicopters were fired at and in one incident a flight engineer was killed. These daring acts had checked the speedy advance of the police forces and provided some flexibility to the people and the Maoist revolutionaries to carry on the political campaign of boycott fearlessly while keeping the police and para-military at bay.



Party, PLGA, organs of people's oppressed masses at large, were up various kinds of mass resistance. and Base forces of PLGA engaged the judum goondas in battles at several there were 24 incidents of exchange the state's armed forces.

were dug up and road blocks were above-mentioned districts. Masses to resist the police. They used devices and methods to check the and inflicted considerable damage to alone 3,000 improvised devices and serious injuries and some deaths. As

were dug up and road blocks were above-mentioned districts. Masses to resist the police. They used devices and methods to check the and inflicted considerable damage to alone 3,000 improvised devices and serious injuries and some deaths. As

MIB: How do you see the results of the elections? Would there be any change in state policy with regard to salwa judum, state terror etc?

Comrade Kosa: The results of the elections do not have any impact on the lives of the people or in the policies pursued by the ruling classes towards the Naxalites and the brutal atrocities, savage terror unleashed on the masses. To the people in the state whoever wins makes no difference. It is true that some Congress spokespersons had expressed that salwa judKarma, and implemented by BJP's Raman Singh government in Chattisgarh. The ghastly plan of pitting a section of the adivasis against the Maoists is incorporated in the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Home Affairs and hatched in Delhi with the consent of the major parliamentary parties.

And even if the Congress wins and is compelled to disband salwa judum (which has already lost steam in face of Maoist resistance and worldwide condemnation) due to popular pressure it will continue the same brutal reign of terror by deploying a bigger number of central para-military forces. The plan to raise ten battalions of Cobra force is already in the making and two of these are being deployed soon in Chattisgarh.

The experience in Andhra Pradesh shows the fascist nature of the Congress party under a democratic garb. YSReddy made tall promises to put an end to the fake encounters and repression, claimed that his party considered the Naxal issue as a socio-economic issue and would hold talks with Naxals. But within a year after YSR's Congress came to power, it unleashed the most brutal terror on the Maoists and the revolutionary masses when it saw the growing people's struggles for land, democracy and self-reliance. The performance of the Congress in Chattisgarh will be no different if at all it comes to power, which itself is doubtful given the internal squabbles in the Congress party and massive rigging indulged by the BJP by misusing the state machinery.

MIB: What has been the impact of salwa judum on the Party and people's war? Has it eroded the mass base of the Maoists? How do you sum up the present situation vis-à-vis salwa judum?

Comrade Kosa: As a result of the continuous attacks on the villages burning down over 800, murder of over 700 adivasis, destruction of the property and mass rape of women, it is true that some of our mass organizations and local Party units were destroyed. Lives of the people had deteriorated as they lost their homes, crops, lands and almost all their meager property. A significant section of people had fled to other regions like Andhra Pradesh in order to escape from the brutal attacks by the salwa judum-police forces. And some had been forced to go to the state-run camps managed by the salwa judum gangs.

However, in this context, one can see a vindication of the universal historical truth that repression breeds resistance. People of all ages—from boys and girls in their teens to old men—have taken up arms to defend themselves from the rampaging Judum and khaki hooligans. They formed the Bhoomkal Militia in several villages. Hundreds of youth have joined the PLGA. Due to this massive recruitment the Party has been able to go for higher military formations.

I can say that, overall, people's war has intensified and reached new peak after the reactionary rulers had unleashed the brutal salwa judum campaign and savage state offensive on the Maoist movement. Our mass base has become further consolidated though we lost some villages due to their destruction by salwa judum-police gangs and migration of some sections to other regions and to the state-run refugee camps.

MIB: There has been lot of propaganda in the mainstream media about recruitment of children into the armed squads and war-related activities. What are the facts?

Comrade Kosa: This is an outright lie. The fact is, children are forced to move with the squads and militia units due to the fear of massacre by salwa judum goons. They had seen other children's heads being separated from their torsos, their limbs mutilated by Judum goondas and the CRPF in front of their own eyes. Hence everyone in the village—from children to old men—have been compelled to flee to the forest and have been living there since two to three years under the protective umbrella of the armed formations of the PLGA. They carry traditional weapons to defend themselves from police and salwa judum beasts.

The reactionary rulers and the media have been raising a hue and cry that children are being recruited into the armed squads. Nowhere had we recruited anyone under 16 years of

age. The minimum age for recruitment into PLGA is 16 years which we decided after taking into consideration the specific conditions in our areas where children grow up in the midst of war and become mature by that age.

In villages where we are strong we are running schools for the education of children. We formed children's associations through which children are taught collective spirit and social awareness besides imparting physical fitness training and the art of self-defence. None of the children is given arms or involved directly in the war. However, it is also a fact that all adivasis—from children to old men—carry their traditional weapons to defend themselves from wild animals and this has been an age-old tradition. Today, we are encouraging them to use these weapons more effectively.

On the other hand it is the government of Chattisgarh and the police headed by the biggest liar and pseudo-intellectual Vishwa Ranjan that have been recruiting children below 16 years—a good number of the SPOs are aged 14 and 15 years—and using them as cannon fodder in their military offensive against the Maoist movement.

MIB: What are the methods used by the state to suppress the Maoist movement? How do you plan to counter the growing state offensive?

Comrade Kosa: The state has launched a multi-pronged attack to suppress the Maoist movement. Of course, brutal suppression by using huge police and central forces is the decisive element in this all-round offensive based on the LIC doctrine developed by American imperialism to crush revolutionary and national liberation movements worldwide.

Attempts are also made to lure away a section of the people from the revolutionary movement by dangling some reforms. However, these attempts had not achieved the desired results as the Maoist Party had initiated revolutionary reforms which are implemented through the *janathana sarkar* or people's government. A consciousness has developed among the people that they can decide their destiny through their own government. The conspiracy behind the government reforms stands exposed before the people as it also means large-scale influx and exploitation and oppression by government bureaucrats, forest officials and the police. Salwa Judum tried to smash the people's governments and destroy the development that has occurred in the villages through revolutionary reforms.

The state is setting up carpet security system so as to spread its terror network all over the countryside with the aim of establishing control over the entire area and to flush out Maoists from the people. At present police camps are set up at a distance of every 5 km in our areas and it is planning to reduce it to 3 km. Police forces are being trained in jungle warfare at the jungle warfare school in Kanker. Special training in counter-insurgency operations is given by Grey Hounds in Hyderabad. Police intelligence network is being spread to every village and huge sums of money are spent to recruit police agents from lumpen elements from adivasis. Covert agents are introduced into the Party, PLGA and local revolutionary organizations of the masses. On obtaining information anti-Naxal special forces immediately act in coordination and launch attacks on the Maoist squads and camps. Helicopters are increasingly being used to airdrop enemy forces and also to airlift the casualties and injured police personnel. Incentives are given to those posted in the areas of armed struggle. Huge funds are sanctioned for the construction of *pucca* school buildings so as to serve as camping places for the police and central forces. Wide roads are constructed to facilitate the easy movement of state's armed forces. And all these are done in the name of development to dupe the people.

Our Party has also taken up an all-round counter-offensive to effectively counter the LIC tactics of the enemy. We are arming the masses and setting up higher formations of people's militia to check the enemy at every step. Higher military formations have come into existence in the PLGA so as to destroy or cause maximum possible casualties of the enemy forces through surprise attacks by company and battalion-size formations. Tactical Counter Offensive Campaigns (TCOC) are taken up for a time-bound period to achieve the maximum impact. Enemy's carpet security system can be destroyed through a combination of attacks by the Main and Secondary Forces of the PLGA and by constant harassment by the local militia units besides cutting off or disrupting the supplies to enemy forces. Our PLGA has also destroyed the enemy's intelligence network in several villages. Over a hundred police informers were annihilated in the past one year in two districts. Hence the enemy is unable to launch attacks on the Maoists at will as his eyes and ears are cut off in the villages. Some covert agents who were sent by the enemy into the Party, PLGA and revolutionary organizations of the masses

were also caught and punished. In the past one year almost a hundred police and central forces were wiped out in Dandakaranya.

MIB: There are also reports in the media that adivasis who had participated in salwa judum due to coercion and other reasons wish to return to their villages from the government-run camps but are scared that they will be eliminated by Maoist guerrillas if they returned. What is your policy regarding such people?

Comrade Kosa: This is again the propaganda of Vishwa Ranjan and his likes. There hasn't been a single instance of our PLGA killing anyone returning to their villages from salwa judum camps. In fact, there are several cases where adivasis are staying in camps but are visiting their villages to tend their fields during the cropping season and for collecting forest produce. After harvesting their crops they return to the camps as they fear that staying permanently in the villages bring reprisals from judum goondas.

We had declared our policy regarding those who return from the salwa judum camps in clear terms. We put up posters, distributed leaflets calling on everyone to return to the village. None is punished just because he/she has stayed in the camps or participated in the attacks along with the judum goons. If they accept their mistake in participating in the attacks and relent they are absorbed into the society. Only those who are serving as agents to the police are punished by PLGA. I will cite one interesting incident which occurred in the village of Akuva. Two villagers from Akuva village came back from the SJ camp in Matwada in Aug 2007 but the people did not trust them as they had participated in SJ campaign. To prove that they were against salwa judum, the two beheaded a notorious leader of SJ, Karrungal, and handed over the head to the people. People accepted them into their midst, but later, SJ goondas attacked the village and murdered these two former camp residents. And Goebels breed in Chattisgarh propagate that they were murdered by Maoists!

Our propaganda campaign and our attitude to those who had returned to their villages has been so effective that today the number of people staying in the camps has come down from almost 70,000 to around 13,000 or so. And most of the camp residents are the families of SPOs and leaders of salwa judum. Naturally, this has upset the plans of the reactionary ruling classes and their khaki mercenary chieftains to set up strategic hamlets and flush out the Maoists. Hence they incessantly carry out disinformation campaign that Maoists have been eliminating salwa judum participants.

In Bijapur and Dantewada, 80 companies of BSF and 15 companies of SSB.

In Bastar, Narayanpur and Kanker, 55 companies of CRF;

In Durg, Rajnandgaon and Kabirdham, 35 companies of RPF;

In the above constituencies 150 companies of state armed force were deployed.

The election commission, the political parties, police officials and the media have claimed that the elections were highly successful in the Maoist strongholds and that people had enthusiastically and voluntarily come forward to exercise their vote, that democracy had won, that polling was free and fair, and such endless trash. But one would never know what proportion of the votes was polled due to coercion and fear psyche created by these gun-toting mercenaries, and what proportion due to rigging and fraudulent methods, apart from the other factors. At least twelve cases of bogus polling where votes were placed in the EVMs after the completion of polling came to light. In one case highlighted by the papers, votes were placed in the EVMs while being brought back in a truck after the election, under the direction of a CRPF official in Konta Assembly constituency. The official was later suspended. Konta incident was only the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of cases of such bogus polling had taken place all over Bastar range with the active connivance of the polling officials, police and agents of the political parties. And in the government-run salwa judum concentration camps, camp residents were herded together and taken to the polling booths to cast their votes. Anyone who refused to cast his/her vote would face the wrath of the police and slawa judum goons. In several villages people fled to the jungle when the police and polling personnel arrived. Their votes, of course, were cast!

Either you boycott, or have your fingers chopped off! But what is the truth?



While the fascist central and state governments held the elections at gun-point and the civil administration-police resorted to brutal methods of coercion on the people to ensure a high percentage of polling, they unleashed a Goebbelsian propaganda that the Maoists had chopped off the fingers of people who did not cast their votes. Even the BBC correspondent Salman Ravi reported that posters were put up by Maoists that fingers would be cut off if votes were cast. On November 15, in a special editorial in the Hindi daily, *Dainik Bhaskar*, si milar lies were written. The writer, Sanjay Ahirwal, claimed that Maoists had cut off the fingers of several people! The media, owned and controlled by the parasitic corporate-financial elite, will go to any extent to lend legitimacy to their so-called democratic institutions even if these are, in reality, the most authoritarian in nature. They also go to any extent in dubbing anyone opposing their reactionary institutions as terrorists. It is this criminal, parasitical class that cannot survive without illegal

detentions, cruel tortures and brutal murders of those who oppose the system. Chopping off fingers and other limbs, blinding the eyes, giving electric shocks, and resorting to other third degree methods is normal for these sadists in power. Maoists never use coercive methods on the people. That is why the toiling, suffering, oppressed masses love the Maoists and are proud of the PLGA. Maoists appeal to those who write such rubbish to come to Dandakaranya to prove a single instance if they have any integrity and honesty.

The fact was there was no election campaigning in most of the interior areas. In hundreds of villages there was no sign of an ongoing election—no banners, no leaflets, no posters, no representatives of the parties which were said to be contesting the elections. Hardly anyone knew the names of the candidates. Yet, these villages recorded a high percentage of votes!! Such is the story of the “democratic” elections in Chattisgarh.

And where some kind of campaign did take place, the candidates of virtually every political party tried to woo the voters through generous offers of cash. The Congress leader and candidate for Dantewada Assembly seat, Mahendra Karma, notorious for leading the cruel state-sponsored terrorist campaign called salwa judum, was caught red-handed on November

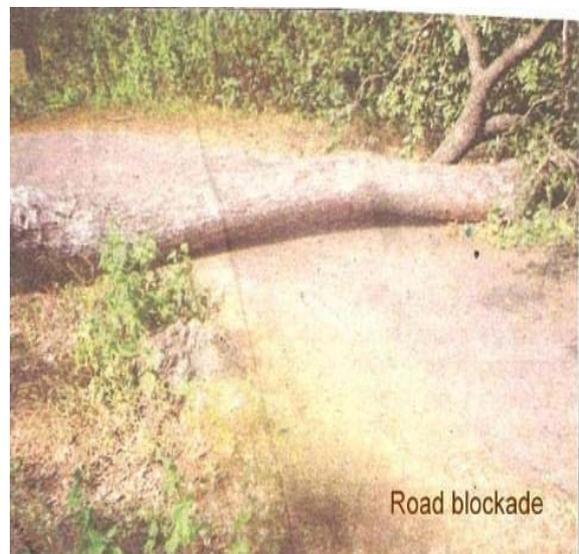
6 when he was offering several hundred-rupee notes to a woman voter in Bodili village in Geedam block in Dantewada. A FIR was filed against this fraudster. If Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his allies spent hundreds of crores of rupees to buy the support of MPs during the No Trust motion in the Lok Sabha a couple of months earlier, what is there to be surprised if a Mahendra Karma offered notes for votes to the adivasi voters! In their lust for power every Party competed with others in pouring out huge amounts of currency notes in exchange for votes. But the anger and hatred of the people against Mahendra Karma ran so high due to the blood-bath unleashed by him in the name of salwa judum, that even his notes failed to get him enough votes to cling on to the Assembly seat for another term.

The promises made by the Congress and BJP—the two major parties that contested the elections in Chattisgarh—make amusing stories. First, the BJP government announced that it would supply rice at Rs. 3 a kg to the poor. Congress came out with the offer of Rs.2. Not to be outwitted, BJP announced that it would slash it to Re.1 a kg if voted back to power. And also free salt to the poor. These promises by the rival parties in their dog-fight for power reveal at least one glaring fact—that poverty, hunger and starvation of the people of Chattisgarh are so serious that every party is compelled to speak in terms of providing the most basic human needs such as rice and salt.

Maoist Boycott Campaign

As soon as the election dates were declared by the Election Commission, both the Central Committee and the Special Zonal Committee of Dandakaranya of CPI (Maoist) issued a call for the boycott of the elections. The statement from the CC pointed out: *“These elections, as any other elections to the legislative bodies in the present semi-colonial semi-feudal India, cannot bring even an iota of change in people’s lives but will only further enslave the masses. They are merely a safety valve to let out the fury and frustration of the masses by giving them the option of choosing between various bands of dacoits. The CC, CPI (Maoist), calls upon the vast masses of the country to boycott the elections which bring nothing but greater misery and destitution to the vast majority of the population and merely replace one band of dacoits with another.”*

The statement of DKSZC called upon the people to boycott the parties which come to them seeking votes. It stated: *“61 years of fake independence has not solved the basic issues of the people. More than 50% of the population remains illiterate and over 70 % survive on just Rs. 20 a day. The condition in Chhattisgarh is even worse in spite of its rich natural and mineral wealth. After the formation of the state of Chhattisgarh it has been under the Congress for three years until 2003 and since then under the BJP. Both these comprador-feudal parties had handed over the natural wealth of Chhattisgarh—its rivers, minerals, forest wealth, transport, education etc—to the imperialists, CBB and the mafia gangs in the name of ‘development’. Mines in Pallamad, Chargaon, Raoghat, Kuvvemari, Budhivarimad, Amdaimetta, Bailadilla and other places were leased out to Tatas, NIKKO, Godavari Ispat, Raipur Alloys and other big industrial houses. MOUs have been signed with Tatas, Mittal, Jindal and Essar for setting up steel industries and the government is forcing the adivasis to part with 50,000 acres of land for the benefit of these CBB houses. To provide water and power to these companies it is planning to set up Bodhghat projec on Indravati river. Dalli-Raoghat-Jagdarpur rail line and several highway projects are meant to facilitate the exploitation and plunder of the resources and displace thousands of adivasis from their villages. And to suppress the democratic struggles of the people on their just demands these parties had begun to deploy the CRPF from April 2003, increased the number continuously, set up special forces and from June 2005 unleashed the most savage state-sponsored terrorist campaign called salwa judum.*



Road blockade

“ The armed agrarian revolutionary guerrilla war under the leadership of our Party is continuing in Dandakaranya since the past 28 years and the people of the entire region are marching ahead to establish revolutionary people’s power in the vast countryside. Janathana sarkars, the organs of new democratic power have sprung up in several areas in DK. Revolutionary people’s governments are the only alternative to the rotten, wretched, exploitative parliamentary rule which is nothing but the dictatorial rule of the feudal-comprador forces in collusion with the imperialists. We call upon the masses of DK to boycott the sham elections and to establish their own organs of revolutionary people’s power in entire Dandakaranya. ”

The entire Party, PLGA and the revolutionary masses were mobilized for the political campaign of exposing the fraud of parliamentary democracy and its institutions; exposing the corrupt, unscrupulous and criminal politicians and the parliamentary political parties; holding mass meetings in hundreds of villages and educating the people through speeches and cultural performances; distributing lakhs of leaflets all over Dandakaranya and putting up posters and banners; and other methods of propaganda. The warnings from the Maoists and the road blocks and ambushes put off all the election parties from carrying on the campaign in hundreds of villages. And even in places where the Maoist presence was not much significant, the campaigning was on a low key and the candidates or representatives of the political parties were accompanied by huge contingents of police escorts. The police warned the parties not to venture into Maoist strongholds stating that they will not be able to provide adequate protection and cannot guarantee their safety. And as Election Day approached, thousands of people were mobilized along with PLGA squads and revolutionary organizations of the masses, to put up barricades all along the roads that led to the polling booths. The authorities had to cancel or shift the booths in several villages claiming it was not possible to send the polling personnel to these ‘hyper-sensitive’ areas. The polling personnel in most of the booths in the interior villages had to be transported by helicopters, ten of which were engaged by the government for the purpose, and the ballot boxes had to be shifted after the elections in the same manner.

Even using helicopters seemed dangerous after the Maoists fired at two of these and killed one flight engineer in one incident near Pidiya. Immediately after the last incident which took place on Nov 14, when the drone was used to shift the EVMs after the polling in Koilbeda in Bijapur, all other trips were cancelled and the EVMs were shifted after two days by road under heavy security. The Maoist campaign was not only political but also a military one. The entire PLGA and revolutionary masses were pressed into action with the aim of inflicting maximum possible damage to the police, central para-military forces and salwa judum goons. The scale of the campaign could be gauged by the fact that around 400 polling parties had not reached the headquarters with the ballot boxes even until the evening of November 15.

The BJP government in the state and the Congress-led government at the Centre tried to create a reign of terror by amassing the police and para-military forces in the districts of Dantewada, Bijapur, Kanker, Narayanpur, Bastar, Rajnandgaon who indulged in arrests, torture and murders of the people in several villages where the revolutionary movement is strong. People were intimidated and threatened that if they boycotted elections their houses would be destroyed and they would be killed. On Nov 11, three comrades of the people’s militia—Jaggu, Kulle and Lalu—were arrested from Kodenaar village in Koyilbeda area and shot dead in fake encounter. Lalu was a militia commander and Area Command member. Media reports falsely claimed that seven Naxals were killed in the said encounter. After the firing on the IAF helicopter near Pidiya village, the CRPF mercenaries went on a rampage attacking innocent villagers unconnected with the incident. The “bravery” of Manmohan Singh’s mercenaries could be seen from their murder of a 80-year-old adivasi in Pidiya village soon after the helicopter was attacked and a flight engineer was killed on Nov 14. Comrade Ganesh Udke, the secretary of Darbha Divisional committee of CPI (Maoist), gave the details of this dastardly act of the CRPF jawans and called upon the democratic organizations and people at large to condemn the ghastly murder of an elderly man.

According to media reports voting was disrupted at polling centres in 14 police station areas. While the reports in TV channels and the All India Radio announced this fact immediately after the polling was completed on Nov 14, by the next day however, it was claimed that moderate to heavy polling was reported from all these places! In fact, the percentages began to swell with every passing hour from the night of 14th increasing from 40 % and reaching 65 % in several areas. There were many centres where the polling parties had not even gone but reported heavy polling. Slowly facts began to trickle in, even if they are only the tip of the iceberg, that at many centres votes were placed in the ballot boxes on the way itself and the

polling personnel, accompanied by the CRPF and policemen, returned without even going to the polling centres. These came to light only in places where the voters or the political parties complained that voting was not held at the centres.

Several counter-offensive operations by the PLGA and people's militia units were successfully carried out in the month-long election boycott campaign.

Some of these incidents are given below:

** On Nov 9, two BJP leaders, Ramesh Rathor and Suryaprakash Singh chowhan, were annihilated in Bijapur district. amesh Rathor was the vice president of Hindu chauvinist BJP. Both of them were making arrangements for an election meeting in Totapara near Chota Gudra. Their vehicle was burnt to ashes. Over a score of people's militia and bhumkaal militia members carried out the attack. A Congress leader, Trinath Singh Thakur, was also annihilated. Trinath Thakur was the Congress party president of Dantewada block involved in passing on information to the police that led to the murder of two members of revolutionary mass organizations in Balud near Dantewada in May 2007 by the police. These incidents demonstrated the anger and class hatred of the masses against the leaders of BJP and Congress who had played havoc with the lives of adivasis by unleashing salwa judum goons and states armed forces on the revolutionary masses. These incidents had an adverse impact on the electioneering by various parties in the region.

** On Nov 4, Maoists fired at a helicopter after it took off from Koilbeda after a public meeting addressed by BJP leaders. A minister of Chattisgarh, Vidhan Chandrakar, and an MLA were in the helicopter but there were no casualties.

** On November 11, a fierce encounter took place between the PLGA and the police in Sarguja district in North Chhattisgarh in which the IGP BS Maravi was injured. The incident shook the top brass of the police which had been boasting that the Maoists have been eliminated in entire Sarguja.

** On November 14, another Russian-made helicopter MI-18 was fired at near Pidiya in Bijapur district when it was proceeding from Koilbeda to Bijapur after the polling. A flight engineer was killed in the incident.

** People's Militia units seized the Electronic Voting Machines from Rengagondi, Hangwa, Totar, Adnaar, Kudur, Tumdibal in Narayanpur district; Handawada, Mangana, Kidriraas, Manganaar, Muler, Pandavar, Gorkha, Chintalnar in Dantewada district; Kaamata, Badepinajari and several other villages in Kanker district.

** At around 7.30 am on the polling day (November 14), two SPOs and one DAR police were injured as they stepped on a pressure mine placed by PLGA guerrillas near Gorkha village under Bhejji PS in South Bastar division. The pressure mine was placed near the posters and banner put up at a distance of 75 metres from the polling centre. When the policemen tried to remove the posters the mine went off. The injured policemen were flown by helicopter to the hospital.

** In the after-noon of Nov 15, an anti-landmine vehicle was blown up near Mukaram culvert between Chintalnar and Chintagufa in Dantewada district. A Head Constable and one constable, belonging to the 55th Battalion of CRPF, were seriously injured in the incident. They were opening up roads for the polling parties.

** On Nov 16, seven CRPF jawans, including a Deputy Commandant, were seriously injured in a land-mine blast triggered by Maoists near Konde village on the road leading from Durgkondul to Pakhanjur. The incident took place at around 7 am when the CRPF party was returning from Pakhanjur and proceeding to Kanker after completing the poll drama.

** On November 21, PLGA guerrillas triggered off a land-mine near Bhainsgaon in North Bastar in which a Bolero vehicle carrying policemen escaped by a hairbreadth. As part of the boycott election campaign Maoists had blocked the road going from Bhanupratap Pur to Narayanpur. When the police tried to remove the trees on the road the mine went off. Some policemen received minor injuries.

** On November 25, when policemen were returning after conducting repolling, PLGA guerrillas ambushed them in Mardapal area wiping out seven policemen and injuring three. Five of these were commandos of the STF and two were from the DAR. The repolling was conducted under heavy security and fearing attack by PLGA 300 policemen, including the

CRPF and STF, were coming on foot when maoist guerrillas blasted the mine near a culvert between Glavand and Dholmundri villages under Mardapal PS.

The naked fraud of the so-called Indian parliamentary democracy

The repolling in Gougunda in Konta Assembly constituency on December 6 illustrates in the most vivid manner, the naked fraud of the so-called Indian parliamentary democracy. Gougunda centre witnessed polling three times due to complaints of fake polling. The polling personnel and the CRPF did not reach the booth on November 14 when the polling was to have taken place fearing Maoist attacks. The repolling was conducted on Nov 24. The polling personnel and the police officials did not go to the polling booth again but instead decided that the best way was to place ballots in the boxes by safely sitting in their vans. They managed to put some fake votes but were caught after the act. Cases were filed against 15 polling personnel and seven were suspended from their jobs. It was, of course, a rare instance of exposure of the usual electoral fraud. It was also a rare instance in the history of the so-called democratic elections when polling had to be conducted thrice in the presence of the district SP and thousand armed men and where security forces outnumbered the registered voters. Around 1000 CRPF and



police personnel went to the village of Gougunda to enforce the poll. Of the 711 registered voters there, none turned up initially. Well aware that the policemen would force them to cast their votes, the people of Gougunda and surrounding villages fled to the jungle. The furious policemen and the polling personnel searched for them and finally caught hold of ten people who had to cast their votes at gun-point. If such has been the result when the administration, with the help of a Battalion of policemen, tried to conduct polling in a single booth one can imagine what would have been the level of rigging resorted to in the Nov 14 polling in the 39 Assembly constituencies where Maoists have a strong presence. In Keshkal Assembly constituency repolling was ordered in Konguda, Banachapai, Baarada (Bhongapalli) polling centres on complaints that fake voting was resorted to. The polling officials did not even go to the polling centres but placed votes in the boxes. There were 1547 registered voters at the three centres. 20 officials were suspended for bogus voting and FIR was filed against them. The reason for the fake voting was fear of attacks by Maoists. Incidents like these occurred at several polling centres but only a fraction of these found place in media reports. A case was filed against 17 polling officials and three CRPF officers for having indulged in bogus polling. The polling staff did not go to the three polling centres in Bhongapalli, Farasgaon Kasai and Jhakadi but placed votes in the boxes. Repolling was conducted on Dec 3 at these three centres. In Anthagadh constituency, polling personnel did not go to the polling centre in Partap Pur, Chota Pakhanjur, Chote Bethiya, Aakmetta, according to a complaint made by a NCP candidate contesting in Anthagadh to the election commission. In Sangam centre, Buruka Swaroopnagar polling personnel stayed for a short while and returned without completing the polling. They placed votes on the way. In polling centre 52 in Maraknaar (K) Ramakrishna Nagar, out of 504 voters, 503 were said to have exercised their franchise. This unusual incident raised many eye-brows and the Congress candidate demanded an enquiry alleging that BJP in collusion with the polling officials had resorted to fake voting. It demanded repolling at the centre. In Chotabethiya and Akametta polling centres covering 11 villages in Anthagadh constituency repolling was held on Dec 3 under heaviest ever security in the constituency. The police and para-military forces were lined up along the entire route from Bande to the polling centres and in some of the villages they ordered the people to go to the polling booths and place their votes. No wonder, the election officials claimed that 74 % votes were polled which was never heard of in the past at these centres. Fear, obviously, ensures "democracy". The more fear and intimidation people are subjected to, the more the increase in percentage of polling. A newspaper reported that if repolling was undertaken in centres where there was zero percentage or single digit polling on Nov 14, the percentage may jump to over 65 %. Not a single vote was cast at six polling centres in Dantewada and six in Konta Assembly constituencies. The people of around 50 villages falling under these polling centres, remained unshaken in the midst of police threats, intimidation and coercion to cast their votes. At five centres, people led by the militia and PLGA, attacked the booths and carried away the EVMs. Four CRPF personnel were injured in these attacks. In Bijapur constituency, in Takilod, Kadenaar and Hallur centres not a single vote was cast. Only 7 votes were polled at the Mulasoli centre in Konta. EVMs were seized from three polling centres—Kamta, Badepinjori and Hilchur—in Anthagadh constituency.

Reports from Nepal

Report on the National convention, CPN(Maoist)

(The Report by Dipak Sapkota is reproduced from The Red Star, Vol-I, No-19, December 05-15, 2008)

The 'People's Federal Democratic National Republic' is now the working policy of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). The six-day long national convention of the party concluded on Nov. 26, and decided one the new policy, which in short can also be called the 'Republic of the People'. The party went through very intensive inner struggle but, at the end, the party came out more united and galvanised.

The convention was held in Kharipati, about 15 KM from Kathmandu city. Roughly 1100 regional bureau level cadres from all 13 state committees and party central advisors took part.

'Don't dream of a split'

Inaugurating the convention on Nov. 21, among a throng of local and international journalists, the Party Chairman and Prime Minister of Nepal Prachanda said that he had a different feeling from previous occasions. He further added that the convention will send tremors to the 'enemies' who dreamt that Maoists are going to split.

'At present, we are on a new stage of the history of ideological and inner struggle'; he also added that 'this is both a matter of pride and challenge'. He admitted that the people are looking towards the party seriously as their aspirations couldn't be fulfilled properly,

He challenged those who were expecting that the CPN (Maoist) would split from the latest inner-struggle. He said, 'Their dream will go in vain, those who have dreamt that the Maoist Party will split. We will prove that they are wrong. Stop dreaming of a party split'. He said the party is a revolutionary party and it can develop plans and policies to move forward. He added, 'We will lead the people's revolution to new heights and give a new message to the people from this convention.'

Two different documents

The closed session was held for three days. Two different documents were presented in the meeting for the first time in the history of CPN (Maoist). Chairman Prachanda and, number two leader of the party, Com. Mohan Baidya 'Kiran' presented their documents with short briefing. But both of them emphasized on the need for party unity. Chairman Prachanda said that it doesn't mean that the party should split when there are two different documents. Likewise, Com.Kiran said that he had not brought a different document with the intention of splitting the party.

On the second day, the participants were divided into 20 different groups plus central advisory committee forming another group. Each team comprised of about 50 participants from various state committees, to hold vigorous and heated debates on the documents. The party exercised inner party democracy. All of them had a common concern-what will be the future of the revolution?

They pointed out the pros and cons of both documents. According to participants, the debate was healthy and constructive. Most of the cadres who had spent several years in armed struggle during decade long People's War had serious concerns about the working-policy of the party.

On the fourth day of the convention the group leaders presented the synthesis of the discussions of their groups. 21 group leaders presented their views on the documents while some others who differed from their group leaders presented their own. Party Chairman and all the central leaders heard what the grass-root leaders of their party had to say about the documents and immediate working policy. The message was loud and clear- Unity, transformation and completion of the revolution.

Single document at last

The central committee meeting was held the next day to discuss over the mandate of the national convention. The meeting, with the aspirations of the convention, agreed to bring a single document to the meeting. The leaders came up with a single document that carried the slogan 'Peoples Federal Democratic National Republic'. Both Chairman Prachanda and senior leader Com.Kiran answered queries raised by the cadres during the group deliberations.

Chairman Prachanda, in a lengthy speech said that party has transformed and unified from the discussions and debates. 'The 'great debate' was approved by the 'Chunwang' meeting has been initiated', and he added, 'The evaluation of the movement and the matter of synthesis of the ideology will be the agenda for the coming party congress'.

Maoist senior leader Mohan Baidya 'Kiran' said that he put forward a different document due to anxiety about the party's present acts and future policy. 'The synthesis has been made on the condition of transformation and unity' stated Kiran. Other party leaders, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Ram Bahadur Thapa 'Badal', and Netra Bikram Chand 'Biplo' also expressed their views on the latest party decision.

On his closing speech, after the meeting applauded the decision of the party to go with a single document, PM Prachanda gave an emotional speech. He said the unity has taken the party to a new height. 'The meeting has provided the guideline and potential to move forward,' He added 'we have again gained the victory'.

Celebrations at the closing session

With the single document and the decision of the central committee to move forward united, joy and happiness was felt among the party leaders and cadres. There was music and dancing in which the leaders also participated, including Chairman Prachanda and senior leader Kiran. The celebrations overshadowed the rift between the central leaders during the convention.

What next?

The national convention gave the mandate to Chairman Prachanda to submit a document incorporating the deliberations of the central committee meeting and convention to the next central committee meeting that will be held within first week of December.

The central committee will put into action the convention's decisions and make concrete plans for the future. The meeting will make specific proposals for the party and directives for Constituent Assembly and the government. The central committee is expected to declare the party congress date for Mid June. Likewise, the party will set plans to coordinate governance, Constituent Assembly and street struggle to fulfil people's aspiration.

Editorial (Reproduced from The Red Star, Vol-I, No-19, December 05-15, 2008)

Opening of the great debate

The national convention of the CPN-Maoist has concluded with important farsighted decisions. As one of the most hopeful centres of the international Proletarian Class, the CPN-Maoist has set-up a historical record while advancing ahead. As the CPN-Maoist has already declared its decision to write a 21st century Communist Manifesto, it has also started a debate and discussion in the Communist spirit, not only in the country, but also in the world.

In course of advancing ahead to achieve its goal, the CPN-Maoist sometimes goes left and sometime goes right. But at the same time, it has not hesitated to open, accept and handle the opinions correctly within the party. It has its own history, for the participation of cadres and even people in the historical debates to reach to the correct destination.

Revolution always makes its own way. The way is not a straight but a long and winding. In the process of advancing ahead, CPN-Maoist has set a new record in the history of world proletariat class. The slogan of Constituent Assembly, incompleting in Russia, at the time of Lenin, has been completed here in Nepal. The CPN-Maoist is the largest party and the leading party of the coalition government.

While the party is trying to write a new Constitution for the newly declared Federal Democratic Republic, it has opened the forum of debate which was uncompleted in the time of Mao-Tse Tung in China. The debate Mao launched at that time was titled as the "Great Debate". The debate was closed after the death of Mao. The proletarian class, after that, was in confusion due to the lack of a live ideological debate.

However, the latest development by the CPN-Maoist about the party, Army and the state power in its document 'the development of democracy in the 21st century' has inspired the proletarian class of the world. These have been the rays of hope to create a new world.

The national convention held in November 20 to 25 in Kathmandu Valley has given emphasis to unity-struggle-transformation, meaning thesis-antithesis-synthesis. For transformation, CPN Maoist has opened the debate.

National convention : beginning the great debate

Indra Mohan Sigdel 'Basanta'

The Nepalese People's Revolution is now at a crucial juncture, full of opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, the possibilities are so great that the party's success to develop a scientific ideological and political line consistent with the present objective condition could lead the Nepalese people's revolution to a victorious accomplishment. And also, it could be a new opening of the world proletarian revolution in the beginning of the twenty-first century. While on the other hand, its failure to do so would lead to a disastrous consequence leading to an extensive demoralisation of the oppressed classes not only in Nepal but the world over. Therefore, in short, the recent National Convention of our party, the CPN (Maoist), has had an international dimension.

Clear to all is that the tactic of Constituent Assembly election and federal democratic republic that our party had taken up in Chunwang Meeting has been successfully concluded. As a result, our party emerged as the largest party in the Constituent Assembly election, the 240 year old monarchical autocratic system has been brought to an end, Nepal has been declared a federal democratic republic and, on top of that, our party the CPN (Maoist) is now leading the government. Without a doubt, it is a significant accomplishment.

On the other, in spite of this achievement there has been no any change in the semi-feudal and semi-colonial socio-economic condition of our country, the comprador bourgeoisie are leaders in the state, imperialist and expansionist intervention is on the rise, national sovereignty and territorial integrity has brought in an added danger and, in short, the basic contradiction between feudalism and imperialism and the broad Nepalese masses has not yet been resolved. These are the challenges facing our party and the revolution at present.

Truly, neither had we any fundamental difference in the past nor do we have at present in assessing and grasping the aforesaid reality and challenges. Our party is principally united on these questions. However, there were some differences. In the history of our party, the CPN (Maoist), November 17 to 26, 2008, the sharpest debates took place over the questions of line. It can also be said that it was the sharpest struggle centred on questions of ideological and political line after the initiation of people's war. Naturally, the struggle was to become sharp because the victory or failure of the Nepalese people's revolution was close and the correctness or otherwise of the political line would decide it.

With this sense of responsibility, Chairman Comrade Prachanda and Comrade Kiran placed their line documents before the CC. In those documents, the main difference was centred on, firstly, how to synthesise the entire experiences acquired ever since the initiation of people's war until now in order to have a deeper grasp of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and Prachanda path. Secondly, it was on how to develop political tactic and tactical slogan so as to help unite all of the allies of the people's revolution and isolate the principal enemy. And, thirdly, it was on how to develop under the leadership of party a coordinated mechanism of the three fronts of struggle, namely the street, constituent assembly and the government and which one to make the principal struggle.

In the history of the communist movement, the line struggle has at large centred mainly on the question of tactics. If it centres on the question of strategy, new democracy or socialism depending upon the socio-economic condition of the given country, the only meaning it gives is that the either faction are not

genuine communists. In that case, no unity is possible and the revolutionaries must go ahead even at the expense of splitting to keep the revolution on.

Right here, it is crystal clear that the differences our party had did not have any relation with strategy and the analysis of present national and international objective condition. But, definitely we had diverging views on how to go ahead from the point at which we are at.. As mentioned before, the differences were on the question of ideological synthesis, political tactic and the befitting form of struggle corresponding to it. Of them, the main point was the tactic, because the immediate political programme would either open up the way to uninterruptedly reach to strategy, the new democratic republic in our case, or lead to create a separate stage of bourgeois republic before it. Such was the situation in which our party was to act cautiously so that no separate stage of bourgeois dictatorship could emerge before new democratic revolution. It was the main point at which the line struggle has centred.

As said before, we have golden opportunities now. But the only condition to seize this opportunity is a correct ideological and political line and party's organisational unity based on it. Thus, our central committee meeting had to confront two challenges, first, to develop a correct ideological and political line as to address the present contradiction and, second, to build a strong party based on it. Given the legacy of splits after each two-line struggle in the history of communist movement, it was undoubtedly a very difficult task to maintain organisational unity in our party too. However, the only way to achieve this goal could be nothing other than open and unprejudiced two-line struggle keeping in mind the emancipation of proletariat and oppressed classes the world over. And, nothin other than intra-party democracy could make it happen.

With this understanding, the central committee meeting entered into a thoroughgoing and sharp debate over the documents that Chairman Comrade Prachanda and Comrade Kiran had put forward before the central committee. However, the party did not make either document as the only official document of the party. It was not that CC was unable to reach to a certain conclusion through a democratic process, for example majority and minority. But the CC thought that only a serious debate over two documents in the national convention could develop a higher level of understanding among the entire ranks over the ideological and political questions involved in both of the documents. So, it decided to place both of the documents before the national convention as official documents of the central committee. It was in fact a new and a developed form of democratic practice and an initiation of the great debate in our party history.

Not an exaggeration, but a fact is that it was in this convention that each and every participant took part in discussion more responsibly than before, keeping in mind the future of revolution. In spite of obvious differences in their understanding and grasp of MLM, the whole house was unanimously united on the question that party must develop a revolutionary ideological and political line and strengthen party unity based on it. In the light of spirit from the house, the central committee meeting held in between the convention reached to a unanimous position as mentioned below.

Firstly, taking into account of basically a unanimous position of the house, it decided to bring out a single document in the next CC meeting, organise an

internal forum based on the Leninist concept of 'freedom in expression and unity in action' prior to the forthcoming Party Congress and synthesise thereby the experiences and ideological and political positions that we had taken up during ten years of people's war, 19 days mass movement, the ongoing peace process and so forth. So the whole chapter of synthesis was deferred till the upcoming Party Congress.

Secondly, setting aside those which comrade Prachanda and comrade Kiran had placed before the CC and the national convention, the CC meeting developed a skeleton of unanimous immediate political programme. The new political slogan termed as 'People's Federal Democratic National Republic', the People's Republic in short, was in fact, a synthesised expression of the programmes, 'Federal and Competitive Pro-people Republic' and 'National Federal People's Republic' that Chairman Comrade Prachanda and Comrade Kiran had proposed respectively through their documents.

Thirdly, the CC meeting decided to build up a mechanism under party leadership to coordinate all the three fronts of struggle, in which the street struggle would be the principal one.

When these CC decisions were placed before the house for approval the whole house unanimously ratified them and so the entire rank and file was united more strongly than before. The development of political programmes and sorting out of corresponding forms of struggles was of course a matter of joy among the delegates, including the whole CC members. The bitterness that was at times witnessed among the participants in the course of discussion in the house turned into an ideological and political unity and comradely feeling with each other. In short, this national convention became such a platform where the entire participants took part vigorously along the lines placed by two comrades and finally helped reach to a stronger unity and higher sense of responsibility for the New Democratic Revolution in Nepal under the leadership of Chairman Comrade Prachanda. This is of course a victory of not only the Nepalese proletariat but also the oppressed classes of the entire world.

December 1, 2008

(The following excerpt is from an article in *The Red Star* written by **Dharmendra Bastola, a central committee member of CPN(Maoist)**. **This is being reproduced as it presents an understanding of the concept of the People's Federal Democratic National Republic of the CPN(M) leadership)**

The slogan: People's Federal Democratic National Republic

The Kharipati National Convention has been a landmark in the history of the Nepalese revolutionary movement. It has been a breakthrough in the ongoing political process of the Democratic Republic. It has charted how to advance to a People's Republic.

The great People's War was initiated in 1996 to overthrow the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat. Minimum programme of the great People's War is to accomplish the New Democratic Revolution and advance to socialism. The CPN-M had adopted a tactical slogan: Democratic Republic aiming to abolish monarchy. The tactic of the historic Chunawang meeting of the Central Committee of the Party had ushered the

way to a Federal Democratic Republic that has finally abolished the monarchy. After the abolition of monarchy, this slogan had fallen behind, and was insufficient to lead the society ahead to accomplish the New Democratic Revolution.

Even though the feudal monarchy has been abolished, the semi-feudal semi-colonial character of Nepal has not changed. As long as the rooted feudalism and comprador bureaucrat capitalism is not abolished, the Nepalese people cannot be free, and the national economy cannot be built up. To make the Nepalese people free of the feudal oppression; and bureaucrat capitalist domination, the Nepalese people have to establish a new government that is People's Federal Democratic National Republic. In essence, this national republic is a People's Republic. This People's Republic will be a state where the nationalist, patriotic, democratic and the revolutionary forces will exercise a joint dictatorship under the leadership of the proletariat. This state will be a special type of dictatorship of the proletariat that will take the country towards socialism.

The slogan People's Federal Democratic National Republic encompasses the necessary characteristics that are historically demanded by Nepalese society. The term "federal" ensures internal security of the oppressed regions and nationalities. Against the centralised feudal state, the Nepalese society has demanded a federal structure on the basis of the right to self-determination of the nation. The term "democratic" represents the competition among the friendly organisations to lead government in the state of People's Republic. Again, democracy is a dictatorship, the dictatorship of the revolutionary forces that stand against feudalism and comprador bureaucrat capitalism. The term "national" represents the external security from imperialism and expansionism. And, in essence, the state will be a People's Republic with the joint dictatorship of the friendly forces."

Nepal PM Prachanda offers to quit

21 Nov 2008

KATHMANDU: Facing strengthening public anger over the murder of two youths, allegedly by his own party cadres, and facing a persistent challenge to his leadership from his own comrades, Nepal's Maoist prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda offered to quit on Friday, only three months after having assumed office.

'If my stepping down as PM resolves problems, I am ready to step down,' Prachanda said at his official residence in Baluwatar during a crisis talk, a member of the talks team said.

Ishwar Bidari, a member of civil society group Nagarik Sangharsh Samiti that had called a Kathmandu valley bandh on Thursday to seek justice for the killing of city boys Nirmal Pant and Pushkar Dangol, allegedly by the Young Communist League (YCL), the Maoists' strong arm, said he and eight other Samiti members met Prachanda on Friday morning when he offered to step down.

According to Bidari, the Maoist supremo also confessed that he was being alienated from civil society due to the activities of some cadres and would tender a public apology for the killings. Prachanda also pledged to form a judicial commission to bring the perpetrators to justice.

It was a humbling start for the former guerrilla leader who two years ago led a successful war on Nepal's omnipotent royal dynasty. More fireworks are expected in the course of the week as the Maoists' national convention finally kicked off in Bhaktapur in the afternoon after several postponements.

Over 1000 representatives from Nepal's 75 districts have converged in Bhaktapur for the first national meet after more than 20 years to discuss the future policies of the party as well as its leadership. The meet begins after a contentious three-day gathering of the 35-member central committee in which Prachanda was challenged, for the second time this year, by the leader of the hardliners in the party, Mohan Vaidya.

Vaidya, whose nom de guerre was Kiran, was imprisoned in India's Siliguri jail for almost two years after his arrest from the Indian township in March 2003. Vaidya, a staunch follower of Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, is opposing Prachanda's proposal that the Maoists drop Mao and call itself the Communist Party of Nepal.

He is also opposing the moderate Prachanda's bid to have a democratic multi-party republic in Nepal, instead advocating the single-party republic that controls all sectors, as in China. At the central committee meeting of the party, that ended Friday noon, both Prachanda and Vaidya submitted separate proposals and the other members failed to bridge the gulf.

Now the two statements will be put before the national convention, which would decide if Prachanda or Vaidya should prevail. The dissent over party policies delayed the national convention and forced Prachanda to abandon his third trip to India this year.

He had earlier consented to attend a leadership summit in New Delhi that kicks off Friday.

Nepal: Maoism is our identity not a tail - Mohan Vaidya Kiran 21/10/2008

You are considered as a hardliner in the Maoists' Party. Tell us briefly where and on what account you differ sharply with the party?

Kiran: I feel that conspiracies are on to foil the Maoists' established credentials. After I was released from the Indian prison, talks of artificial division in and among the hardliners and the liberals have cropped up. I think specifically the revolutionary ideology of the Maoists is being targeted deliberately. The trend has been that if one talks on ideological grounds he or she is labeled as a hardliner. As far as differences are concerned, I do not have any objection to the party. And of myself who would always tell my mind without hesitation. However, the moot questions remain intact. There is the great danger that in the name of liberalism whether the party will loose its basic ideology? Are we forgetting our commitments? Whether our commitment to National Sovereignty is on the continuous wane? Is the party falling into the trap set by the Rightists? These are not my personal concerns, instead should be the concerns of the party as a whole?

Tell us something about the hullabaloo over changing the party's tag? There is a kind of competition among the Maoists and the UML in removing Mao's name from the party tag? What say you?

Kiran: As far as the UML is concerned, I personally feel that it is not even a Communist party. There are some leaders in the UML camp who believe in communist ideology but the party is not a communist party. Thus there should not be any debate even if it declares that it is no more a communist party. However, in our case changing the party tag is irrelevant and illogical.

Your Party Chairman has already said that the debate over abandoning the party tag is on in the party for over two years now? Is Mao's name a tail now?

Kiran: As is normal of a political party we too discuss and debate over several critical and crucial issues. Nevertheless, without making a formal decision over the contentious issue, nothing can be taken for granted. For us, Maoism is the party's identity—it is not at all a "tail" as it is being interpreted by some both within and without. It is the prime identity of the peoples' revolt. In the UML's case it is indeed a tail but not for the Maoists as such.

Unless a formal decision is taken by the party whosoever is advocating the case of dropping the tag are his/her personal considerations.

Regarding the Communist unity is concerned I do not rule out the possibility in the distant future but for the time being it is not possible.

What about the inner rift in your party as regards the Militia integration is concerned?

Kiran: It is also a critical issue but there is no difference as you have pointed out. We have charted out clear party lines over the issues of peace process, constitution drafting and the Militia integration. We need rather to devise modalities for the integration process—we need thorough discussion over this issue as well.

What about the emerging differences between you and party president?

Kiran: The political situation is such that it demands debates and discussions. That's all.

Where is the Maoists' party heading towards?

Kiran: Revolutionary spirit is still kicking and alive in the party paraphernalia. Nevertheless, we need to continuously rectify our mistakes as there is the concern among our supporters whether the party is deviating away from its prime ideological premises. The central leadership, unfortunately, has kept itself away from the people—which should not have been the case.

The party is undergoing a transition as the State too is. We are yet to totally dismantle past set-up and rebuild a new one.

Tell us about the debate on People's Republic and Democratic Republic?

Kiran: We are still mulling over the issue. It needs ample discussion as it is directly linked to drafting the new constitution. It is my belief that Democracy as such needs to be redefined in the Nepali context else drafting the constitution becomes redundant. And it is only but normal that in such critical issues various opinions emerge and there also the collision.

Why is it that there are so much of differences in the Maoists' Camp?

Kiran: More than concentrating on making determined efforts we have

exhibited flexibility. No compromise should be made on our ideology—this is what I believe.

The Maoists have come this far ahead after holding intense debates and discussions. The party will continue to serve the people in this way. However such discussions and debates should not become public—that will invite anarchy.

How do you evaluate the government performance?

Kiran: It will only become a premature evaluation. We want to move ahead, yet we do not have the needed absolute majority. Old mindset prevails in the bureaucracy. Nevertheless we are determined in our set objectives.

Political revolution vs. economic revolution—it is also being debated in the party?

Kiran: Political revolution is yet to conclude. It is still on. We are still within the framework of the democratic republic. Some of our friends have begun talking of the economic revolution. I don't think that unless political revolution comes to a positive end, economic revolution is possible.

(Courtesy: Naya Patrika Daily, October 21, 2008)

Why I resigned from the ministry

- Matrika Yadav

We are still going through a transitional situation. A tripartite struggle is still carrying on. The different powers are vigorously struggling to defend their own class interests. The regressive, status quo and the progressives are the major tendencies here. We cannot consolidate the old state power by forgetting our commitments, our class interests and the dreams of the martyrs.

Our expectation and priority is to end discrimination and inequality through a proper debate. However, the regressive and status quo reactionaries are trying to stop and pull the society towards a regressive direction by hook or by crook. The brutal repression of the homeless and the poor peasants in Mirchaiya of Siraha district is a symbolic action to strengthen the feudalistic-comprador and bureaucratic system. Reactionaries are trying to foil the Maoist government by showing it is unable to champion the cause of the poor.

A handful is in favour of chasing the homeless people from their huts. They are shouting loudly that it would better for minister Matrika not to lead the campaign to re-establish the homeless there. These people have concentrated or tried to concentrate the attention of the people not on the issue, but on the person. I have been involved in politics for many years, with a dream to do something in favour of poor and homeless people. I never dreamt of being a minister or prime minister in my life. I still firmly hold on to our ultimate goal. I don't want to be a minister at the cost of giving up the interests of the proletarian class.

I have not diverted from my goal of helping the poor, whether I am in the post of minister or not. I didn't want to stay on the post of minister by forsaking the interests of our own proletarian class. The homeless poor people had settled on the confiscated land of a feudal landlord under a slogan given by our party. However, those poor homeless people were harassed and chased by a home administration with the help of the police, without providing any alternative for them to live. Our party is leading the government, but homeless poor people

are being chased from their huts. Then, I could not stand by and watch all these brutal activities of the administration. I felt dishonoured for being helpless. I couldn't even endure it, then, I came out to the reach of the people.

I asked the home minister not to chase the poor people from their huts without providing any alternative. However, he did not listen to my humble request. He occupied the land and chased the people forcefully. The Home minister pushed the poor into a sea of trouble for the defence of the monarchical-feudalist. I am confident that our party should not be against the interests of homeless people.

We are able to write about scientific land-reform in the interim constitution because of our initiative. The Prime minister has repeatedly talked and promised to work in favour of the homeless and the land-less. He repeated it when he responded in the Constitution Assembly about the policy and programme of the government.

But, in the same evening, the home administration and the police rained Lathis over the heads of the homeless and shed blood and tears. It was unbearable for me. I went to the field quickly and told the homeless to stay in their huts until and unless an alternative place or occupation is given to them. How could I live in a luxurious building and tour in an official facilitated vehicle of minister at that time? I am the leader of those poor and homeless people. I cannot change my ideas and apply the anti-people agendas of UML and Madhesi Jana Adhikar Forum. Due to these reasons, I resigned from the post of Minister for Land Reform and Management.

The incident of Mirchaiya of the Siraha district had not happened according to my wish. I had only opposed the brutal repression that took place under the order of the Home Minister. The Mirchaiya incident is only a representative incident to have come to the surface. If the anti-people plan and conspiracies succeed here, brutal repressions will follow all over the country. We cannot easily escape from this incident simply by accusing the Home Minister Bamdev Gautam, because the coalition government is under the leadership of our party. Therefore, we will get more complaints from the people than the other parties. People expected more from our party and nothing from the UML and MJF.

We cannot forget our commitments that we have made before the people. The post of minister is nothing before the great ultimate goal and commitment of our party among the people. In the name of running the government and being a minister, we should not and cannot consolidate the power of feudalistic, comprador and bureaucrat order in the state. I can work and help the exploited classes, regions, gender and marginalized so far as the ideology, party and leadership is correct and the government works in favour of them. If the ideology, party, party leadership and the government will be against the people, there will be no relationship with the people.

The differences of opinion within our party

Netra Bikram Chand 'Biplap'

The Red Star, Vol-I, No-18, November 16-30, 2008

We should say honestly that there is a difference of opinion on how to accomplish the Nepalese Revolution. Mainly, the difference of opinion is about the party line, political program and tactics in our party. This clearly justifies that a serious u-turn has occurred before the Nepalese Revolution. The

responsibility of carrying the revolution ahead successfully has fallen upon the shoulders of the revolutionary communists of Nepal and the revolutionary communists of the world. We all should direct our attention to it.

1) The difference of opinion on political program:

The main bone of contention is whether the party should advance ahead for People's Republic or stay in the stage of democratic republic. In our central committee meeting held from 4 to 6 October 2008, Party Chairman, Comrade Prachanda put forward a program to remain in the Democratic Republic. His spoken proposal pointed out the necessity of the tactics of democratic republic; there is no favorable situation to advance into the People's Republic. On the contrary, he pointed out the need to synthesize the ideology based on the achievements gained up until democratic republic. After the proposal of Com. Prachanda, Com. Kiran disagreed with the program of democratic republic, and put forward a written proposal for a People's Republic. Com. Kiran proposed that the appropriateness of the democratic republic is over and the party should advance ahead towards the People's Republic.

We must understand some of the aspects that the declared and authentic political program of our party was from the beginning a new People's Democracy. According to the validity of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, the central question of the People's War is to achieve people's state power and that is the new people's power. This objective has not changed until now. An interesting aspect is that the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Unified Marxist and Leninist (UML) are more active in the operation of the state than during the period of the monarchy, when the PW began. The Parliamentarians carried out barbaric repressions against us. Viewed from this aspect, the People's War was against even the multiparty parliamentary system. Our slogan was, "Let's not remain under the illusion of parliamentary system! Let's prepare for a new people's democratic revolution!"

When the PW was advancing ahead to its climax, King Gyanendra took power in his hands through a 'coup' over the parliamentary parties. Let us remember that this was a fascist step to reverse the defeat of parliamentarians and the victory of the people through PW. The 'coup' of Gyanendra polarized the situation. The Democratic republic was the outcome of this polarization. At that time, we had a clear conception that the democratic republic will only be a transitional tactic for a united front with parliamentary parties against the monarchy.

The transitional tactics show that the tactics for the democratic republic are not the tactics to replace the new People's Republic; rather it was the tactics for the new People's Republic that has ended along with the abolition of monarchy and the establishment of republic in the country.

The class character of the democratic republic is of a bourgeois class character. After the constituent assembly, the monarchy has been abolished and the republic has been established, however, there is no change in its class character. The party has reached up to the super structure of the state power, the constituent assembly government; but all of the bases belong to the old class power. The economy, military organization, administrative structure and the laws are of the old power. There is no possibility to hand those bases over to the people by a simple process or by peaceful means. For this, a new political program is necessary to be taken among the people. It is clear that remaining

in the democratic republic instead of advancing forward to the People's Republic is to distance the goal of building the people's power according to the basic programs related to Marxism under the leadership of the proletarian class; and stumbling and being stuck into the parliamentary morass under the bourgeois class state power. These are the main differences between democratic republic and the People's Republic.

2. The strategic difference:

The second difference is on how to accomplish the Nepalese revolution; by insurrection or by peaceful struggle. Although our party has reached to this stage through the line of the people's War, armed struggle and the strategy of insurrection, we had said that there was a little possibility of a peaceful development of revolution as we had entered into the peaceful process 2 years ago.

Even though we accepted that type of possibility in a specific time, however, it is impossible in such a country like ours. However, some of our comrades in the leadership are in favour of peaceful transition through the democratic republic. This tendency is talking about insurrection while at the same time it is breaking down the bases of the insurrection (the fusion of PLA, sending the professional revolutionaries back to their homes, sending them to hold jobs, giving emphasis only in the economic reform and the economic willfulness within party clearly show it). It has brought the peaceful transition before in practice. We have our opinion that the specialty of the Nepalese revolution is necessarily armed and, in this way, the revolution will succeed.

For that, the PLA should be consolidated instead of fusing them, and the full-timer cadres should be given political work instead of sending them back home.

In the strategic issue, Chairman Comrade Prachanda and some other comrades say that the revolution is possible from the top-level through the government and the legislative-parliament. However, in our opinion, it is only the minor aspect, and the main aspect is a People's revolt; and it should be so. The government and the legislative-parliament should change what they can, but it is not possible to shatter the old state power, which has army, administration, law and capitalism. There is possibility of a simple reform; however, the birth of a new power is impossible just through simple reform. Therefore, the strategy of top-level intervention is connected with peaceful strategy and it is not a matter over simple tactics. This is the second difference of opinion.

3. The tactical difference:

The third difference of opinion is on whether we should apply the tactics of class struggle or the tactics of reform. Chairman Comrade Prachanda has presented the tactics into 4-points: 1) the writing of a new constitution, 2) building new army by fusing the two armies, 3) extension of the publicity of the budget, 4) development and construction. He argues that the insurrection will be in the struggle of writing constitution or in the fusion of the army etc.

Our opinion is that these afore mentioned points are the points to be used in tactics, however, these points are not revolutionary but reformist in essence. These points can be the points of reform and compromise; but these are not the points to ensure the insurrection. These points have governmental specialty, but they are not unique to the party.

Along with it, it is necessary for a strong People's Liberation Army, a large scale of the devoted cadres and a clear plan for the struggle. In our opinion, these points can be used only to show, but the party should fix the revolutionary tactics. Mainly, the tactics should be to hit strongly upon the bases and the bodies of the comprador capitalist power and shatter them. To do so, the struggle should be oriented to shatter the old economic base, the arenas of the comprador capitalist and the old cultural structure. Simultaneously, the tactics should be to raise the peasant movement, dissolution of the old army from inside and outside; to hand over the power to the people. Likewise, the tactics should be applied to make united front among patriots and communists and run the struggle by giving top priority to nationalism. These points will fulfill the role of revolutionary tactics. Recently, we have our opinion that some of the tactical-points can be implemented through the government's side by putting the revolutionary tactics at the front. Otherwise, the implementation of the tactics, separated from the revolutionary tactics, will necessarily be trapped in reformism and will be dissolved into negotiationism.

In totality, we have our own opinion that the political program, strategy and tactics proposed by the Chairman Com. Prachanda represent reformism. If we advance ahead through these tactics, it is clear that our party will be drowned into the swamp of reformism up over its head. The only solution is that the party should advance ahead through the political program of the People's Republic, the strategy of insurrection and the tactics of class struggle. It will accomplish the Nepalese people's revolution, although it is risky.

Writer is a central committee member of CPN (Maoist).

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"The political situation in Nepal is polarising. There are debates and discussions about issues that have already been agreed upon. The debate ignores the important issues of writing the new constitution, army integration, and economic development. However, the political parties are creating conflict instead of helping to write the new constitution. The political parties are polarising according to their class interests.

The President of the Nepali Congress, Girija Prasad Koirala, former Panchayat era ministers, Surya Bahadur Thapa and Pashupati Samsher Rana, are trying to form a rightist front, although they are calling it a 'democratic' front. Furthermore, the Indian ambassador Rakesh Sood and the former King Gyanendra frequently visit and conspire with this rightist 'democratic' alliance. These parties are trying to topple the government. They are trying to tie the hands of the government, to make the government fail, and are spreading lies about the government. Even in the Maoist base areas, the people have not benefited from the new government because of the hurdles created by the reactionary opposition.

The situation is critical and the transition to a Federal Democratic Republic is being unnecessarily prolonged. The international powers are trying to establish military camps on Nepalese soil. In particular, India is pressuring Nepal to establish a security mechanism inside Nepalese territory. The intervention of Indian expansionism has been the major obstacle in the ongoing peace process."

"The CPN-Maoist must form a revolutionary nationalist alliance to struggle against the rightist front under the leadership of Nepali Congress. The CPN-

Maoist can implement its plan and programme only through a People's Movement. The Maoist should not hesitate to open three fronts of struggle together: the government, Constituent Assembly and the street. Struggling in the street with the masses will help the other two fronts of struggle. The proper handling of the struggle on 3 fronts will decide the fate and future of Nepal and the Nepalese people. It will lead the people towards the People's Federal Democratic National Republic.

The CPN-Maoist will lead and initiate the polarisation of the revolutionary forces against the rightist alliance. The party will create a united front with revolutionaries and nationalists. The unification of the party with the CPN-Unity Centre-Masal is a concrete step toward the unity of revolutionary forces against the rightist alliance.

Anti-people reactionaries are bringing up many trivial issues, one after another. They want to make an issue over the non-issue of Pashupatinath temple priests.

The army, the religious temples, and the bureaucracy are the main pillars of the old reactionary state. Now that the Federal Democratic Republic is being institutionalised, the US, Indian as well as domestic reactionaries are trying to use these sectors as tools to revive the feudal and anti-people forces, to oppose and reject even the first steps of the government towards progress. The people will utterly defeat the reactionary forces."

"Nepali Congress and other parliamentary parties are trying to reestablish the dirty parliamentary culture through its continuous hurdles before the government. The government has not been able to implement even minimum programmes of reform and relief. Reactionaries are trying to encircle CPN-Maoist.

The opposite activities and the division of the parties into establishment and opposition has polarized the parties into two antagonistic poles. Instead of helping the government in a creative way, the opposition is trying to lead the situation into confrontation. The foreign powers, mainly India and America, are backing them to push the country into civil war. These reactionaries want to declare Nepal as a failure country and interfere in the internal affairs of the country. These imperialist powers are in a master plan to encircle China and make Nepal an international playground.

The regressive and the reactionaries are reacting in every ordinary step that the government starts. The struggle has been started in another form. To resist against these reactionary steps, CPN-Maoist has opened a new front for struggle, which includes the fronts of government, Constituent Assembly and the Street. The party will handle these fronts in a united way.

This type of new front was not opened in the history of communist movement. Explaining the suitability of the front, Com. Prachanda says, "The front has been opened according to the aspiration and the mandate of the people." In the party classes organized in the various parts of the country, Chairman Com. Prachanda gave directive to the cadres to involve in the struggle and carry it to the level of the people.

"The cadre will be mobilised in a awareness programme for nationality, people's republic and their livelihood. The cadre will help the people to implement the budget programme in local areas. For this, a broader united front among leftist,

progressive, nationalist and the democratic forces will be formed for local level to the central level....In charge of the organization bureau Com. Kiran claimed that the front of the street will be the main. This street front will be a strong support and help to the other two fronts of the government and the front of the Constituent Assembly."

"Regarding the future, the reactionary elements are raising the slogan of 'democratic alliance' against the people and the revolutionary and progressive forces. The slogan of 'democratic alliance' is a conspiracy to not handover power to the people. It is an anti-people alliance under the colourful name of democracy or 'democratic alliance'.

This critical situation demands the unity and alliance of revolutionaries and progressive forces. The disunited revolutionary forces should unite in a single organization or party. Obviously, a united front is made among the revolutionary, progressive, patriotic and pro-people individuals, institutions and parties or organizations.

According to the need of history, the CPN-Maoist and CPN (Unity Centre-Masal) will unite soon. This unity will bring a new hope to the people. The anti-people forces are raising the issue of a 'democratic alliance' mainly to check the flow of cadres and sympathisers towards revolutionaries and progressive parties and the alliance. They are spreading vicious rumours against the revolutionaries to maintain their social order and exuberant existence.

The people are waiting for a new constitution that will institutionalizes the Federal Democratic Republic and establish the authority of the sovereign people. The Nepalese people have understood the conspiracy against the creation of a New Nepal. For the people to be powerful means also to make the anti-people powers weak.

In this political situation, Nepal is going to be restructured into a federal structure. People are expecting a new Nepal that will guarantee the fundamental rights of the people. They are in favour of implementing the previous agreements and the understandings. They want to see the powerful and dominant role of revolutionary and pro-people forces."

Row over new recruitment to the Nepal army

Minister of defense, Ram Bhadur Thapa 'Badal', today claimed that the recent drive for recruitment of 2400 new solders for vacant posts is against the CPA. The chief of Army Staff, R. Katwal is against the terms and conditions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and doesnt have any mandate to indulge in political discourse.

Meanwhile, the CPN (UML) are supporting the Nepal armys drive for recruitment, according to their General Secretry Jal Nath Khanal.

New Nepal with 800 districts

The Culture and State Restructure Minister, Gopal Kiranti, has proposed a new conception about the geo-political structure of the Federal Democratic Republic. According to his proposal, the Federal Republic will have 800 districts all over the country. Now, there are only 75 districts in the country.

The Federal Republic will have three layers of the administrative mechanism. There will be a Federal (central) government or the government of Nepal on

top, autonomous state government in the middle and the local (districts) governments at the lower level. The central government will 'play the role of co-ordination'. The autonomous state government will 'exercise political rights or the exercise of class struggle' and the local government will play 'the role of peace, security and reconstruction'.

According to the concept proposed by Minister Kiranti, the concept of the local body will be based on the concept of 800 districts. It means that there will be 800 local governments. Eight hundred districts mean 800 bazaars, 800 hundred industrial cities, 800 modern hospitals, 800 universities and 800 grand communes. Politically, it will be the institutionalization of 'direct democracy' instead of 'formal or parliamentary democracy'.

The culture of the marginalized will be given priority. Different cultures will be promoted. The culture, having the character of People's Republic and nationalities, will be established. That will be the foundation of People's Culture against expansionist and imperialist culture. The culture will promote the culture of multi-caste and be multi-lingual. *-Pratik Sigdel*

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Press Release:

November 15, 2008

Barack Obama's Presidency cannot refurbish the image of

American Imperialism!

Oppressed nations and people of the world should unite to defeat

US imperialism!!

Faced with the deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression, rapidly declining standards of living for a significant chunk of US population, increasing home foreclosures, and the ill-effects of two wars of aggression and continuous massive military build-up, it is not surprising that an African-American and a first-time senator from the Democratic Party, Barack Obama, should win the US Presidential election. The corporate-financial elite ruling America brought Obama to the fore in their desperation to refurbish the image of American imperialism badly battered during the reign of George Bush. They think that Obama's relatively clean image and his African-American descent would be acceptable to the American people and the world at large. Given the depth of the current crisis and its impact on the people of the US, the frustration, anger and dissatisfaction of the people against the policies and misrule of Bush, anyone who contested against Republican Bush would have easily won the election.

The overwhelming opposition of the people to Bush shows the grave impact of the crisis on the lives of the people. Reports speak of a third of the US population living in extreme hunger and starvation. Even many Third World countries fare better than a considerable section of the American people. Moreover, Bush has become synonymous with a whole new vocabulary of anti-people terms: Guantanamo Bay, Ab-Ghraib, global war on terror, weapons of mass destruction, bail-outs, if-you-are-not-with-us-you-are-with-terrorists, homeland security, and so on. Hated by the world people as the biggest terrorist and vast majority of the world population eager to lynch him if ever an opportunity presented itself, Bush had become the safest bet for the victory of Obama.

Moreover, the victory of Obama also points to the acute contradictions within the American ruling classes accentuated by the deepening crisis. The sectarian and disastrous policies of the Republicans under Bush had alienated even a section of the ruling elites such as the Big Three of Detroit who felt humiliated by Bush denying them a share in the bail-out package of \$700 bln which is exclusively meant for the mortgage and investment banks.

But can Obama bring any basic change in the lives of the people? Can he break with the policies of his predecessor Bush? He had already declared that there would be continuity of policies pursued by Bush, that he would increase the troop strength in Afghanistan and step up attacks on so-called Al Qaeda bases in Pakistani territory, his tall talk of withdrawal of troops from Iraq is only due to the increasing casualties suffered by US troops and growing world-wide opposition and also in order to deploy them in Afghanistan. He is one with Bush in bailing out the rich and wealthy corporations from the financial crisis. Prior to the election, he met the representatives of the monopoly capitalist class and assured that he would bail them out of the crisis if he was elected as President. *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and a big section of the mainstream media suddenly made a turnabout and endorsed Obama which gave a further fillip to his Presidential campaign. Even the consistently Republican supporter Ike *The Chicago Tribune*, and ex-secretary of state under George Bush, Colin Powell, endorsed Obama abandoning their own Republican candidate. So much was the enthusiasm, and, of course, compulsion, among the corporate-financial elites of America for Obama that his campaign managers collected funds that had far surpassed the fund collections of George Bush in the last elections. By approving the \$ 700 bln bail-out package Obama has proved himself to be no different than Bush in transferring wealth of the poor to the filthy rich, from the Main Street to the Wall Street.

The entire world media and the reactionary classes have hailed Obama's victory as a victory of the people, a victory of the Blacks, women and have-nots. They showered praises on the resilience and greatness of US democracy. They tried to hush up the reality of the US crisis, its tottering economy, and its designs for global hegemony. Some predicted that Obama would reverse the policies of Bush, put an end to militarism and war-mongering, restore democracy, assist in bringing a new balanced world order, and so on. In India too, some hoped that a similar 'miracle' would happen here and a Dalit would become the President of the country. All this is nothing but media hype.

Whether it is George Bush or Barack Obama America is not going to see any real change for the better. Power and authority are not in the hands of any individual, however powerful he/she might seem outwardly, but in the hands of the ruling class dominated by a tiny military-industrial, corporate-financial elite. The US military machine is pre-programmed to carry out aggression, invasion, subversion, bullying, mass murder irrespective of the consequences to fulfill its aim of achieving global hegemony. Bush or Obama can only act as the instruments to carry out these goals, the only difference being that of degree of efficiency in the execution of this global project and the degree of deception that one is capable of. Hence, hushing up this stark fact, a hype and so-called mass appeal has been diligently built up by the ruling elites and the media around Obama, projecting him as a saviour who can pull out America from the mess that it had come to be particularly under eight years of George Bush.

The oppressed people and nations of the world are going to confront an even more formidable and dangerous enemy in the form of an African-American President of the most powerful military machine and world gendarme. Under Obama, the new killer-in-chief of the pack of imperialist wolves, all the policies pursued by George Bush will stay in place with a few cosmetic changes. The world people should unite to wage a more relentless, more militant and more consistent struggle against the American marauders led by Barack Obama and pledge to defeat them to usher in a world of peace, stability and genuine democracy. Any illusions on the so-called black President of the most dangerous imperialist power will lead to greater enslavement and misery for the oppressed people and nations of the world.

(Signed)

Azad,
Spokesperson,
Central Committee,
CPI (Maoist)

**COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

Press Release:

November 17, 2008

**The ever-deepening crisis in the global economy points once again
to the urgent need to overthrow the rapacious capitalist system
and usher in socialism!**

The entire world is caught in the worst-ever economic crisis ever since the Great Depression of 1930. Starting with the US the crisis has extended to entire Europe, Japan, China, South East Asia, India and the entire world. Stock markets have been crashing without any let up leading to billions of dollars of losses. Biggest banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions have gone bankrupt in the US. By November 14, Germany, and on the next day, 15-member Euro Zone for the first time in its nine-year history, officially declared that they had entered into recession. Stories of bankruptcies, job losses, inflation, credit crunch, drastic decline in purchasing power of the mass of people bring into one's mind horrifying memories

of the Great Depression. The mammoth automobile industry in the US that contributes almost a tenth of its revenues, has gone bust leading to unprecedented job losses.

The monopoly capitalist class has been desperately trying to bail itself out of the crisis by resorting to massive bail-out packages at the cost of the poor taxpayers. \$700 bln was announced by the Bush administration, then another \$250 bln was announced to buy the capital of the banks. Germany, Italy, France, Spain and other countries of Europe have announced several billion dollars of bail-out packages for their monopoly corporations and financial institutions. China released \$590 bln stimulus package to check the downward slide in public consumption and closures of industries. In India, desperate moves are being made such as cutting down interest rates, decreasing the CRR and increasing liquidity to stimulate the economy.

The top 20 countries, G-20, met in Washington on November 15/16 in a desperate bid to find a solution to the crisis afflicting the world economy and to avoid the wave of protectionism that had characterised the period of the Great Depression. There is talk of reforming the Bretton Woods system of 1944 and replace the IMF and World bank with new institutions to reflect the new world situation and to accommodate the interests of the G-20 countries. A consensus is sought to be achieved—an impossible dream in the capitalist-imperialist system which is characterised by a mad race for super-profits by every monopoly capitalist.

While billions of working people world-wide are reeling under the burden of rising prices, job losses, hunger and starvation, a tiny upper crust of the corporations, financial institutions and the super-rich is receiving bonuses and massive salary hikes.

The reasons for the present crisis is capitalist greed and blind drive of the market-place where no one knows what would be the outcome of the mad rush for profits. There is total anarchy as each capitalist tries to increase the profits through such heinous means as speculation, trading in derivatives, sub-prime lending, and so on. And one of the main reasons for the crisis in the US economy that had led to the world crisis in the first place is the wars of aggression it had unleashed against Iraq, Afghanistan and its huge outlays on defence. But one can certainly say that the world that would emerge from the current economic and political crisis will be characterised by greater concentration and centralisation of capital in the hands of a few monopoly capitalists, more intense competition and an intensification of inter-imperialist contradictions, greater militarisation and war-mongering, even more blatant wars of aggression and oppression of nations and people of the world,

Barack Obama's victory itself is a result of the deep economic crisis in US economy. Any other Tom, Dick and Harry would have come out victorious in the US Presidential election if he/she opposed the policies of George Bush.

No summits of big powers, no bail-out packages, no reform of the Bretton Woods system, can find a way out of the current gravest crisis in the world economy. The crisis will only get worse and the coming days will lead to more intensified contradictions among the various economic powers in the world as well as fierce struggles of the people world-wide against the capitalist class, unjust imperialist wars, unemployment, inflation, cuts in social welfare spending, and global food shortages.

The reactionaries all over the world are once again seeing the spectre of a world-wide wave of revolutionary struggles and prospects of socialism, and are striving desperately to refurbish the capitalist-imperialist system through various measures such as state regulation, increase in public spending and are also waging an ideological offensive against socialism. Hundreds of thousands of people are going back to Marx's theory to find a solution for the crisis. It is the ripe time for the revolutionaries world-wide to seize the opportunity, utilise the excellent global crisis to deliver death-blows to the capitalist system and work determinedly to establish socialism.

Let us declare once again:

Capitalism means crisis, hunger, starvation, unemployment, disease and death to the vast majority on the one hand and a feast to a handful of vultures! There is an alternative to capitalism—let us strive to establish socialism!!

(signed)

Azad,

Spokesperson,

Central Committee,

CPI (Maoist)

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Press Release:

November 18, 2008

Saffron terrorism-the most dangerous enemy of the entire Indian people!

Let us wage a united, broad-based movement of all secular,

democratic forces to defeat state-sponsored

saffron terrorism and state terrorism!!

The dark, ugly and hidden face of saffron terrorism was revealed openly first in connection with the Malegaon bomb blasts that took a toll of 31 innocent lives and now also in the samjhauta express incident. It was more of an accident that the role of Hindutva terrorism in the Malegaon bomb blasts had come to light. The revelations of the gory deeds of the saffron terrorists in connection with Malegaon and samjhauta express are only the tip of the iceberg. A re-investigation of all the bomb blasts that had taken place in the country over the last 15 years or so would bring to light even more startling facts related to the ugly face of Hindutva forces and expose the conspiracies of the ruling classes in implicating the Muslim community.

In fact, most of the saffron-robed sadhus, sadhvins, swamis, saints, mahants, maharshis, ogis etc have been playing an overtly communal role inciting the Hindus against the religious minorities and preaching the politics of murder, revenge, and genocide particularly since the demolition of Babari Masjid in 1992. But no government had done anything to investigate into their nefarious communal games and terrorist activities let alone arrest them or ban the overtly communal-terrorist organisations in the past 15 years. Whenever a bomb blast takes place or some explosives are said to be found (most of these, anyway, are planted by intelligence agencies, police officials and saffron organisations and also the Congress) the accusing finger is always inevitably pointed at Muslim organisations and innocent Muslims.

While Islamic organisations like SIMI are banned without any evidence, Hindu terrorist organisations such as the RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal, Durga vahini, Hindu defence Force, Rashtriya Jagaran manch, Abhnav Bharat, Hindu Munnani, Shiv Sena, and, of course, the mother of all these Hindu fascist gangs—the BJP—are allowed a free hand to incite communal passions, riots, organise genocides as in Gujarat and bomb blasts as in Malegaon, Modasa, Nanded, Kanpur etc. Even blasts in Muslim places of worship as in Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad are sought to be proved as the handiwork of Muslim organisations. Thousands of Muslim youth are arrested and incarcerated in jails for years without any evidence while the real terrorist in saffron robes go on inciting communal passions and set off bombs with the blessings of the Indian state.

The extent of the infiltration of the saffron terrorists in the state machinery can be seen by the role of several top-ranking serving and former Army officials in training and supplying explosives to Hindu terrorist gangs and engineering the blasts. This shows not only the complicity of the state but also its deep ties of the various wings of the state with the Hindu terrorists.

The attack on Muslim organisations and Muslim community at large is a conspiracy hatched by the Indian state and the top functionaries of various political parties such as the BJP and Congress. The so-called India Mujahideen itself is a creation of the IB as is now clearly revealed. Even the so-called investigations into the bomb blasts in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bangalore—all of which had taken place in BJP-ruled states—were carried out with the malicious intention to absolve the saffron terrorists and implicating the Muslims. A reinvestigation of these incidents is likely to show the involvement of the saffron terrorists directly organized by the ruling BJP.

The CC, CPI(Maoist) calls upon all the secular and democratic forces to unite to wage a broad-based people's movement to expose, isolate, resist and weed out these poisonous weeds from our midst that are vitiating communal harmony and are itching to create genocides

to exterminate the religious minorities. The responsibility lies more on the shoulders of the Hindu majority to spurn and ostracise these Hindutva terrorists who are a blemish to the Hindu community.

We call upon the entire Part, PLGA and the revolutionary masses to defend the people by resisting by all means and carrying out attacks on these anti-people, anti-national, lumpen neo-Nazi gangs of saffron-clad terrorists. The Indian state and its various wings, which are permeated with Hindu chauvinism and anti-Muslim, anti-Christian bias can never bring these Hindu terrorists to book or bring a sense of security and justice to the persecuted minorities. It is only by taking up arms against the state-sponsored saffron terrorism and state terrorism and advancing the people's war to overthrow the exploiting rulers who are nurturing the communal-fascist Hindutva forces that security and justice can be brought to the religious minorities in the country.

We demand:

- * Arrest of the top leaders of the saffron organisations and a ban on these organisations.
- * Reinvestigation of all the incidents of bomb blasts since 1992.
- * Release of all Muslim and Christian people and lifting of the false cases foisted against them by the Indian state.
- * Punishment to the police officials involved in the persecution and harassment of the religious minorities and fabrication of concocted stories about so-called Islamic terrorists.

signed/

Azad,
Spokesperson,
Central Committee,
CPI (Maoist)

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Press Release:

January 9, 2009

Condemn the brutal aggression of Gaza by the Israeli Zionist terrorists backed by the biggest international terrorist, US imperialism!

The Zionist terrorist gangsters ruling Israel had unleashed a brutal war of aggression against the Palestinian people living in Gaza Strip. Backed by the international terrorist George Bush and endorsed by the new President-elect, Barack Obama, the Zionist terrorists led by Ehud Olmert have created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza Strip through their non-stop aerial bombardment for over a fortnight and ground invasion since a week using countless battle tanks and heavy artillery. Hundreds of multi-storey structures have been razed to the ground, entire infrastructure of Gaza has been destroyed and the entire population of Gaza has been held captive without access to food, water, medicine and other basic necessities. Officially, over 700 Palestinians, most of them civilians, were killed in the last fortnight and over 3000 wounded. Unofficial toll is far higher. And there is no count of people, particularly children, dying due to lack of medicine, food and basic needs. In spite of all-round condemnation by the world people the Israeli Zionists have continued their cruel, inhuman blood-bath with the support of the imperialists, particularly the American and British imperialists.

The Israeli Zionist gang has been trying to justify its war of aggression and incessant bombardment of densely-populated areas of Gaza under the pretext of protecting its own citizens in southern Israel from rocket attacks by Hamas fighters. The Anglo-American imperialists have also joined the chorus describing the brutal bombardment by Israel as a

legitimate response to the rocket attacks by Hamas. These biggest international terrorists had blocked all attempts by other countries in the Security Council calling for immediate, unconditional halt to the Israeli aggression. The fact is, the Zionist Nazis of Israel have been preparing for the attack for several months. That they had taken up the attack due to rocket attacks by Hamas is a big white lie. The rocket attacks themselves are a legitimate response to the mindless massacres of Palestinians by Israeli Zionists and their inhuman blockade of Gaza during the so-called cease-fire. Moreover, hardly a handful of Israelis were killed due to the Hamas rockets whereas several hundred Palestinians were killed and thousands wounded by the inhuman attacks by the Zionist fascists. The imperialist powers, the progeny of slaveholders of yesteryears, always aspire and conspire to enslave the entire world and to hold the world people as their slaves. Whoever resists their conspiratorial designs for hegemony are branded as terrorists and are sought to be crushed. The Israeli terrorists have been occupying the Gaza Strip since 1967 illegally not heeding world opinion.

The Palestinian President and stooge of US imperialists, Mohamud Abbas, and the spineless servile governments of the Arab countries led by Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, have conspired to allow Israel to bomb and destroy Gaza since all these agents of the imperialists wish to weaken Hamas that has been spearheading the national liberation struggle against Israeli and American imperialist aggression and hegemony in the region. People of Arab countries will certainly rise up against their comprador ruling classes who had betrayed the Palestinian cause and are shamelessly stooping before the Israeli expansionists and American imperialists.

History has proved time and again that no nation, however strong and powerful, can subdue forever a weak and poor nation. Israeli expansionists had tasted this truth in Lebanon when the Hizbollah fighters taught an unforgettable lesson to the Israeli aggressors by driving them out through heroic resistance. In Gaza too, Israeli Zionists can never achieve their aim of subduing the Palestinians and hold them down as servile subjects. However great the cost in human lives may be, Palestinian fighters will teach a fitting lesson to the aggressors by turning Gaza into a burial ground for the Israeli Zionist aggressors if they continue their occupation and brutal attacks.

The CC, CPI(Maoist) condemns this inhuman, cruel and most savage war of aggression unleashed by the Israeli terrorist state on the people of Palestine. It calls upon the people of the entire world to wage a united struggle to bring pressure on their respective governments to sever diplomatic relations with the Israeli Zionist state, and to launch attacks on Israeli and American assets and their diplomatic missions throughout the world.

(signed)
Azad,
Spokesperson,
Central Committee,
CPI(Maoist)

**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 cetra* 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 *Singaaram* "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 *Singaaram* massacre also. The people of *Singaaram* 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 *Singaaram* massacre is only the tip of the ice burg. 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 *Bundh* 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 para military forces and the terrorist SPOs deployed in Bastar.

Signed/
Gudsa Usendi,
Spokesperson,
Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee,
CPI(Maoist)

From News Papers

Court to frame guidelines on encounter deaths

J. Venkatesan

Propriety of media briefing by police during investigation to be examined

New Delhi: Expressing serious concern over the increasing incidents of encounter deaths in the country, the Supreme Court has said it proposed to frame guidelines to be followed by all the States and Union territories whenever encounter deaths take place.

A Bench of Justice Dalveer Bhandari and Justice H.S. Bedi issued notice to the Centre, all States and Union territories seeking their response on the proposed guidelines.

The Bench passed this order on a petition filed by the People's Union for Liberties, Mumbai, highlighting several fake encounters by the Maharashtra police.

The Bench also said that it would examine the propriety of police officers briefing the media on the progress of the investigation of a particular case and directed the listing of the matter after four weeks.

The PUL filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court alleging that a large number of people had been killed in fake encounters.

The High Court, while dismissing the petition, gave detailed guidelines to the police to be followed mandatorily in cases of police encounters. Aggrieved against this judgment, the petitioner filed the present appeal in the apex court.

The Bench, in its interim order, said, "counsel for the petitioner, Prashant Bhushan, filed in the court a draft of guidelines which contains the guidelines issued by the High Court, National Human Rights Commission and also the suggestions proposed by him. Looking at the gravity of the matter, we deem it appropriate that before issuing the final directions/guidelines regarding police encounters, this Court must hear the Union of India, States and Union Territories."

The order said: "We direct notices be sent to the Home Secretaries of Union of India, States and Union Territories. Draft guidelines submitted by Mr. Prashant Bhushan shall be circulated. Looking at the importance of the matter, we would like Solicitor-General or Additional Solicitor-General to assist the Court. We also request all the parties to address the court on the aspect of the propriety of the police officers/Investigating Officers appearing/briefing the media in a criminal case which is pending investigation."

The draft guidelines included the following:

No out-of-turn promotion, cash award or gallantry reward shall be bestowed on the officers concerned pursuant to their role in an encounter as this may be an incentive for officers to conduct encounters.

Whenever the police are in receipt of any intelligence or tip-off regarding criminal movements or activities pertaining to the commission of grave criminal offences, it shall be entered into a case diary.

Where the police officers belonging to the same Police Station are members of the encounter party, whose action resulted in deaths, it is desirable that such cases are made over for investigation to some other independent investigating agency such as State CBCID.

Parallel rule, as elsewhere

Shyam Sundar Roy

MIDNAPORE, Nov. 21: As the Midnapore West district administration refuses to concede to the demands of the Police Santras Birodhi Public Committee (PSBPC) or solve the Lalgarh imbroglio, a parallel administration is springing up in the district.

The PSBPC is forming "Gram Committees" (GCs) in the villages of Belpahari, Binpur, Lalgarh, Jamboni, Salboni, Goaltore and adjoining blocks, akin to those run in Andhra Pradesh and Chhatisgarh by Maoists.

The PSBC today announced the formation of 65 GCs in Belpahari block, with more coming up soon, each comprising 10 members, five men and five women. A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting of the CPI (Maoist) at a meeting in Laljal, Belpahari, yesterday.

Over 85 GCs have been formed in Lalgah block while those in other blocks will be formed gradually.

The whip of these GCs would act in governance of the villages where no development activities will be allowed to be undertaken by the government without their clearance, however lofty be the packages as hinted by the state government. Neither police nor the district administrative officials would be allowed to enter the villages without the permission of the GC to their "free zone" thus formed on the lines of those made in Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the announcement stated.

In a bid to run the parallel administration through GCs, their long-cherished goal, the PSBPC united the rural folk through prolonged mass movement over their one-point agenda ~ "police terror". Blueprint of this parallel administration through GCs was tactfully made through systematic blockade by rampant digging up roads and dumping tree trunks on communication networks to stonewall the entry of police and the administrative officials into the villages for days together.

Victim of 'fake' encounter approaches SHRC

Counsel asks to initiate criminal proceedings against police

BHUBANESWAR: Lying on the verandah of State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) Puspanjali, a four-year-old girl could hardly speak while her 62-year-old grandfather was speaking incoherently here on Thursday.

Both from Gajapati district are now facing an uncertain future as the one who was mainstay of their life was killed allegedly for no fault of his.

Junesh Bada Raita, the girl's father and sexagenarian Isak Bada Raita's only earning son, was killed when security personnel of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) sprayed bullets reportedly mistaking him as a naxalite on November 22 .

The duo of grandfather and granddaughter on Thursday knocked doors of SHRC seeking compensation to lead a life and punishment for those who killed Junesh.

About 22 villagers from far off villages under Adaba police station of Gajapati district had accompanied them to the capital city begging justice.

Isak Bada Raita described, "My 28-year-old son and nephew were coming to village from cattle-shed late in the evening on Saturday last when a team of police opened fire indiscriminately. Junesh died on the spot while my nephew Karnel was grievously injured."

"According to information we could gather from Karnel, police personnel had not warned them before taking the action. My son had even raised his arms to escape from being shot at, but they paid no heed. His hand showed sign of rupture by bullets. He received bullet injuries on his head and chest too," the bereaved father said controlling his emotion.

Villagers were agitated too. "The State government must pay compensation of Rs. 10 lakh to deceased and Rs. 5 lakh to injured. It is really difficult for the sexagenarian and orphaned girl to lead rest of their life," local sarpanch Jahan Dal Behera said.

Taking cognizance of the matter, SHRC accepted their complaint and registered a case.

Clarifications

Biswapriya Kanungo, counsel of the bereaved father, said that criminal proceedings should be initiated against police and paramilitary personnel who were involved in dastardly act.

Shoe 'missiles' miss Bush on Iraq-Afghan farewell tour

Agencies | Kabul

President George W Bush wrapped up a whirlwind trip to two war zones on Monday that in many ways was a victory lap without a clear victory. A signature event occurred when an Iraqi reporter Muntadar al-Zaidi hurled two shoes at Bush, declaring: "This is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq." The President visited the Iraqi capital just 37 days before he hands the war off to his successor, Barack Obama, who has pledged to end it.

The President wanted to highlight a drop in violence and to celebrate a recent US-Iraq security agreement, which calls for US troops to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011. "The

war is not over," Bush said, but "it is decisively on its way to being won."

Bush then travelled to Afghanistan where he spoke to US soldiers and Marines at a hangar on the tarmac at Bagram Air Base. The rally for over a thousand military personnel took place in the dark, cold pre-dawn hours. Bush was greeted by loud cheers from the troops. "Afghanistan is a dramatically different country than it was eight years ago," he said. "We are making hopeful gains." But the President's message on progress in the region was having trouble competing with the videotaped image of the angry Iraqi who hurled his shoes at Bush in a near-miss, shouting in Arabic, "This is your farewell kiss, you dog!" The reporter was later identified as Muntadar al-Zeidi, a correspondent for Al-Baghdadia television, an Iraqi-owned station based in Cairo, Egypt. In Iraqi culture, throwing shoes at someone is a sign of contempt.

Iraqis whacked a statue of Saddam with their shoes after US Marines toppled it to the ground following the 2003 invasion. Reaction in Iraq was swift but mixed, with some condemning the act and others applauding it. Television news stations throughout Iraq repeatedly showed footage of the incident, and newspapers carried headline stories.

In Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City, supporters of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called for protests against President Bush and demanded the release of the reporter, who was jailed after throwing his shoes. Thousands took to the streets Monday, chanting, "Bush, Bush, listen well: Two shoes on your head." The Iraqi Government condemned the act and demanded an on-air apology from Al-Baghdadia television, the Iraqi-owned station that employs Muntadar al-Zeidi.

Iraqis protest for release of journalist



AP | Baghdad

Thousands of Iraqis took to the streets on Monday to demand the release of a reporter who threw his shoes at President George W Bush, as Arabs across the Middle East hailed the journalist as a hero and praised his insult as a proper send-off to the unpopular US President.

The protests came as a suicide truck bomber killed at least five police officers today at a checkpoint west of Baghdad, said Iraqi police. Muntadhar al-Zeidi, who was kidnapped by Shiite militants last year, was being

held by Iraqi security on Monday and interrogated about whether anybody paid him to throw his shoes at Bush during a Press conference the previous day in Baghdad, said an Iraqi official.

He was also being tested for alcohol and drugs, and his shoes were being held as evidence, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to the media.

Showing the sole of your shoe to someone in the Arab world is a sign of extreme disrespect and throwing your shoes is even worse.

Newspapers across the Arab world on Monday printed front-page photos of Bush ducking the flying shoes and satellite TV stations repeatedly aired the incident, which provided fodder for jokes and was hailed by the president's many critics in the region.

"Iraq considers Sunday as the international day for shoes," said a joking text message circulating around the Saudi capital Riyadh. Palestinian journalists in the West Bank town of Ramallah joked about who would be brave enough to toss their shoes at Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

