

[This article reports the denial of the CPI(Maoist) that they had any involvement in the massacre in Khagaria District of Bihar. But note that even while reporting this denial, the article goes on to spread *more* false accusations, including the totally unsupported claim by the police that the Maoists “are indulging in unsanctioned killings, operating like criminal gangs.” This is what is considered “fair and balanced reporting” in ruling class publications.]

The Times of India

Doesn't look like our op, says top Maoist

Dipak Mishra, TNN 4 October 2009, 06:02am IST

PATNA: Two days after the ghastly killing of 16 people, including five minors, in Khagaria's Icharwa-Amousi village, the CPI (Maoist) leadership on Saturday expressed ignorance about who executed the killings and why.

"Had our boys done it, we would have come to know about it the very next day.

Also, our boys follow up our operations by leaving behind pamphlets and wall writings. We even issue press notes to the media. None of these followed the Khagaria carnage," a top leader of the banned outfit told TOI over phone from his hideout.

The Naxal leader has been trying to get in touch with the "local cadres" to ascertain the facts. "We will let you know if they confirm their involvement but that doesn't look even remotely possible," he said.

He also pooh-pooed police's theory that the massacre was engineered by an ex-Maoist. "As is their wont, police are trying to plant all kinds of stories," he said adding, however, that if one goes by what has appeared in media reports, the carnage seems to be a result of a `class conflict'.

Naxal watchers, meanwhile, said the Maoists need to sit up and do something about preventing Khagaria-like killings. After they drew flak from even their sympathisers for killing 42 villagers, including women and children, at Dalelchak in Aurangabad district in May 1987, they released a press note vowing they would not kill women and children in future.

They have by and large kept their word till date. In 1999 they slit the throats of 34 upper caste Bhumihars in Jehanabad's Senari village. None of the victims was either a woman or a child. Even the elderly were spared.

At the Khagaria village however, at least five of the 16 deceased were minors in the age group of ten to 15 years. It reminded more of the carnage executed by the Ranvir Sena, a private army of landlords, in Luxmanpur-Bathe village where even newborn babies were not spared in 1997.

Police intelligence suggests growing indiscipline in the cadre after the MCC and PWG merged to become CPI (Maoist). Several activists, who deserted the two outfits, went away with arms and money of the

party. "They are indulging in unsanctioned killings, operating like criminal gangs," an intelligence official said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/patna/Doesnt-look-like-our-op-says-top-Maoist/articleshow/5085340.cms>