

Resist the Banning of Political, Social and Cultured Activities, and Attacks on Democracy by State Power!! Intensify United Struggle for Defending the Fundamental Rights of Freedom and Justice!!!

Dear Countrymen,

Our India is such a democratic country where the people have been provided some Constitutional Fundamental Rights. These are right to freedom, right to equality, right against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, right to constitutional remedies and right to education. In all these the right to freedom has special importance, since it includes the right to assemble, to form association and union, to travel and settle anywhere, to start any profession for livelihood, alongwith the right to freedom of speech. These constitutional rights are available to all the citizen of India irrespective of their class and community, which must not be violated by any government, state institution or organization.



one among the 5 civilians murdered by the Odisha SOG police on 8th July 2016 at Kondmal, Odisha

STOP ADIVASI GENOCIDE!

STOP OPERATION GREENHUNT

**9th September 2016- CDRO RALLY and DHARNA
Friday, 11 am onwards : MARCH FOR DEMOCRACY**

Rally from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar followed by Dharna

10th September 2016- Day-long Seminar on Political, Social and Cultural Bans

Saturday, 10 am onwards

Venue : Indian Society of International Law (Auditorium, First Floor),
V.K. Krishna Menon Bhawan, 9, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi (Opposite Supreme Court, Nearest Metro Station- Pragati Maidan)

Speakers : **D. N. JHA** (Former Professor and Historian),
UMA CHAKRAVARTI (Academic and Rights Activist),
G. HARAGOPAL (Academic and Rights Activist),
VERNON GONSALVES (Rights Activist),
ANIL SADGOPAL (Educationist),
SUDHA BHARADWAJ (Lawyer and Rights Activist).

But, the truth is that all the central and state governments, which came to power, have not only escaped to protect them, but also played their active roles in the violation of these rights. Their misconduct is everywhere exposed from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and North East to Gujarat.

The people of Kashmir are fighting for their right of self determination since long, and the central government is using army to suppress their struggle. In this military operation tens of thousands people have been killed and women folk became the victim of sexual violence to a large numbers. Now, continuous struggle is going on there against the killing of Burhan Wani in a fake encounter and Kashmir Valley is facing curfew since last 2 months. During this period about 70 people have been killed and hundreds of them badly injured by security forces.

In Gujarat Muslims and Dalits have been facing atrocities upon them where the State Government and its police have always taken the side of the attackers. Recently on 11th July 4 dalits of CHAMAR caste have been badly beaten by the goons of Gau Raksha Dal, just in front of the Police Station. These dalits were taken forcibly to Una Town, where they were stripped, beaten by iron rod and paraded in streets. This incident clearly exposes the anti-people and inhuman face of state government and its police. So, the Hindutva forces even dare to attack the protest programme, organized against this dalit atrocity at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. At present people's resentments are rising against this incident of dalit atrocity to a great extent and the Gujarat Govt. is trying its best to suppress the voices of people.

The Bastar Division of Chattisgarh, where Maoists are conducting 'armed struggle' since three and half decades almost, to protect the rights (Jal, Jangal and Jameen) of tribals, has remained the central target of joint operation by the central and state governments. These local tribal's were organized with direct support of the State Govt. under the banner of Satwa Judum in 2005 to fight against the Maoists. Under this Satwa Judum campaign hundreds of tribal villages were burnt, a large numbers of them were killed and their women folk were raped. More than a lakh of them were forced to leave their homes and habitats.

Again in 2008 'Operation Green Hunt' was planned under the direction of the Central Govt., which inflicted severe atrocities upon the tribals and their women folk in that area. We know that the Supreme Court of India has declared Salwa Judum as 'unconstitutional'. But even then 'Samajik Ekta Manch', 'Naxal Peedit Sangharsh Samiti' and 'Danteshwari Adivasi Swabhiman Manch' like vigilante groups have been organized with the help of Police in those areas. These groups are not only terrorizing and attacking the Maoists and their supporters, but also the tribals of the area in general and the lawyers, journalists and social activities working there. Pushing out Himanshu Kumar from Dantewada due to filing complaints against atrocities during Salwa Judum and Operation Green Hunt Campaign, planned attacks on social-political activist Soni Sori, repression on lawyers of Jagdalpur Legal Aid Group, independent researcher Bala Bhatia, and journalists like Santosh Yadav, Somaru Nag, Prabhat Singh and Deepak Jaiswal are some of the glaring examples.

At present, the central government is conducting a special repressive campaign under the banner of 'Mission 2016', with an aim to root out the Maoists from Bastar Division. The gov't. is also using UAV, Air Force and Space Satellites in this mission, which has resulted in more killings of tribals and the rise in the incidents of loots of properties, rapes of women, fake police encounters and fake surrenders.

Besides these, wherever the people of different sections of the country raise their voices against the exploitative-repressive policies of the Govt. and dare to organize struggles for defense and

extension of their genuine rights, the state power imposes different kinds of repressive measures upon them. The govt. not only uses the repressive section of IPC, such as 121, 121A, 124A, 153A, 153B and 295, along with UAPA and Armed Forces Special Power Act like draconian laws, but also takes support of the sophisticated military-paramilitary forces, American and Israeli spy agencies, in order to suppress their voices and struggles.

Central and state governments usually talk about people's development, people's welfare, defense of human rights and restoration of law and order. But, this is only to misguide the people of India. The fact is that in real practice these governments resolutely suppress all the civil and democratic rights including freedom of expression. The sections of people and the organizations, which organize more militant struggles, have to face more military operations against them. This is somewhat happening in Kashmir, North East and Bastar Division.

So far as the freedom of expression and the right of association are concerned, the situation has become more terrified in recent years. Killings of Andhshardha Nirmulan Samiti activist Narendra Davolkar, senior leftist leader Govind Pansare and Kannad writer and teacher Kalburgi are the recent examples of the grave situation. Not only this much, after coming the name of Sanatan Sanstha in the murder of Pansare, the Hindutva forces have threatened to kill the brother of Narendra Dabolkar, Shramik Mukti Dal leader Bharat Patenkar, journalist Nikhil Wagle, activist of Tarksheel Andolan Shyam Sonar, teacher K. S. Bhagwan and documentary maker Anand Patwardhan. We know the case of Rohit Vemula, a research scholar of Hyderabad Central University. He was forced to hang himself, since he dared to see a documentary 'Muzaffarnagar Baki Hai' and to oppose the hanging of Yakub Menon, along with his associates. In the same way, several student leaders of JNU, including the President of its Student's Union were arrested under section 124A of IPC, since they opposed the execution of Afazal Guru in the campus of JNU on 9th Feb. 2016. They had to face not only Jail torture, but also the punishments of JNU administration. In the sequence, the name of famous Tamil Writer Perumal Murugam must be remembered, who had to withdraw his novel 'One Part Woman' and declare his 'Literary Suicide' through Face Book under the pressure of Hindutva forces.

In recent years, especially during Narendra Modi rule, attacks on the right of organizing meetings and forming associations and unions have intensified to a great extent. Arresting of the workers of Maruti Suzuki, Gurgaon, who were trying to form a new Union, lathicharge on the students of Delhi, fighting against UGC and the suicide of Rohit Vemula are some of the examples. In the other parts of the country, whenever workers, farmers, students, women and other laboring sections raise united voices in favour of their demands, state power uses water cannon, tear-gas and lathicharge along with section 144 of IPC in order to disperse and suppress them. In some cases of people's resistance they even do not hesitate to resort police firings and killings. Specially, against the movements of oppressed nationalities and Maoists, Police and Para-military forces are adopting such brutal course of actions. The state power has also banned their parties and more than hundred of mass organizations (including cultural organization) under UAPA. Thus, such bans upon their political, social and cultural organizations are nothing but a blatant attack upon the fundamental rights, secured under constitution.

Currently, Hindutva fascist forces are in the power of Center under the leadership of Narendra Modi. During Modi rule not only all the doors of our economy have been fully opened for the loot of foreign capitals, but many labour laws also reformed in favour of domestic and foreign capitalists.

Beside this, extreme nationalism and Hindutva communalism, caste sentiments and Brahmanical-fascist thinking are also being promoted, so that to divide and suppress the rising resentments of the people against anti people government policies.

In this challenging situation, it has become very difficult not only to defend the fundamental rights of the people, including the freedom of expression, but also to organize struggles for the genuine demands of different sections of the masses, at region, state and country levels. CDRO and its constituent organizations have been raising voices to protect and extend the fundamental rights of the people since decades. They have also been raising their strong voices against the state repression going on the people of the country. For the same reason, CDRO is organizing Rally, Dharna and National Convention in Delhi on 9-10th of Sept. 2016.

DEMANDS :

- ★ **Stop attacks on freedoms of speech, thought and expression**
- ★ **Uphold rights to dissent, protest and organise**
- ★ **Release all political prisoners**
- ★ **Repeal UAPA, AFSPA, CSPA, IPC sections on sedition and waging war, and other draconian laws**
- ★ **Demilitarise conflict areas**
- ★ **Withdraw legal immunity to armed and paramilitary forces, and government officials**
- ★ **Immediate stop to state violence in Kashmir and the North East**
- ★ **Stop 'Operation Green Hunt' and other such offensives**
- ★ **Stop all forms of social discrimination**
- ★ **Abolish Death Penalty**

Coordination of Democratic Rights Organisations - Constituents: Association for Democratic Rights (AFDR), Punjab, Civil Liberties Committee (CLC), Andhra Pradesh, Civil Liberties Committee, (CLC), Telangana, Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), West Bengal, Asansol Civil Rights Association, Bandi Mukti Committee, West Bengal, Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights (CPDR), Maharashtra, Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights (CPDR), Tamilnadu, Coordination for Human Rights (COHR), Manipur, Campaign for Peace & Democracy (Manipur), Human Rights Forum (HRF), Andhra, Manab Adhikar Sangram Samiti (MASS), Assam, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR), Organisation for Protection of Democratic Rights (OPDR), Andhra, Peoples Committee for Human Rights (PCHR), Jammu and Kashmir, Peoples Democratic Forum (PDF), Karnataka, Peoples Union For Democratic Rights (PUDR), Delhi, Peoples Union for Human Rights (PUHR), Haryana, Jharkhand Council for Democratic Rights (JCDR).



**Civil Liberties committee (CLC), Telangana & AP
Coordination of Democratic Rights organisations**