



COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee

Press Release

April 14, 2022

Red Salutes to Member of DKSZC Secretariat, exemplary leader of DK Revolutionary Women's movement Comrade Narmada (Uppuganti Nirmala)!

Make success the Dandakaranya bandh in memory of Comrade Narmada on 25th April!

Member of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee Secretariat of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), leader of Dandakaranya Revolutionary Women's movement, who committedly worked for 42 years from 1980 to 2022 in the revolutionary movement, Comrade Narmada (Uppuganti Nirmala) who was suffering from cancer for the past four years and was in the Baiculla prison in Mumbai for the past 2 years and 10 months passed away in a health centre in Bandra on the 9th April at 11.30 a.m. The DKSZC pays humble homage to the martyred Comrade Narmada. It calls upon the entire Party cadres, PLGA forces, Revolutionary People's Committees and Organisations and Revolutionary people to imbibe her revolutionary spirit and to be firm in the path of revolution to fulfill her ideals and advance forward. It conveys deep condolences to her life partner Comrade Kiran (Rani Satyanarayana) who is presently in a prison in Arthur road in Mumbai, to comrades who worked with her, her relatives and friends. It appeals to the people, democrats and progressive forces to observe Dandakaranya bandh on 25th April in her memory upholding her contribution in revolution.

Comrade Narmada was born in Kondapavuluru village near Gannavaram of Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh in 1960. Her father was a sympathizer of the Communist Party. He instilled progressive ideas in Narmada since her childhood. She studied until 10th class in the village school. Later she studied Hindi through South Indian Hindi Prachar Sabha starting from 'Visharada' to 'Sahitya Ratna' equivalent to Master's Degree. She utilised the knowledge of Hindi she thus acquired in various needs of the revolutionary movement. Since her father was in contact with the leaders of the party at that time, Nirmala was naturally influenced with the revolutionary movement. She became a full-time activist in the movement since 1980. Her revolutionary journey started since then. She stood strong and firm in the entire ups and downs and twists and turns in the revolutionary movement in these 42 years.

Comrade Narmada was married to Comrade Kiran who was looking after the official organ 'Kranti' and 'Kranti' publications of the Andhra Pradesh Committee of the then CPI (ML) (People's War) in 1983. She worked as a staff member of 'Kranti' publications until 1986-87. In view of the developing revolutionary movement in Dandakaranya, the Party decided to start 'Prabhat' magazine. As per the decision Comrade Narmada became part of the Editorial Board of the magazine since 1988. She stayed in cities outside AP and fulfilled the responsibility until 1996.

She strongly proposed to the party that she would work directly among the people in the movement and became part of the Gadchiroli movement of Dandakaranya since 1996. Since then she built revolutionary movement among the people in Dandakaranya, especially in Gadchiroli. She mingled with the people so much that each and every village, house and person of Gatta-Bhamragarh and Perimili of Gadchiroli were close to her. Her revolutionary practice became an inseparable part of the revolutionary movement of Gadchiroli. She developed in stages and became an alternate SZC member in the DK Special

Zonal plenum held in 2003. She later became a member of the SZC. In the process she became the President of the Krantikari Adivasi Mahila Sangathan (KAMS). In the process of fulfilling these tasks she made special efforts to build guerilla bases in Gadchiroli to implement the then central task 'to transform Dandakaranya and Bihar-Jharkhand into a liberated area with the objective to transform PLGA to PLA and guerilla war to mobile war'. Together with the Secretary of the time of Gadchiroli Divisional Committee Comrade Vikas she paid attention to build Revolutionary People's Committees since 2005 in Gatta-Bhamragarh after making a class analysis.

Apart from strengthening the revolutionary women's movement and people's state power of Dandakaranya, as a SZCM and the President of KAMS, Comrade Narmada made relentless efforts to raise the leadership role of women in these organisations. Especially she greatly contributed to the development of organisations of state power and Janatana Sarkars in Gadchiroli division. When in 2006 the Gadchiroli movement developed into two divisions such as the South and the North, Comrade Narmada took up the responsibility of the South Gadchiroli Division and martyr Comrade Srikant of the North Gadchiroli division. Both of them contributed to develop the movement into a Sub-Zonal Bureau. In the process PLGA and Janatana Sarkar developed to a great extent and there was good success in the movement. There was rise in recruitment.

As the President of KAMS Comrade Narmada made remarkable contribution in holding meetings, Conferences of the organisation and to raise revolutionary consciousness of the women. She was the in-charge of the Dandakaranya Mahila Sub-Committee. She made enormous efforts in the direction of ending patriarchal ideology in the male dominated society. She constantly made efforts to study the existing problems of the woman comrades and discussed in SZC to make the necessary decisions. She was part of recording the history of revolutionary women's movement of 30 years of Dandakaranya in 2009. She also made a brief translation of the book. She was a member of the Sub-Committee of Mass Organisations of Dandakaranya and was an active part of making the necessary changes time to time in the Manifestoes of the Revolutionary Mass Organisations.

With the experience in publishing 'Prabhat' Comrade Narmada had an exemplary role in running the magazine 'Sangharshrat Mahila' (Struggling woman) of KAMS that began in 1996 in Telugu and Hindi. In the same manner she named the division magazine of Gadchiroli as 'Podudu' (meaning Sun) in the local Koya language in 2001 and brought out 25 issues until 2018. Her impression lasts in the development of each and every letter of the magazine.

Comrade Narmada was ideal in recording every turn, change, condition of development, people's struggles and people's consciousness in the movement. In 2009 she prepared a report on the living conditions of the Bengali people in 2009 and in 2012 made a study of the functioning of PESA and Gramsabha (Lekhamenda) and submitted a report to the SZC. She prepared a report of the class analysis of Gatta-Bhamragarh areas especially Jarevada and Gorgutta panchayats together with the AC and DvC comrades in 2015-2016. Thus, SZC adopted new tactics as per the changing conditions in DK basing on the reports from all the divisions.

The first plenum of the fourth Conference of the Special Zone held in 2011 October assessed that the Dandakaranya movement reached a difficult condition. Party took up bolshevization campaign to rectify the condition. Comrade Narmada fulfilled her role in a great manner to hold the campaign in the West Sub-Zonal Bureau.

In 2013-2014 there was severe loss to the Gadchiroli movement. Starting from Govindgaon to Raman-Mendri, 29 comrades martyred in various encounters. Enemy propagated that the Gadchiroli division ended. She took it as a challenge and implemented the new tactics adopted by the party and made

unrelenting efforts to strengthen bamboo worker's struggle councils, legal struggles and to mobilise people in those struggles.

She was elected a member of the Secretariat of SZC in 2015 amidst difficult conditions. She directly participated in military actions and led TCOC from 2014 to 2017 that were successful and partially successful.

When the people of Gadchiroli Division started to make legal struggle for their rights of Gram Sabha as per PESA, Comrade Narmada declared total support to them on behalf of the party. She paid attention to students and youth and tried to mobilise them. She contributed to mobilise people to protect Surjagarh and Damkodivahee mines and against displacement.

In 2013 the movement overcome the losses and was advancing when on 22nd April 2018 there was extraordinary loss in Kasnur encounter where 40 comrades were martyred. By the time Comrade Narmada's health started to deteriorate. But she did not bother the ill-health and prepared a plan worked with the cadres and the people with firm determination to overcome the losses and to advance the movement.

Comrade Narmada was a writer, poet and prose writer. She was part of Dandakaranya writers. She could not avail much time for literary work since she was practically responsible in the revolutionary movement. However, she wrote stories, articles and poems about the life of the villagers, especially about the contribution of tribal women and children in the revolutionary movement and their problems.

She was sent for treatment to Hyderabad in 2018 August. During this period, she and her life partner Comrade Kiran (Rani Satyanarayana) were arrested by the Telangana SIB and Maharashtra police on 11th June 2019. They were foisted with 65 cases and sent to Baiculla prison in Mumbai. In the name of Corona, they did not provide her the necessary treatment. Due to deliberate negligence of the police and the jail authorities, her health deteriorated further. The breast cancer gradually spread to other organs. In spite of the deadly disease Comrade Narmada was inspiring and providing spirit to the rest of the prisoners until the end. She was reading the magazines and books she was sent.

Basing on the reports of the doctors the High Court ordered in 2021 September that she be joined in a health centre where patients without a chance of treatment are put. In fact, she was sent to one such centre in Bandra with much delay where she passed away on 9th April. The cruel police officers did not give Comrade Kiran a chance to see his life partner in spite of a court order. He was taken there one hour after she passed away. We appeal to the democrats and human rights organisations to severely condemn the cruel attitude of the Hindutva fascist government and its state.

With her ideal and exemplary revolutionary life, Comrade Narmada shall continue to show the revolutionary path to the oppressed people, especially the oppressed women like the morning star. Let us imbibe her Bolshevik spirit, implement the ideals and high communist values she established in her revolutionary life and stay until the end in the class struggle and people's war and this would be the real homage to her.

We appeal to the entire people and democrats to observe Dandakaranya bandh on 25th April in memory of the ideal revolutionary woman leader Comrade Narmada.



Vikalp
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