



COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST) CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Press Statement

30 August 2018

Condemn the raids, arrest, attempted arrest and house-arrest of social activists on trumped-up charges!

Demand withdrawal of charges and release of all social activists implicated in Bhima-Koregaon case!

Unite to intensify the countrywide people's movement against Brahmanical Hindu-fascism!

Maharashtra Police in collusion with the central intelligence agencies and the police of five states carried out a series of coordinated raids on the houses of several prominent social activists on 28 August. The pretext used was the purported investigation into the alleged Maoist links behind the Bhima-Koregaon event and the so-called Maoist conspiracy to assassinate Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These allegations are nothing but inventions of the Maharashtra Police working under the diktats of RSS and Modi-Shah-Bhagwat clique to silence the voices of dissent against Hindutva terror and the terror of Hindu-majoritarian Indian state. Five well-known social activists Rona Wilson, Prof. Shoma Sen, Adv. Surendra Gadling, Sudhir Dhawale and Mahesh Raut have already been incarcerated in Pune jail since 6 June on these very charges.

The latest crackdown of 28 August began with raids on the residences of revolutionary poet Varavara Rao, his relatives Prof. K Satyanarayana and journalist N Venugopal of Hyderabad, Father Stan Swamy of Ranchi, social activist Vernon Gonzalves and Advocate Arun Ferreira of Mumbai, Advocate Sudha Bharadwaj of Faridabad and civil rights activist and journalist Gautam Navlakha of New Delhi. Their houses were searched and computers, hard-disks and other electronic devices were seized by the policemen violating all norms. Following the raids, Varavara Rao, Vernon Gonzalves, Arun Ferreira, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlakha were arrested under various sections of the UAPA in brazen violation of the "due process of law". However, as the police failed to provide any justification for the arrests and trampled upon the legal procedure, the courts refused the transit remand of the last two. The three others were brought to Pune and produced before a local court on 29 August.

After the news of the raids and arrests became public, there was an eruption of indignation and protest throughout the country. People's organisations, political parties and individuals across political affiliations condemned this fascist crackdown in one voice and protest demonstrations were organised in different parts of the country. Several international human rights organisations too expressed their strong objection to the trampling of the civil and democratic rights of the political dissenters in this manner. Only the Sangh Parivar and its lackeys were found desperately trying to defend this indefensible police action with their usual lies and deceit, thereby exposing themselves in the eyes of the country's masses.

It was under pressure of this outburst of public indignation that the Supreme Court gave an urgent hearing to the petition of five prominent public intellectuals challenging these arrests the very next day, which foiled the government's design to put the social activists behind bars immediately. While rejecting the government's contention for their arrest, the SC warned that dissent is the 'safety-valve' of any democracy, and if it is not tolerated but stifled, there will be an explosion of the 'pressure-cooker' that will smash the very edifice of the existing system. This is an oblique reminder to the ruling classes that if they continue to suppress the country's people in this fascist manner, the people will not tolerate this all the time and will certainly overthrow their oppressors sooner or later. In fact, the brazenness of the crackdown in the garb of 'investigation' into the Bhima-Koregaon incident has been such that organs of the Indian state like the SC and the NHRC too had to acknowledge the violations and reprimand the government and the police.

The defeat of the heinous conspiracy to arrest the social activist is a slap on the face of the Hindu-fascists and a victory to the people's united struggle against the fascist and reactionary forces – no matter how partial or temporary it may be. It has sent a strong warning to the reactionary ruling-classes and their most loyal servant RSS-BJP that the people of the country will not take their repeated acts of fascist terror lying down. It is one more proof that the people will fight back at every step the evil design to turn the country into a fascist 'Hindu Rashtra' and foil the Hindutva agenda by using all means.

The illusions created by Modi's pre-election promise of 'Acche Din' are fading fast and the people's discontent against the government is on the rise due to its fascist, treacherous, anti-people policies. This discontent is taking the form of organised militant struggles by workers, peasants, Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities,

oppressed nationalities, women, students, youth and intellectuals, etc., in all parts of the country. This is making BJP-RSS more and more desperate to cling to power by using methods of fascist terror against all opposition and dissenting voices. Failing on all fronts in the last four years and keeping in view the next year's general elections, Modi government is now peddling the new illusion of building a 'New India' by 2022 for the benefit of the feudal-comprador ruling classes and their masters – the imperialists. An important component of the drive towards a Hindu-fascist 'New India' is the trampling of all democratic rights of the people that were achieved through united struggles and wiping out of all democratic movements championing the cause of the oppressed masses. The BJP-RSS want to stop the people from rising up against their government as they have been doing of late in militant peasant movements, protest of Dalits after Bhima-Koregaon violence and dilution of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, Adivasis rising up against interference with CNT/SPT Acts and in the Patthalgadhi movement, liberation movements of the Kashmiri and Northeast nationalities, etc.

As an integral part of building this Hindu-fascist 'New India', BJP governments and the Sangh Parivar want to uproot the country's Maoist movement by the year 2022. This is the prime target they have set in launching the counter-revolutionary plan 'Samadhan' ('Solution') in May 2017. This so-called reactionary 'solution' involves the extermination of the people on a genocidal scale and the displacement of millions in the Adivasi areas across the country. This most cruel campaign has already resulted in a series of massacres in the Maoist movement areas like Kalleda, Badgaon, Tadpal, Aipeta, Kasanur-Tumirgunda, Timmenar and Nulkatong. This annihilation campaign is accompanied by the attempt to throttle the democratic and progressive voices in the urban areas in the name of curbing Maoism, so that no one dares to oppose the genocide in the forested hinterland of the country. It is beyond doubt, however, that just as the people have defeated similar fascist campaigns of the ruling classes like Janjagaran Abhiyan, Salwa Judum and Sendra in the past and has fought back the fascist Operation Green Hunt through a protracted resistance struggle by making huge sacrifices, they can certainly defeat this latest 'Samadhan' onslaught too through a united militant resistance in rural and urban areas by braving all forms of white terror and giving all sacrifice. This will go a long way in strengthening the ongoing countrywide people's movement against Hindu-fascist forces.

While condemning in the strongest words the continuous persecution of social activists and democrats by the government under baseless charges, the Central Committee of our Party hails the people's resistance that foiled the fascist police crackdown to some extent. It conveys revolutionary greetings to all the democratic organisations, political parties and individuals of the country that have daringly stood up against the fascist Modi-Fadnavis governments, RSS and their mercenary police forces to prevent the imprisonment of the social activists for the time being. But the struggle is far from over. All efforts must be made to revoke the unjust house-arrest of the activists and prevent their further persecution under any pretext, particularly in view of the possibility that the police will plant incriminating material in the seized electronic devices and come up with new 'proofs' to implicate them. Similarly, the struggle for the release of the five other social activists incarcerated on the same charges since June must also be intensified. Moreover, getting the fabricated charges against all the activists scrapped or withdrawn should be an important aim of this struggle. It is through such a widespread people's struggle that the fascist governments can be stopped from persecuting other democrats and activists of the country on Bhima-Koregaon and similar fabricated cases in the coming days. Our Party appeals to all revolutionary, democratic, progressive, secular and patriotic organisations and individuals of the country, various oppressed classes, communities and social sections, intellectuals, lawyers, journalists, writers, artists, students, youth, women and the people of all walks of life to unite and actively participate in this struggle by using all forms of struggle. We call upon the international friends of the people of India to stand in solidarity with this struggle by taking up campaigns for the persecuted social activists.

- *Down with the feudal-comprador Brahmanical Hindu-fascism!*
- *Down with Modi government and its cohorts the Devendra Fadnavis, Raman Singh, Raghubar Das and K Chandrashekhar Rao governments for persecuting the country's social activists and democrats!*
- *Long live the countrywide united people's movement against Hindutva-fascist BJP-Sangh Parivar!*
- *Long live the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist and anti-fascist people's democratic revolution!*


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