

Lalgarh: PCPA Supporters Gherao Police Post

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Midnapore (WB) Sep 3 People's Committee against Police Atrocities (PCPA) supporters along with two women who were allegedly raped by security personnel today gheraoed the Pirakata police outpost in West Midnapore district.

"Two women were raped by the joint forces on Monday night. When they went to lodge a complaint at the Pirakata police station, their FIR was not taken," PCPA sources said.

One of the victims said that she was raped by security personnel when her husband was away from home.

The police said they would conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Meanwhile, Maoist leader Kishenji alleged that two persons — Jaladhar Mahato and Hemonto Deb Singh, residents of Singhla — were shot dead by the joint forces when they were visiting relatives in Madhupur, while two others were arrested. — (Agencies) Sep 03, 2009

MIDNAPORE: A lower division clerk at the Jhargram subdivisional hospital, Bajinath Tudu, was arrested on Wednesday evening for allegedly being involved in the abduction of five CPM leaders in Lalgarh in June.

The Jhargram additional chief judicial magistrate's court rejected Tudu's bail petition and remanded him in two days' police custody. He was picked up while returning home from the office of chief medical officer health, Midnapore.

According to police, five CPM leaders were abducted from Krishnanagar village in Lalgarh on June 16. The next day, Mohan Singh's body was found. Police could not enter the village at that time and relatives of the abducted CPM leaders lodged a complaint over telephone. An FIR was filed against 61 people, including Tudu.

The Midnapore chief judicial magistrate's court also rejected the bail petitions of two suspected Maoists, Goutam Mahato of Goaltore and Ajoy Mana of Madhupur in Salboni, and remanded them in seven days' police custody. They were arrested from Madhupur and Birbhanpur with firearms on Wednesday.

People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCPA) retaliated by calling a 12-hour bandh on Friday in Purulia, Bankura and West Midnapore after relaxing the indefinite bandh from September 1-7. PCPA supporters gheraoed the Kantapahari police camp to protest against alleged torture by the joint forces. Besides, more than 1,000 women from Laxmanpur, Hatilote and Rameshwarpur organized a rally to protest against an alleged rape attempt on two women of Hatilote and held an agitation near the Pirakata police camp.

PCPA spokesperson Chhatradhar Mahato alleged that four villagers participating in a PCPA rally were arrested on Wednesday. Two of them were later shot dead and the entire incident was described as "an encounter with Maoists", he claimed. The two youths were later identified as Jaladhar Mahato of Goaltore and Hemanta Deb Singha of Madhupur. Mahato claimed there was no evidence that they were Maoists. **TOI**