

## **Govt offensive will make us stronger: Maoists**

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New Delhi: Weeks before the government launches one of its biggest offensive against Maoists, the extremists have welcomed it saying this will strengthen their movement in tribal areas.

The Maoist think tank believe that the government's stand is responsible for their success in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. "The more destruction they (security forces) cause, the faster will our people's army grow and our guerrilla war spread to other parts of the country. Thanks to the [Salwa Judum](#) in Chhattisgarh, our war has achieved in four years what would have taken two decades. Now, thanks to home minister P Chidambaram, our war will expand to wider areas, mobilise more people and gather momentum," said Azad, the spokesperson of the CPI (Maoist) in a document made available to DNA.

"Maoism teaches us that self-preservation is possible only through war. You cannot defend yourself against a powerful and extremely cruel enemy by submitting to him meekly. You have to choose the appropriate method to fight a relatively superior and powerful enemy and only by this can you ensure the preservation of your forces," he said.

Targeting prime minister Manmohan Singh and Chidambaram for not doing enough for the tribals of mineral-rich areas, the Maoist leadership says the government is only interested in these areas because of resources but is doing nothing to develop them. The rebels are clear there's no question of getting down to talks if laying down arms is a pre-condition.

"Never, not even in our dreams can we think of laying down arms. We have taken up arms to defend the rights of people and to liberate them exploitation and oppression. Laying down arms would be betraying the masses," Azad said.

"We may lose some forces in this brutal offensive by the enemy. But you must keep in mind that when the people's war began we had only a handful of committed cadre.

Today, it has grown into a big mass movement with a people's army and a countrywide presence. Even if we lose some forces, we will rebuild the movement as we are now doing in Andhra Pradesh. You will see the results of our underground work soon," said Azad.

Hinting at more attacks against policemen, Maoists said they have asked their cadre not to use brutal tactics such as those used on Francis Induvar, the slain policeman from Jharkhand.

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