

New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party of Sri Lanka

Press Release

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The Koodankulam nuclear power plant that has been installed along the coast of Southern Tamilnadu and in proximity to Sri Lanka and due to be put into operation involves grave risks of loss of lives and serious illnesses for the people of Tamilnadu as well as to the people of Sri Lanka, especially along the northern and western coasts. Radiation from the nuclear reactor and from nuclear waste carries threats of destruction to the daily lives of the people and serious damage to the soil, sea, air and the environment. Besides, many thousands of people would perish in the event of an accident in the nuclear reactor. A recent example of that possibility was the nuclear disaster in Japan. The Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union in the 1980s was another instance. Hence, people are mobilising, with the Koodankulam and Idinthakarai regions on the south coast of Tamilnadu as focus, against the initiation of operation of the Koodankulam nuclear power plant and are conducting a continuous campaign of people's power. The campaign will reach its 450th day tomorrow. The fisher folk and villagers have joined hands to carry forward with determination immense mass campaigns on the sea coast and on land. The sweep and momentum of these struggles are echoing in the southern districts of Tamilnadu and in the state capital, Chennai.

The Central Committee of the New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party of Sri Lanka expresses its fullest support for and militant solidarity with the mass struggles by the people against the Koodankulam nuclear power plant. At the same time it strongly denounces the continuing brutal attacks on the people by the police under instigation by the central and state governments acting in collaboration. Anthony John, a fisherman was killed by savage police shooting during the struggle. Sahayam Francis, another fisherman, died of shock when the Indian Coastal Guards flew the plane at a very low altitude. Yet the people have not abandoned their resolve to struggle.

The New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party of Sri Lanka expresses its solidarity with the movement for struggle led by S.P. Uthayakumar, which is carrying out the above struggles of mass upsurge and with the Marxist Leninist movements and other democratic and progressive forces who are supportive of the movement.

The Indian ruling classes and their foreign imperialist allies are setting up nuclear power plants merely to rake in huge profits. The inherent dangers and disasters of nuclear power are concealed from the people in the name of generating more electric power.

These dangers are being brought to light and exposed to the outside world by the continuing struggles of the people of Koodankulam and Idinthakarai. Sri Lanka is in proximity to the Koodankulam nuclear power plant. An accident there will subject not just the people of Tamilnadu but also the people of Sri Lanka, especially in the northern and western coastal and adjoining regions, to loss of life and other ill effects.

But neither the President of Sri Lanka nor the government of Sri Lanka seem to pay much attention to these dangers. They humbly accept the conciliatory fallacies dished out by the Central Government of India and remain calm. Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Electrical Power, reputed for his chauvinistic venom, is muted in his comments on Koodankulam. Likewise, the Tamil nationalist leaders are preserving silence on the dangers of this nuclear reactor or about the mass struggles against it by the people of Tamilnadu. This demonstrates their greater loyalty towards their Indian masters rather than the interests of the Tamil people. Under the conditions, it is important that the people of Sri Lanka, especially the Tamil people, awaken to the potential dangers of the Koodankulam nuclear power plant and launch mass struggles against it.

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