

RED STAR

PLATFORM FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARIES

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*SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF THE MARUTI SUZUKI
WORKERS FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS,
RIGHT TO ORGANISE AND DIGNITY !*



PARTICIPATE AND COOPERATE ACTIVELY TO MAKE THE NINTH CONGRESS OF THE CPI(ML) HISTORIC : AN APPEAL

Dear Comrades and Friends,

Revolutionary Greetings to all Readers and Subscribers of Red Star

HOPE by this time most of you are aware of the Ninth Congress of CPI(ML) which is going to be convened from 7th November, the 94th anniversary of the great October Revolution, to 12th. Many of you, who are young comrades, may be surprised why the convening of the Ninth Congress is so much delayed after the Eighth Congress held in 1970 under the leadership of com. Charu Majumdar. We have already explained the reasons for it. Following the disintegration of the CPI(ML) from 1971 and the degeneration of the Communist Party of China also to capitalist path following Mao's death in 1976, most of the friends as well as the enemies had written it off. The hundreds of books written on it were like obituaries. And the large number of groups that had existed once, were only squabbling, but not making any contributions to reorganize the Party. It had only added to the prevailing confusions. The record of the still surviving remnants of the past like the CPI (Maoist) is not at all positive and helpful in rebuilding the Party ideologically, politically and organizationally.

It is in these circumstances a section of the CPI(ML) from Kerala and AP set out a long journey as CRC-CPI(ML) to make a concrete analysis of the international and national situation, to evaluate past mistakes leading to severe set backs and to evolve the line and path of revolution. During this process we lost most of the early comrades as they could not swim against the tide of counter revolution. But we have fought against all reverses, went through a long period of reorganization as CPI(ML) Red Flag and have emerged as CPI(ML) daring to take up the challenges at international and national levels. All the details of our consistent efforts and the new Program and Path of revolution we arrived at are available in the documents adopted by 2009 Bhopal Special Conference and present draft documents.

In this situation organizing a Party Congress with more than 300 delegates, observers from 19 states and fraternal delegates from more than ten countries for six days, including the rally on 7th November is going to be a very difficult and expensive task. As all

state committees have to organize the Conferences from the Branch level including translation and publication of all draft documents, their capacity to help financially is curtailed. In these days of price rise our budget for the successful completion of the Congress is about Rs. 20 lakhs. But as we have few thousands of readers of Red Star and numerous friends, even if a section of them come forward to contribute whatever they can, we can successfully convene the Congress.

You can actively participate and co-operate in making the Congress a great success in two ways: Firstly send your criticisms and suggestions to develop the draft documents; Secondly, send whatever contributions are possible before 1st November to account: A/C no. 2007101016469 in Canara Bank, New Delhi-110014, in the name of KN Ramachandran. Please extend all help to make Ninth Congress a historic one.

**Comradely,
KN Ramachandran
General Secretary, CPI(ML)**

REPEAL DEATH SENTENCE FROM THE CRIMINAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM

AGAINST the implementation of the death sentence of Santhan, Murugan and Perarivalan, the convicted in the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case, who have already spent twenty years in jail, massive protests broke out in Tamil Nadu leading to the state assembly passing a unanimous resolution to commute the death sentence of the three to life imprisonment. The Madras High Court has stayed the sentence for eight weeks on the ground that the mercy petition was pending for eleven years. In a large number of countries already the death sentence is abolished. In our country also this demand is raised by many democratic sections for a long time. The CPI (ML) has already called for the repealing of the death sentence. The CPI (ML) appeals to all democratic forces to raise their voice against this inhuman provision in the criminal judicial system and to create powerful public opinion in order to force all the political parties and the central government to repeal it forthwith. ●

OPPOSE PETROL PRICE HIKE: GET MOBILISED AND FIGHT PRICE-RISE

WHEN the inflation rate had already reached almost double digits, the oil companies who are amassing huge profits and Ambani like corporate lords has become member of super rich in the world , another hike of Rs. 3.14 is announced in petrol prices. There is a threat of reducing the supply of LPG cylinders to income tax paying families and of a hike in railway fares. Using the very same arguments raised now that the exchange rate of Re has reached lowest levels and crude petroleum prices are going up, at any time again the petrol and even diesel prices can be raised again as practically the government has decontrolled this sector. This is happening when the electricity and milk prices are also hiked and the prices of vegetables and other food items are hiked by the traders according to their will. Besides the expenses for healthcare, travelling and education are also sky rocketing.

This is nothing but wanton attack on the vast masses of the people. Already through the snatching away of all hard earned rights, especially through the contract system, the pay packets of vast majority of the workers are cut down with the extraction of the maximum surplus value. The unending price rise and corruption at all levels means extraction of yet another extra amount from them, impoverishing them to unprecedented levels. The corporate houses along with the MNCs and the big business lobbies who have entered the retail trading besides their monopoly in wholesale trading are allowed all facilities including future trading so that hoarding and black marketing can be indulged in without any interference. The central and state governments have allowed free looting by all these sharks under 'neo-liberal' policies.

The governments at center and in the states are justifying this horrific situation by repeating that this is a global phenomenon. It means they are not going to do anything even to reduce the burden over the people. In this situation the people have only one way out before them: come out on the streets and revolt. Only a mass upsurge of the people will compel the rulers to wake up and do something to change this situation. The mass action should be directed against the government as well as against all the killer sharks who are getting fattened by plundering the people. The CPI(ML) appeals to the working class and all toiling masses to come out on the streets and wage a relentless struggle against price rise and those who are responsible for it. ●

THROW OUT NATIONAL LAND ACQUISITION AND REHABILITATION/ RESETTLEMENT BILL, 2011

THE British colonialists had imposed the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 to confiscate land wherever they wanted according to their wishes in British India. During the independence struggle this was also one of the targets of attack. After the transfer of power in 1947 contrary to earlier promises no progressive legislation was made to replace it. On the contrary as the central and state government took up projects and when the big capitalists like Tatas, Birlas etc. started projects vast areas of land was taken over forcibly or by paying

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nominal compensation. But with the imposition of 'neo-liberal' policies acquisition of agricultural land became a major issue, throwing out millions of families from their traditional habitats forcibly or by paying nominal compensation as it along with the forests, mines and water sources became the source of accumulation of quick wealth. As a result during the last two decades numerous land struggles broke out all over the country against acquisition of land and displacement. Tens of millions of people came out on the streets and challenged their displacement. It is the background in which a new draft land acquisition bill was presented in the monsoon session of the parliament.

An initial draft Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill was circulated about two months ago for public comment. But in the present bill put before the parliament many of the provisions in the initial draft which were more progressive have

disappeared. In this hints of the recommendations of the imperialist agencies like Ford and Rockefeller Foundations who had started advising for a land reform from above from the 1950s and of other external agencies are visible. From the forward of the bill which says "urbanisation is inevitable" to all provisions that follows the influence of the *July 2007 Policy Document of the World Bank: India: Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction* is visible.

This *Document* stated: "(i) make leasing legal where it is currently prohibited... (ii) allow transferability of land by land reform beneficiaries at least through lease and explore options for making the gains from such reform permanent; (iii) drop restrictions on sale of land to non-agriculturists and subdivision which have little economic justification; and (iv) review legislation on compulsory land acquisition and, subject to the prevention of undesirable externalities, allow farmers or their representatives to negotiate with and if desired transfer land directly to investors rather than having to go through government and often receive only very limited compensation."

Actually this draft bill 2011 is a move for state backed acquisition of land for the rich with rehabilitation and resettlement viewed as a mere token charity. It is an attack on the people in every respect. There is nothing progressive in this bill. It is an out and out retrogressive bill which will worsen the living conditions of the poor in the country, benefitting the super rich sections immensely. So this bill should be rejected outrightly. A major countrywide movement should be organized for it. The CPI(ML) calls upon all peasant organizations and movements of adivasis, dalits, all backward classes/sections and progressive democratic forces to launch a vigorous campaign to reject this World Bank dictated bill and for the protection of the peasantry including adivasis, dalits and other backward sections from displacement. ●

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO ACT AGAINST PERPETRATORS OF GUJARAT CARNAGE

THE killing of former Congress MP, Ehsan Jaffri and scores of others in Gulberg Society carnage during the 2002 riots is one of the glaring examples of how the police, administration and its political leadership connived with the communal fascist rioters during the 2002 genocide. During the last decade enough evidence has come out including the report of various commissions deputed by different agencies including the Supreme Court about the complicity of the Gujarat government led by Narendra Modi in these carnages. Still by directing a lower level trial court in Gujarat to take a final decision on the riot charge against Modi on the complaint of Zakia Jaffri, wife of Ehsan Jafri, is nothing but a clear shirking of responsibility by the highest court in

the country, which amounts to saving the leader of the communal fascist killer gangs. The way Modi and the RSS Parivar are celebrating this order by the SC shows how nervous they were about the SC coming out with an order to the SIT for filing an FIR against all accused. But the SC has almost excused him from the serious charges almost at the same time when the US Congress was presented with a report that he is worthy of becoming a future prime minister of India. Can it be said that the SC order and the US certificate came out almost at the same time accidentally? As the fate of statements of even top officers who attended the meeting presided by Modi which decided to 'teach a lesson to the minorities' reveals, the trial courts, the judiciary and the police are under the influence of the RSS Parivar, and Modi and his gang are fully aware that they can easily manipulate the whole process after this reactionary order from the SC.

It was on 28 February, 2002, Ehsan Jaffri and 62 others were massacred in Gulberg Society housing complex even after he had appealed for help from police, top officers and ministers. When no action was taken by the state government to file an FIR or to take up the case in spite of repeated pleas, Zakia Jaffri submitted a complaint to the Gujarat High Court on 8th June, 2006, against the failure of Gujarat police to take any action. It took 17 months for the High Court to reject the complaint and ask her to file the case before a magistrate's court. Again following many writ petitions it was on 26 March, 2008, the Supreme Court appointed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate 10 cases including the Gulberg Society killings. On 2nd March, 2010, Special Public

Prosecutor R.K. Shaw and his deputy resigned accusing the trial judge and the SIT of being 'soft towards the accused'. In May 2010 the SIT submitted its report to the SC. It took another 15 months for the SC to come out with this order which virtually saves from the grave charges of supreme responsibility for the 2002 carnages. It amounts complicity of the SC in allowing the accused to escape in such a case of such gruesome character.

The degeneration of the judiciary from top to bottom and the rampant corruption affecting its functioning have come out nakedly on numerous occasions. Similarly its hostility to the working class and the poor peasantry including the dalits and adivasis are well known through its numerous orders against them and in favor of the neo-liberal policies favoring the corporate, MNCs, contractors and mafias. Its dilly-dallying with the Babri Masjid case is

also well known, benefiting the RSS Parivar and other majority communal forces. Now the Gulberg Society case an example of its degeneration from whatever progressive values the Constitution has.

It is the task of all progressive, democratic and secular forces to condemn this order of the SC and to intensify their struggle for exposing and defeating this reactionary ruling system including the judiciary. ●

REJECT THE BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL, 2011

THE UPA government and its Ministry of Science and Technology, it seems, are taking direct orders from the US administration to run this country, especially in the field of science and technology. Otherwise how could they come out with such a bill as the BRAI, 2011, opening the country to GM products in spite of the mighty opposition the country witnessed against the introduction of Bt Brinjal? Already the cotton cultivating peasantry is reeling under the negative impact of cultivating the Bt Cotton seeds provided by the MNC, Monsanto. Few lakhs of them have already committed suicide in states like AP, Maharashtra etc. As many as 13 state governments came out against introduction of the Bt Brinjal using their Constitutional rights over agriculture and health. Now the UPA government is coming out with this anti-national bill in order to supersede these state governments and impose the GM seeds and products over the people of India to satisfy the MNCs. In the name of a regulatory legislation, the bill if made in to a law is intended to actually pave the way for the rapid spread of GM crops and their field trials all over the country.

In the context of the MNCs utilizing the services of the government to spread the GM crops and products to reap huge profits and to speed up the corporatization of the agriculture what is required is a biotechnology regulation to protect the human and animal health and environment. Instead the Bill envisages only advisory role to the state governments and take away their Constitutional authority over agriculture and health. The State Biotechnology Regulatory Advisory Committee under Section 35 of the Bill will have only advisory role. When the Union Ministry of Science and Technology which is

hell bent to promote the GM crops and products, it is given almost the sole regulatory authority. The Bill despite enormous criticism against it does not provide any authority for people to express their control over such a vital field. It lacks any transparent regulatory regime. Section 77 of the Bill even prevents civil courts to have jurisdiction on any matter which the Appellate Tribunal under the Bills empowered to determine.

Besides, despite the bitter experience of what happened to the victims of the Bhopal gas genocide, the Bill has almost no significant liability provisions binding the producers of seeds and products of GMOs. The polluter pays provision is dispensed with. It undermines the right of the public and affected parties to get justice. Under present circumstances this Bill may get through the parliament, with overwhelming majority of its members ready to sell the interests of the country for a payment, and become an act which will irrevocably damage the interests of the peasantry and the people at large. So this bill should be outrightly rejected. The CPI(ML) calls upon all peasant organizations and all progressive, democratic, patriotic forces to come out on the streets and stoutly oppose this anti-national, anti-people Bill. ●

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1. Ideological Challenges Confronting the ICM
(A Paper for Discussion)
2. On Communism and Democracy
3. The Challenges Faced by ICM: Fight to
Resurrect the True Marxist-Leninist Principle

- Observer
- Sanjay Singhvi

- Nirjati Dasgupta

Contribution : Rs. 25

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NINTH PARTY CONGRESS: ITS BASIC DIFFERENCES WITH THE COMING CONGRESSES OF CPI, CPI(M) AND LIBERATION

KN Ramachandran

THE preparations for convening the Ninth Congress of the CPI(ML) from 7th to 12th November are advancing as planned with the Branch, Local and Area Conferences already completed and the district and the state level conferences already started. The draft documents for the Ninth Congress : *The Party Program, Amendments to the Party Constitution, Political Organizational Report and the Political Resolution* are translated to different languages and published facilitating the discussions from the area conferences onwards on them.

Along with it as decided by the Central Committee, in continuation of the practice initiated from the time of the Bhopal Special Conference, the draft documents are made available to the fraternal left organizations in India along with the fraternal organizations at international level for their comments and suggestions. They are given to party friends, leaders of class/mass organizations and revolutionary intellectuals also for comments and suggestions. Besides, they are published through the website and Facebook also, inviting comments and suggestions. All the comments and suggestions received shall be published in Red Star. In this manner we are trying to broaden the discussion on the draft documents to outside the Party also. We are not expecting a large number of comments and suggestions in the present atmosphere when sectarian approach of both left and right variety are rampant among the so called left organizations, even amounting to

hostility against any differing ideas. But by initiating this process we are making earnest efforts to democratize the Congress Process.

As already pointed out in earlier articles explaining the significance of the Ninth Congress and the draft documents published, the Ninth Congress documents are rejecting the 'semi-colonial, semi-feudal. Protracted people's war' line of the Eighth Congress held in 1970. It is putting forward an analysis of Imperialism in its neo-colonial phase and is going to release an empirical study on this question during this Congress. In the Bhopal Special Conference a Path of Revolution document was already discussed and adopted which puts forward the outlook of capture of political power through a countrywide uprising led by the proletariat. As an integral part of and pre-condition for it, the Bolshevik style building of Party and class/mass organizations are already taken up along with the development of class struggle in all fields utilizing all forms of struggle including the parliamentary struggle.

While these steps are taken up, the Central Committee has recognized the significance of taking up an analysis of the ideological challenges confronting the international communist movement, the weaknesses in addressing which led to the severe set backs suffered by it. One of these central weaknesses identified is the failure to put proletarian internationalism in the forefront while taking up the national tasks. It is this weakness which led to the dissolution of the Communist International in 1943 at a time the ICM was facing fierce attacks from the fascist camp as well as the imperialist camp led by US, and to the failure of both the Soviet and Chinese Party leaderships to reorganize it. Quite opposite to Marxist-Leninist positions even concepts like those negating the need of Communist International gained strength in this situation. It is as a part of the struggle to put in command the importance of proletarian internationalism and reorganization of the Communist International, joining with like minded revolutionary parties CPI(ML) could take initiative for the founding of the International Coordination of the Revolutionary Parties and Organizations (ICOR) in 2010. Under its initiative many solidarity initiatives are already taken up.

At the national level the initiative taken by the Party has created conditions for expanding the party organization and class/mass organizations at all India level. A number of all India campaigns also could be launched successfully during this period along with the numerous struggles taken up at the state level. Defeating the impact of the left sectarian line of the 1970 Congress which led to the disintegration of the CPI(ML) immediately after it, fighting against right reformist and anarchist tendencies, and by putting forward the ideological-political line according to present concrete conditions when imperialism, especially US imperialism is intensifying its neo-colonial onslaught against the working class and oppressed peoples and the when the resistance of the world people against the imperialists and their lackeys are gaining strength, the Ninth Congress of the CPI(ML) is organized.

At a time when the CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML) Liberation are also going to convene their party congresses shortly, we consider that an evaluation of their lines comparing them with the line put forward by the CPI(ML) in its Ninth Congress will be educative for the revolutionary movement. As far as the CPI is concerned, though it has claimed that it has reversed its hitherto line of class collaboration which led to allying with the Congress and to justify the emergency rule of 1975-77 in its Bhatinda Congress, later developments have shown that it is basically pursuing the very same Soviet revisionist line which led to the disintegration of Soviet Union. As part of the Left Front led by the CPI(M) it is pursuing the neo-liberal policies wherever it is coming to power and reformist policies elsewhere. As a result, it is disintegrating fast in most of the states. The only importance of its 21st Party Congress is going to be the election of a new general secretary in place of the hitherto secretary retiring on health grounds.

The CPI(M) is going to convene its 20th Congress in April 2012 when it is facing the most acute crisis in its 48 years old history. For a party like it which have degenerated to parliamentary cretinism and which considers the parliamentary practice as its principal task, the defeat of its Left Front in Bengal in recent elections after 34 years of continuous rule is a rude shock along with its defeat in Kerala. Whatever left phraseology is used by its petti bourgeois leadership to explain its line, the events leading to the defeat in Bengal and Kerala has proved that wherever it comes to power it is following the very same neo-liberal policies pursued by the central and other state governments. Singur, Nandigram and Lalgah, to site few examples, have proved it. Like Soviet and the Chinese revisionists, it has no alternative development model to project against the neo-colonial models of imperialists and their lackeys.

The argument that in a country where the big bourgeois-big landlord government is in power what else can be done by a communist party comes to power in few state is fallacious. From the time of Lenin it is explained well that the communists are not participating in elections and if a majority is obtained coming to power not to implement the ruling class policies but to put forward its own alternative perspective of development and to propagate it by trying to implement it. Whatever draft documents of the CPI(M) for its 20th Congress are available, all of them reveal that in spite of its major reverses in Bengal and Kerala it has no alternative perspective to put forward against the neo-colonial policies of the imperialists and their lackeys which are facing acute crises in imperialist countries and leading the countries under neo-colonization to utter devastation. So except for a repetition of the criticism of the very same neo-liberal policies which they are faithfully pursuing wherever they comes to power, and the oft-repeated promise of another third front with ruling class or regional parties like AIADMK, TDP, SP, RJD etc. it has nothing to offer to its rank and file who are led along the social democratic path waving the red flag and repeating left jargons.

The CPI(ML) Liberation is an organization which tries to cling to the history and name of the CPI(ML) after rejecting all its revolutionary content. If the Communist Revolutionaries came out of CPI(M) rejecting its adherence to the Soviet revisionist line under a centrist cover and the degeneration of Soviet leadership to social imperialist path, the Liberation leadership took a pragmatic stand long back, upholding Gorbachov's glassnost-perestroika, and calling Soviet Union as a distorted socialist country. Though it reject Mao's contributions including its critique of Soviet revisionism and Cultural Revolution and still uphold the present imperialist China as a socialist country like the CPI and CPI(M), it has inherited the objection to the reorganization of the Communist International. Confused by the fast changes taking place in the agrarian sector under the penetration of capital-market forces and technology, and the changes in the agrarian relations, and unable to evolve an agrarian revolutionary program, it has deviated to parliamentarism to a great extent as reflected in the formulation of its 8th Congress in 2007 that possibilities for peaceful transition also exist in India.

The theoretical positions and practice of these forces, though there are minor variations among them, and a number of other groups going nearer to them shows that right deviation is the main danger confronting the communist movement in India. Whatever may be the extreme revolutionary postures of the CPI(Maoist) with their armed actions and squad politics, its refusal to recognize the vast changes taking place in the country under neo-colonization and failure to evolve a program and path of revolution according to present concrete conditions, have led it in practice to support TMC like forces in Bengal elections and joining the band wagon of the separate Telengana movement in AP as the only form of struggle presently abandoning the path of

From First to Ninth Congress

Nine Decades of the Communist Movement In India

(In English and Hindi)

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Contribution : Rs. 25

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class struggle. As a result, while pursuing sectarian practices, its political line is also rightist in essence.

All the organizations and groups, starting from RSP and SUCI(C), which evaluate India as a capitalist country and stage of revolution as socialist, irrespective of the variations in the interpretations they put forward, reject the intensifying penetration of imperialist led capital-market forces and technology in the agrarian sector and in the society as a whole, and as a result have become apologists of neo-colonialism and imperialist led forces. In effect they are also pursuing a rightist line. So when we evaluate that revisionism, rightist trends of various hues, is the main danger to the communist movement and without uncompromisingly struggling against and defeating them ideologically and politically the revolutionary communist movement cannot advance, it should be understood in this sense.

It is a fundamental Marxist-Leninist principle that the ideological-political line determines everything. Presently when the ICM, and as a part of it the Indian communist movement are confronting grave challenges and have not yet come out of the severe set backs suffered by it, this Marxist-Leninist principle should be correctly understood. Any amount of practice will not lead the revolutionary movement forward without evolving and upholding the correct ideological-political line as the hitherto experience teaches. On the contrary, all practices stagnate in its absence. So we appeal to all those who want to realize a basic change in the country and usher in people's democracy and socialism to go through the ideological-political line, and the program and path of revolution put forward by different organizations/trends, wage an uncompromising, at the same time healthy, ideological struggle against the wrong lines, dare to stand firm with the correct line, and dare to advance the revolutionary struggles. ●

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN CAPITAL AND NATURE

Discussion on Draft Documents of Ninth Congress of the CPI(ML)

Observer

SEEKING truth from facts is a Marxist-Leninist method. The way the ecological destruction has reached catastrophic levels and global warming is intensifying at alarming levels are already well documented and are subjects of serious international studies. For example in an article *Arctic Sea Ice Melting at Fasted Observed Pace* in The Hindu dated 13th September John Vidal has graphically explained that “if the current trend of global warming continues a largely ice free Arctic in summer months is likely within thirty years-that is 40 years earlier than anticipated in the last Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change assessment report. The last time the Arctic was uncontestedly free of summer time ice was 125,000 years ago, at the height of last major inter glacial period. This stunning loss of Arctic sea ice is yet another wake up call that climate change is here now and is having devastating effects”.

Climate models show that the sea-ice retreat is related to the man made global warming, which due to the albedo effect which is related to a surface's reflecting power, is particularly pronounced in the Arctic. Separate research suggests that the Arctic ice is in a downward spiral, declining in area and also thinning. Every year the level of global warming is accelerating as various studies indicate. So a large number of scientists have come to the conclusion that if the ecological destruction, production of carbon gases and consequent global warming is not reversed within a century conditions will be created making the existence of human race on earth will become almost impossible.

While analyzing the advent of the capitalist system and its consequences, in *Dialectics of Nature* Engels had observed that capitalism had turned the relation between human beings and nature in to an antagonistic one. When capitalism transformed in to monopoly capitalism, imperialism, the plunder of nature intensified manifold. Under 'neo-liberal' policies it has reached unprecedented levels. What is pursued under the label of development is devastating the nature.

Though Marx had mentioned and Engels had explained the importance of maintaining a non-antagonistic relation with nature while utilizing the natural resources for human advancement, when the proletariat captured political power and initiated development policies, instead of finding ways for an alternative development policy to the imperialist development perspective, by and large, in the name of surpassing the GDPs and production targets of the imperialist countries, often the very same development perspectives of the imperialist powers were followed. So when the ecological destruction started creating catastrophic effects and many independent agencies and later the NGOs started championing the question of ecological problems, and as the former socialist countries degenerated to capitalist path and most of the communist parties turned to revisionist path, even any mention of the ecological questions were scoffed at

by them in a mechanical materialist way. Any one talking about ecological problems were criticized as eco-fundamentalists or imperialist agents preventing the fast development of the 'undeveloped' countries. As far as the NGOs are concerned, they limited all ecological problems as some thing which can be resolved within the imperialist system through reformist ways.

It is in this situation when the CRC-CPI(ML) started the study of the transformation of the imperialist plunder from colonial to neo-colonial forms and the reasons for the severe set back suffered by the international communist movement, the question of ecological destruction and the need for communists to give leadership to the struggle against the ecological destruction was taken up actively. As a result the Kerala state committee of the CPI(ML) could play a leading role in the successful struggle against the installation of a nuclear plant in 1986-87 period. This initiative was taken up as the activities developed at all India level.

It is in continuation to these studies and practical struggles CPI(ML) could develop the theoretical stand that the contradiction between capital and nature has become one of the major contradictions at international level for successfully carrying forward the world Proletarian Socialist Revolution and at national level in successfully completing the People's Democratic Revolution as a part of it. It is not sufficient to confine to certain statements and resolutions on it and leaving the leadership of the struggle against ecological destruction to the NGOs. The communist party should provide leadership to this struggle at both theoretical and practical fields.

This theoretical position is now put forward in the draft Party Program to be discussed and finalized in the Ninth Congress. The draft Program states in paragraph 2.1: At the same time during this period, especially after the crisis of the 1970s, with the mad rush for the exploitation of the natural and human resources utilizing the unprecedented technological advances under the imperialist perspective of development, ever-intensifying ecological devastation has started becoming a major factor both at the international and national level. It has given rise to a new, a fifth major contradiction at both levels, contradiction between capital and nature, along with the other major contradictions".

It is further explained in paragraph 3.7 as follows: Under neo-colonization, due to the policies implemented in the name of development which actually serves the interests of imperialists and their lackeys, ecological devastation has become an ever-intensifying factor. 'Global warming like phenomena and the

nuclear catastrophe created by the nuclear arms race, existing nuclear plants which are 'nuclear time bombs' as once again proved by Fukushima. Construction of new nuclear plants are threatening the future of the human race. Imperialists are dumping industrial and nuclear wastes in countries like India. All these developments have made the struggle for ecological protection one of the basic components of social progress.

Again under the program of people's democracy it is stated in paragraph 6.15: "Based on the understanding that the contradiction between capital and nature has become a major contradiction at both national and international level, concrete plans should be worked out to protect environment and to develop the perspective on development taking this important question in to consideration." By projecting this contradiction as a major contradiction CPI(ML) has taken initiative so that the party shall strive to be in the forefront of the struggle for the protection of the environment and to beat back the destruction of nature. Party shall wage consistent struggle against the imperialist promoted development policy which devastate nature. We are inviting a serious discussion on this question from all left and democratic forces so that this approach can be further enriched. ●

PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE : RIGHT TO REJECT AND RIGHT TO RECALL SHOULD BE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

RECENTLY the right to reject all candidates in a ballot paper if none of them are found suitable and the right to recall elected members of bodies from Parliament to Panchayats as fundamental rights of citizens have come forward in the realm of public discussion after Anna Hazare raised these questions. Analyzing the lessons of the *Paris Commune* of 1871 in *Civil War in France*, Marx had upheld the decision of the Commune to elect not only the members of the legislative bodies but also all executives and judiciary at all levels and the right to recall all of them if majority of the people reject them. Marx

also lauded the decision of the Commune that the Parliament and other legislative bodies should not be reduced to talking shops but the elected representatives of the people should be linked to executive functioning also. Lenin had reiterated this position in his important work *The*

State and Revolution and had visions of the Soviets working on these lines.

As far as we are concerned from the time of functioning as CPI(ML) Red Flag we had raised the demand for the right to reject from the time we started participating in the elections from 1998. When the question what our comrades and supporters will do where we or our electoral allies, if any, have no candidates we had raised the demand for the right to reject to all people where they are finding all candidates in the ballot paper unacceptable. Similarly, we have propagated the right to recall should be part of any democratic system. But CPI(ML) does not see that merely by introducing these provisions, a ruling system shall become democratic and free from corruption. The struggle for democratization of the society shall become fruitful only when the present comprador ruling system is replaced by a People's Democratic State with a new Constitution drafted by a Constituent Assembly in which the right to private property will not be a fundamental right.

Anna Hazare as a spokesperson of the civil society groups (CSGs) has no such vision on any questions including in questions like the struggle against corruption as we have repeatedly pointed out. The CSGs, NGOs and such other reformist sections raise these demands as something which can be achieved as part of the existing ruling system. Their contradiction with those presently in power, as came out during Anna Hazare's struggle, is a contradiction among the protagonists of the present ruling system only. But if he or any other reformist sections raise demand for such issues, as it will help to popularize them, we should support such demands, while continuing to carry forward the struggles for fundamental changes to realize them.

The present bourgeois parliamentary system is essentially the dictatorship of the bourgeois and other ruling classes and sections,

though it is functioning under the facade of an elected parliament. But the parliament is reduced virtually to a talking shop with all decisions taken by the executive under a bureaucratic set up. That is why Lenin said that the bourgeois parliaments get reduced to a pig den with no power, but which at the same time stinks. It was proved when the Anna Hazare struggle against corruption took place. It had no answer why for the last 42 years the Lokpal Bill was not made in to a law. At the same time, when the struggle against corruption erupted outside with large number of people participating, all the 'parliamentarians' and their supporters started preaching about the sanctity of the parliament. In this way democracy is reduced to a mere form, devoid of any popular content.

It is in this context Lenin explained long back; "The way out of parliamentarism is not, of course, the abolition of representative institutions and the elective principle, but the conversion of the representative institutions from talking shops in to "working bodies". "The Commune was to be a working, not a parliamentary, body, executive and legislative at the same time". As Marx wrote: "Instead of deciding once in three or six years which member of the ruling class was to represent and repress the people in parliament, universal suffrage was to serve the people constituted in the Communes, as individual suffrage serves every other employer in the search for workers, foremen and accountants for his business".

It is based on these Marxist-Leninist teachings, the Draft Party Program for the Ninth Congress has explained the outline for the future People's Democratic State as follows: "6.1. The People's Democratic State will be distinguished by a Constitution providing for progressive abolition of the right to private property and implementation of the principle of social ownership of all the means of production. Such a Constitution will be drafted by a Constituent Assembly to be elected on the basis of universal suffrage and truly representing the workers, peasants and other oppressed masses arising from the committees which have grown out of the struggle along with all other revolutionary sections. Such a Constitution will be based upon the principle of all power to the people, with power being transferred to the various committees of the workers, peasants and oppressed people which have arisen out of the revolutionary struggle at all levels from the village to the national level. Such a Constitution shall provide for the right to recall at all levels to ensure the accountability of the elected representatives and shall do away with the schism between the executive power and the legislative power. This means that all officials at all levels, including judges, police chiefs, municipal officials etc. will be elected and subject to recall.

6.2. The president of the union shall be elected by members of the People's Congresses at Union and State level and shall function under the rules and policies promulgated by the People's Congress of the union. The principles of the parliamentary system of government shall be followed. The present army shall be dissolved and replaced by a People's Army constituted and led closely linked with the People's Democratic State and shall be linked to production. The police, para-military and numerous other repressive arms of the present ruling system shall be replaced by People's militia under the control of the local elected bodies. The entire central and state laws continuing from colonial days and later introduced, which are anti-people, shall be replaced by new people's laws."

These points are already explained in detail in the Approach Papers on utilizing the parliamentary forms of struggle, and in the Approach towards participation in the local bodies elections. While the points put forward in Paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 are discussed all these questions should be taken in to serious consideration so that all party members are in a position to explain to the people the basic differences between present bourgeois parliamentary system and the People's Democratic State envisaged by the Party. ●

Observer

IMPERIALISM IN ITS NEO-COLONIAL PHASE : INTRODUCTION

[Based on the decision of the Central Committee of the CPI(ML) following the All India Special Conference held in November, 2009, a study on *Imperialism in neocolonial phase* is under preparation and will be published in a Seminar going to be conducted on 8th November during the Ninth Party Congress at Bhubaneswar. We are reproducing here the introduction to this study prepared by com. KN Ramachandran, general secretary of the Party —Red Star]

IN THE latter half of the 1970s, after the withdrawal of the *Emergency* in 1977, when a large number of the Communist Revolutionaries (CRs) came out of the jails in India, the world they saw outside was different from what it was when the Naxalbari Uprising took place, when they got organized in the *All India Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries* (AICCCR) and later when a large section of them formed the CPI (ML) in 1969 and organized its First (Eighth) Party Congress in 1970 in a jubilant mood. But by 1971 the CPI(ML) had started facing severe reverses, had split and started disintegrating. Many of its top leaders including com. Charu Majumdar along with thousands of comrades became martyrs and tens of thousands were put behind bars following the fascist state terror. By 1974 when people's upsurges were taking place against the autocratic Congress regime of Indira Gandhi, though a section of the CRs joined the movement trying to politicize it, others were sticking to earlier sectarian positions. When internal Emergency was declared in June 1975 and the CRs tried to resist it, though from different stand points, they faced further suppression and many more thousands of them were imprisoned.

It was when most of the CRs were in jails the news about the death of Mao in 1976, the usurpation of leadership of the CPC and Chinese state by the capitalist roaders, and their declaration of the class collaborationist 'Theory of Three Worlds' (TTWs) as the 'strategic line of the world proletariat' came out.. With this, the firm belief of the CRs that after the Cultural Revolution what happened in Soviet Union will not be repeated in China collapsed. Though numerous developments like the invitation extended to US president Nixon to visit China in 1971 when the Yankees were intensifying carpet bombing and aggression over Vietnam, support extended by China to the Sri Lanka government in 1973 along with imperialist governments to suppress the JVP led upsurge and to some insurgent groups in Africa who had US backing etc. had started disturbing and provoking questions about them among a section of the CRs ,they were evaluated as mistakes which will be corrected soon. But what happened soon after Mao's death belied these hopes. In spite of the great victories of the people of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchia in the national liberation struggle against US imperialists and their lackeys, with socialist China also deviating from socialist path, the setback suffered by the socialist camp and the international communist movement (ICM) had become more severe. How to evaluate these developments and take lessons was a major challenge.

Within the country, the mass upsurges against the autocratic regime of Indira Gandhi, followed by the declaration of Emergency, countrywide suppression of its opponents, resistances to it and the rout suffered by the Congress party in the 1977 general elections with Janata Party, in effect a non-Congress coalition, coming to power at the centre for the first time had led to serious differences among the CRs on how to evaluate these developments. Similarly, when a new type of agrarian movement led by the rich peasant-agricultural bourgeois sections broke out in different regions, demanding better procurement prices and higher subsidies, on the question of taking an approach towards them also serious differences emerged.

In the middle of these differences among the CRs, a section of them united under Central Reorganization Committee of CPI(ML) [CRC, CPI(ML)], denounced the capitalist restoration in China and the TTWs which was advocating a line of class collaboration. They also discarded the critic of Enver Hoxa on Mao and his line of thought. Discussing the setbacks suffered by the ICM and Indian communist movement, they started reaching a preliminary understanding by the time of its First All India Conference in 1982 that the weaknesses happened mainly in analyzing the changes taking place in the concrete situation at international and national level, especially the transformation of colonial forms of plunder to neo-colonial forms by the imperialist camp during the post-war years, and in developing the Marxist-Leninist understanding accordingly. Questions like not giving primary importance to world revolution while building socialism in countries where the proletariat had seized power, and not pursuing socialist transformation in a basically different form from that of the capitalist imperialist system also came up for discussion. These enquiries were helping them to understand that these shortcomings

later led to serious deviations. Based on this preliminary evaluation, in order to deepen these understandings, studies on all these aspects were planned.

Among these, cardinal importance was given to the studies on the changes that had taken place in the world after Lenin's studies on imperialism, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, published in 1916*. In the post- Second World War years, starting from Keynes many economic theories were coming out on the post-war reconstruction. The formation documents of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB) and United Nations (UN) and the statements of the leaders of US imperialism were also explaining the post-war policies going to be pursued by them. After the formation of the IMF and WB and launching of UN the GATT was also initiated. A process of 'de-colonization' was launched transferring power to the comprador classes in the colonial countries. If UN was to bring together these 'newly independent countries' politically, IMF-WB-GATT to bring them under imperialist economic regime of capital-market forces, a number of military alliances, NATO, SEATO and CENTO, were formed to militarily control them. Along with these, the dropping of atom bombs over Japan

which was already prepared to surrender, the US led aggression against Korea and the intensification of attacks against the national liberation struggles led by anti- imperialist forces showed vividly how the imperialist camp led by US imperialism was going to take up the challenge posed by the socialist camp which had become stronger in order to re-impose its hegemony. But the important writings of the leaders of the ICM or 'Cominform' publications of this period did not carry any in depth analysis of these developments. On the contrary, the general impression sought to be presented was that the imperialist camp is getting weakened and the primary responsibility of the ICM was to work for strengthening the world peace movement. In spite of the degeneration of Yugoslavia to capitalist path the seriousness of the challenges posed by the new forms of offensive by the US led imperialist camp was not given the importance it called for.

The seriousness of this erroneous approach towards understanding the post-war developments when imperialism was changing its old form of colonization to new forms, to neocolonialism, started getting exposed soon by the numerous developments taking place around the world. But instead of making any attempts to overcome them, in the 20th Congress of the CPSU and later, the mistakes caused by the 'personality cult' of Stalin were made the main targets of attack. No serious study of imperialism in the new situation was taken up. Some of the Soviet studies coming out in late 1950s not making any analysis of the new situation, defined the neo-colonies as countries under total domination of US imperialism. The important changes taking place under neo-colonization, the role they played in the degeneration of Yugoslavia to capitalist path were not taken up seriously and Soviet revisionists started acting as apologists of neo-colonialism. Underestimating the challenge from the imperialist camp, the Soviet revisionists put forward the general line of '*peaceful competition and peaceful coexistence with imperialism and peaceful transition to socialism*' before the communist parties. There were serious ideological struggles against this Soviet revisionist line in the 1957 and 1960 Moscow meetings of the Communist parties. The Communiqué and Statement adopted in them reflected this struggle. They could not make a basic break from the revisionist positions of the Soviet leadership. But in continuation of this struggle led by the CPC and the PLA of Albania, *A Proposal Concerning the General Line of the ICM* put forward by the CPC in 1963 in the course of the Great Debate, was a great step forward. One of the Nine Comments, *The Apologists of Neocolonialism*, published as a part of these, explaining the important changes which were taking place in imperialist plunder after the Second World War, the CPC stated: "*After World War II, the imperialists have certainly not given up colonialism but have merely adopted a new form, neocolonialism This neocolonialism is a more pernicious and sinister form of colonialism*".

Following this there were many attempts by the communists as well as by the anti-imperialist sections in general including independent socialists and intellectuals to analyze neocolonialism. For a time it was accepted that, through 'de-colonization' the erstwhile colonies were transformed to neo-colonies. These studies rejected the Soviet understanding about neocolonialism. The CRs in India during the ideological struggle against revisionism and neo-revisionism started analyzing India as a neo colony. But within the span of few years, the basically correct approach given in the *Proposal Concerning the General Line* and *Apologists of Neocolonialism* was reversed after the 9th Congress of the CPC in 1969. It proposed a new general line for the ICM based on the analysis that Leninist era of 'imperialism and proletarian revolution' has transformed to the 'era of total collapse of imperialism and worldwide victory of socialism'. The vast changes that had taken place during the transformation to neocolonialism

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mentioned in earlier writings got obliterated and after the 9th Congress of the CPC the terms semi-colonial and neo-colonial were used almost synonymously as in the Party Programme of the CPI(ML) of 1970. During the tumultuous developments taking place, including the disintegration of the CPI (ML) and international developments like the setbacks in China, almost all the CR groups later abandoned even the mention of neocolonialism from their documents.

But basically differing from all these positions of the CPI (ML) and non-CPI(ML) groups, CRC- CPI(ML) in its 1982 Conference came to the general understanding that the sources of the deviations which had already taken place and are taking place in the ICM and in the Indian communist movement cannot be traced without making a concrete analysis of the post-SWW international and national situation and the approach taken by various sections regarding them. Central to it was the vast changes the imperialist system had brought about in its mode of exploitation and domination during the post-war years through neocolonialism. The first study made by the organization which was published in 1984 under the title; *India: Development or Deprivation?*, though brought out various aspects of the changes taking place under neo-colonization, it failed to go deeper in to the mechanism of the role of capital, market forces and technology under the new phase and to the working class approach towards the capitalist mode of production taking place under it. As a result, projecting certain aspects of this study while some gave cardinal importance to market question and called for each nationality struggling for control of its market, while some others were influenced by 'centre-periphery' like theories prevalent at that time. Further studies were delayed as the struggle against all these trends who reject the understanding about the qualitative changes taking place under neo-colonization on the one hand, and against the trends who were deviating to reformist positions had to be carried forward. In the course of these struggles the CRC-CPI (ML) was reorganized as CPI (ML) Red Flag.

The International document adopted by its Forth Conference in 1997 and a preliminary Party Programme based on neo-colonial understanding adopted by the Fifth Conference in 2000 were significant steps forward. Still the task of uniting the major sections outside the organization, who were not even ready to discuss these important questions remained as difficult as ever. In this situation, it was decided to unite with the organization led by com. Kanu Sanyal as it expressed preparedness to merge and carry forward the ideological struggle to arrive at a common line while carrying forward practical struggles. Though the united organization could make some advances in political and organizational fields, sharp differences came up when the question of resolving the party line, including the character of Indian state and path of revolution, was taken up. Contrary to the openness during merger talks, they were dogmatically sticking to the '*semi-colonial, semi-feudal, protracted people's war*' line. Besides they were not ready for an open discussion on the question of neocolonialism. As a result, till the inevitable separation with it took place by the beginning of 2009, further studies on imperialism in the neo-colonial phase were delayed..

Almost three decades long experience of the struggles waged at ideological, political and organizational level had matured the Party to launch a vigorous offensive to carry forward the reorganization process at all levels. The *All India Special Conference* held in November 2009 provided the much needed breakthrough by putting forward the theoretical foundation of the approach towards neocolonialism through the document: *On Character of Indian State*. Based on this *The Path of Revolution* was also drafted. It was also announced in the Conference that the Ninth Party Congress shall be convened in two years time before which an empirical study on Imperialism, in the Neo-colonial Phase

will be taken up based on, and in continuation of the epochal study, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* by Lenin. The CPI(ML) Central Committee has immense happiness to present this study, *Imperialism in its Neocolonial Phase* before the Party, before all Marxist-Leninist forces and all those forces who are on the side of revolution and socialism, for its study and ruthless evaluation.

II

That the ideological political line determines everything is a basic Marxist- Leninist teaching. It is applicable not only for the working class and its party, the communist party. The bourgeoisie has recognized it long back and is always alert to develop its ideological, political, economic and socio-cultural line to face all challenges against its hegemonic policies and practice. It is prepared to go to any extent to defend itself. Side by side, knowing this fact very well, it is always alert and prepared to disarm its opponents ideologically and politically, besides developing its preparedness to crush the opponents in the most pernicious and heinous ways. History has repeatedly proved that the revolutionary forces could advance only when they could develop their ideological-political line according to concrete situation and expose and defeat the counter revolutionary enemy offensive.

The emergence of the capitalist system threw up unprecedented challenges before the humankind. Compared to earlier exploitative systems, while the mode of production made revolutionary advances, the method of exploitation took entirely new forms. Bourgeoisie declared liberty, equality, fraternity and talked about universal franchise and a democratic system. But the private property is sacrosanct and wage-slavery is the predominant method of exploitation. It is a ruthless and horrific

exploitative system, which enslaves the humankind in all forms, while declaring they are free to go anywhere and do anything they want. Suffocated by the brutal attacks of this ruling system, the first struggles against it broke out by breaking the machines which enslaves them. Then there were efforts to run away from this system and build an 'utopia' somewhere else. But as the bourgeoisie is frantically engaged in 'recreating the whole world in its own image' where can one run away and hide to build an utopia? Then there were attempts to build one's own apparently free enclaves within the bourgeois system untarnished by the rules and relations of the capitalist system. Within a short period all such enclaves directly or indirectly started coming under the influence of the capitalist system which was spreading its domination all over the world in ever intensifying forms.

It was when all these concepts, some of which are still put forward by the anarchists and reformists, failed to attack and weaken the capitalist system that Marx and Engels put forward through *The Communist Manifesto* the concept of scientific socialism and the path of class struggle to throw out the very system which enslaves humankind and for creating a classless society. It was declared that the proletarian revolution is the solution to the contradictions under the imperialist system and for the creation of a socialist system. Though the proletarian organizations were in their infancy at that time, the scientific orientation given by the *First International*, which soon came in to existence based on the revolutionary teachings of Marxism, led to development of proletarian struggles in all the capitalist countries of Europe and North America. These struggles reached a higher stage with the victory of Paris Commune in two decades time. When the working class in Paris "stormed the heaven" and proved that Marx was wrong in some of his formulations, he had no hesitation to

uphold these lessons. In the *Civil War in France*, he explained how the lessons of the Commune are a great teacher for the future revolutions.

When the defeat of Paris Commune and the cleavages created by the anarchists led by Bakunin made the continuation of the *First International* difficult, it was dissolved with the declaration that it will be reorganized. Marx had declared that without a revolutionary line and proletarian internationalism manifested through the activities of the International the working class can never defeat the capitalist system. This task of reorganizing the International was fulfilled soon after Marx's death by Engels, inspiring a new upsurge of struggles.

But when capitalism was transformed to the stage of monopoly capitalism, imperialism, in analyzing it and developing the general orientation of the proletarian struggle in the era of imperialism, the leaders of the *Second International* showed serious weaknesses. Because of their class collaborationist approach towards evaluating its real character, when the First World War broke out, instead of turning the imperialist war in to civil war in each country to overthrow the imperialists from power as the *Basle Conference* had called for, they joined the imperialist governments as in Germany and called on the working class to fight for the imperialist bourgeoisie. As a result, the *Second International* collapsed. Once again it was proved that it is the correctness of the ideological political line which determines the future of the movement. Only when Lenin could put forward a scientific analysis of imperialism and explain the laws of motion of capital under it, and give the political orientation for the revolutionary struggles, proving its correctness through the victory of the October Revolution, the ICM could make a leap forward, overcoming the setbacks created by the liquidationist forces in the leadership of the Second International. The formation of the *Third International or the Communist International* soon after the victory of October Revolution and coming in to existence of Soviet Union strengthened the ICM based on the general line put forward under his guidance..

The *Great Depression* of the 1929-30, the division of the imperialist camp with the *Axis powers* led by Nazi Germany challenging the US-UK-French *Alliance forces* for the re-division of the world, the challenge posed by socialist Soviet Union and the growing national liberation movements like factors forced US imperialists, which had come to the leadership of the Alliance forces to take steps for a transformation in the mode of exploitation and domination pursued by the imperialist camp till then, during its colonial phase. From the early period of imperialist domination itself, unlike the European colonizers who were eager to occupy and directly rule the colonies, the US imperialists were pursuing a different form of domination in their so-called backyard, that is in the Latin American countries which Lenin had called *dependent* countries.

The US imperialists are so calculative and their planning is so advanced that even when the fate of the SWW started in 1939 was uncertain, they published the *Atlantic Charter* in 1941 with their vision of the post-war world. At the peak of the war in 1944 they convened a meeting of the leading economists, bankers, political thinkers and leaders of the imperialist countries aligned with them and came out with the *Brettonwoods Agreement* which prepared a blueprint for the post-war world and gave birth to IMF and World Bank as noted earlier. A whole planning for the post-war world was prepared under the imperialist camp led by US imperialism including the so-called 'de-colonization' process inaugurating a qualitatively new phase of imperialist exploitation and domination.

The imperialist camp following the war was definitely facing numerous challenges. As pointed out in: *On Character of Indian State* : "Momentous changes took place both in the balance of forces among the imperialist countries

and in the contradiction between imperialism and socialist forces, between imperialism on the one hand and the proletarian revolution and national liberation struggles on the other hand, compelling US imperialism, the newly emerged leader of the imperialist camp, to launch new forms of aggression and plunder around the world to perpetuate its world hegemony overcoming the challenges from the powerful alliance of socialist countries led by Soviet Union and the national liberation movements and democratic revolutions”.

Explaining these momentous changes, the CPC in its *Comment*, in *The Apologists of Neocolonialism*, pointed out: “The facts are clear...The US is most energetic and cunning in promoting neocolonialism. With this weapon, the US imperialists are trying hard to grab the colonies and spheres of influence of other imperialists and to establish world domination”.

From the time CRC-CPI(ML) had raised this question in 1982, it has pointed out that through this transformation from its colonial phase to neocolonial one, the imperialist system, especially, the US imperialism had only intensified its exploitation and domination through more pernicious and heinous means. It could strengthen its hegemony around the world continuously, always trying newer and newer methods to overcome the ever intensifying cyclic crises faced by the imperialist system. Through various tactics including the propagation of the ‘cold war’ it was trying to encircle the socialist forces, to weaken their vigilance and to destroy them. But the Soviet leadership and the *Cominform* failed to recognize these significant developments as proved by its various actions including applying for membership of IMF and WB, becoming member of the UN and recognizing Israel when it was formed as the US outpost in West Asia. There was no attempt to reorganize the Communist International which was dissolved in 1943 in order to face the new challenges or to mobilize the socialist countries and the national liberation movements in to a powerful bloc against the imperialist camp led by US imperialism. The overall impression created was that imperialism is getting weakened. It was based on this analysis that, the capitalist roaders who had usurped power in Soviet Union put forward the ‘theory of three peacefulls’. From this and numerous experiences of later period, it is not difficult to see that it was the weakness in evaluating the emerging new world situation after SWW that mainly led to erroneous ideological political positions, resulting in the degeneration of Soviet Union and weakening of the socialist forces.

In spite of this setback, so long as the CPC fought against this deviation, put forward the *Proposal Concerning the General Line of the ICM* and a critic of neocolonialism, and waged struggle against the capitalist roaders in China, there was a new upsurge of the revolutionary forces across the world. But as sectarian tendencies came to dominance in the CPC by the time of its 9th Congress in 1969, the positions put forward in the *General Line* document and the understanding about neocolonialism were reversed and in the name of fighting Soviet social imperialism compromises were made with US imperialism like inviting Nixon to China when Indochina was under brutal aggression, showing that there were serious weaknesses in understanding imperialism in its neocolonial phase when all the cunningness and vileness of US were in full display. This weakness provided opportunity for the capitalist roaders to increase their influence and to usurp power and openly pursue their policies as soon as Mao died. Again it was the weakness in the ideological-political line resulting from incorrect analysis of imperialism in its neocolonial phase which led to grievous losses in China and severe setback to the International Communist Movement.

The importance of correct evaluation of the transformation of imperialist system from its colonial phase to neo-colonial one beginning from the post-

SWW years becomes a cardinal question in this context. The severe setbacks confronting the ICM can be traced to this serious shortcoming as it is repeatedly pointed out by us. As the life and death struggle between the imperialist system and socialist forces which is the fundamental contradiction which determines the future of humankind is intensifying day by day taking myriad forms, any weakness in recognizing any move by the enemy can lead to mortal defeats as history has repeatedly proved. So without a scientific understanding of imperialism in its neocolonial phase the source of setbacks suffered so far cannot be correctly evaluated and the general line of the International Communist Movement cannot be correctly put forward.

The theoretical approach to neocolonialism was explained in the document: *On Character of Indian State* adopted by the 2009 All India Special Conference, which is summarized below. What is attempted through this study is to put forward an empirical study to show how the imperialist system has undergone a qualitative change when it transformed its colonial forms of plunder explained by Lenin in his epochal work: *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*.

III

The Communist Manifesto explains how the bourgeoisie sets out to plunder the world in the name of “civilizing the barbarians” bringing down all resistances and initiating colonization in the most barbarous forms: “The bourgeoisie, by the rapid improvement of all instruments of production, by the immensely facilitated means of communication, draws all, even the most barbarian nations, into civilization. The cheap prices of its commodities are the heavy artillery with which it batters down all Chinese walls, with which it forces the barbarians’ intensely obstinate hatred of foreigners to capitulate. It compels

all nations, on pain of extinction, to adopt the bourgeois mode of production; it compels them to introduce what it calls civilization into their midst, i.e., to become bourgeois themselves. In one word, it creates a world after its own image.”

Lenin further explained the colonization process in this manner: “Colonial policy and imperialism existed before the latest stage of capitalism and even before capitalism. Rome, founded on slavery pursued a colonial policy and practiced imperialism. But general disquisitions on imperialism, which ignore, or put into the background, the fundamental difference between socio-economic formations, inevitably turn into the most vapid banality or bragging, like the comparison: “Greater Rome and Greater Britain.” Even the capitalist colonial policy of previous stages of capitalism is essentially different from the colonial policy of finance capital.

“The principal feature of the latest stage of capitalism is the domination of monopolist associations of big employers. These monopolies are most firmly established when all the sources of raw materials are captured by one group, and we have seen with what zeal the international capitalist associations exert every effort to deprive their rivals of all opportunity of competing to buy up, for example, iron fields, oil fields etc. Colonial possession alone gives the monopolies complete guarantee against all contingencies in the struggles against competition including the case of the adversary wanting to be protected by a law establishing a state monopoly. The more capitalism is developed, the more strongly the shortage of raw materials is felt, the more intense the competition and the hunt for sources of raw materials throughout the whole world, the more desperate is the struggle for the acquisition of colonies”.

Lenin explained the five basic characteristics of imperialism as

follows: “1) the concentration of production and capital has developed to such a high stage that it has created monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life; 2) the merging of bank capital with industrial capital and the creation, on the basis of his “finance capital”, of a financial oligarchy; 3) the export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities acquires exceptional importance; 4) the formation of international monopolist capitalist associations which share the world among themselves, and 5) the territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers is completed. Imperialism is capitalism at that stage of development at which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital has established itself; in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun; in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed.”

In his studies of imperialism, Lenin has explained how much multi-linear, complex and uneven was the colonization process. He broadly divided the countries under colonial plunder into three categories: vast number of countries in Asia and Africa which are colonies fully controlled and directly ruled by the different European imperialist countries with Britain in the fore front; a handful of countries in the region which are in transition stage, where the colonization process not yet completed; and the dependent countries under which he broadly included the countries of Latin America. Imperialism is capitalism at that stage of development at which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital has established itself; in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun; in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed.

The First World War (FWW) was an inter-imperialist war for re-division of the world, which was almost completed among the leading imperialist powers by that time, as Lenin explained. Instead of solving the problems faced by the imperialist system, the war only aggravated them. It gave birth to the first socialist country in the world and further intensified the crises in the imperialist camp by the end of 1920s. In the 1930s, it led to a division among them and another inter imperialist world war was started as a war for re-division of the world, though it took a different form later. As pointed out above, by 1941 itself the US imperialism had started planning for a post-war world under its leadership, trying to expand to global level the model through which it was dominating the Latin American countries for many decades. Once the war was over and the leadership of US imperialism was established over the imperialist camp, claiming that “the old colonial forms of rule are likely to prove ‘running sores’ which destroy both the economic and the moral vigor of a nation’s life”, US imperialist leaders made an all out offensive to replace the colonial phase of direct occupation so that it can spread its influence everywhere. It strived for and succeeded to replace the territorial division of the world in the main, which was one of the basic characteristics of imperialism so far, with control and hegemony through capital and market forces, and technological supremacy.

Lenin’s analysis that “finance capital is such a decisive, you might say, force in all economic and all international relations, that it is capable of subjecting, and actually does subject, to itself even states enjoying the fullest political independence” is brought in to full play in the neocolonial phase. Though the laws of motion of imperialism continue to remain basically the same throughout the imperialist epoch, it is important to distinguish the qualitative changes that are taking place during this long epoch which will continue till the imperialist system is overthrown or till decisive victory is won by the socialist forces in all fields. With the almost disappearance of territorial division as one of the basic

characteristics, though wars, that also barbarous aggressive wars, in all regions continue, the wars for territorial division among the imperialist powers or for that matter any inter imperialist wars, have not taken place during the last six decades or more. At the same time what is happening is that competition for enhancing export of capital, enhancing trade, for patent rights, for technological supremacy etc. are intensifying, Failure to recognize this had led to the evaluations that a new world war is imminent.

But after *stagflation* reaching serious proportions by 1970s and the imperialist forces going for neoliberal policies from 1980s with the introduction of imperialist globalization, the integration of the large number of former colonial, semi-colonial, dependent countries now under neo-colonization to the imperial global system, and the internationalization of production have further intensified. Due to availability of cheap labor and raw materials neocolonial countries have become dumping ground for finance capital. Operations of IMF-WB-WTO and MNCs along with corporate houses have intensified. Through these super accumulation of profits are taking place. It increasingly benefits the imperialist centres and the elite classes in the neocolonial countries. The modern centers of capitalist intensive industries, consumer products, service centers, IT centers etc. exhibit growth trends in the neo-colonies, especially in countries like India. As a result some super rich sections also have emerged in these countries. But these centres and growth exist without any organic link with the vast masses who are pushed down to increasing miseries and devastation.

In the agricultural sector, during the colonial period the imperialist powers were using the feudal, semi-feudal and pre-capitalist relations existing in the colonies and semi-colonies as their social base to establish and prolong domination.. Even for cash crops production for imperialist centers only cosmetic changes in these existing production relations were made. But under neocolonial conditions the situation has undergone significant changes. In the early 1950s itself imperialist agencies started promoting 'land reforms from above' to replace old feudal landlords with rich peasant- agricultural bourgeois sections through whom the capital, market forces and modern technology could enter the agrarian sector. 'Green Revolution' like policies were promoted through this class. Thus, even without going through an agrarian revolution, relations of production are undergoing significant changes under imperialist domination. Under neo-colonization the imperialist system no longer considers the feudal, semi-feudal relations in the agrarian sector as its social base. The poor peasant-landless peasant-agricultural workers are increasingly alienated from the land and agriculture under corporatization of agriculture promoted by MNCs and native corporate forces. Refusing to recognize this reality many sections of the CRs are still adhering to semi-feudal like evaluation of the agrarian sector, along with semi-colonial analysis of the state.

Another significant factor is that neo-colonisation has intensified the uneven character of development in all fields. This is taking place both at macro and micro levels. Significant changes are visible among the countries under neo-colonisation also. Based on it these countries can be divided in to four categories as follows:

1. The countries like Iraq and Afghanistan where imperialism led by US imperialism has launched war of aggression leading to their occupation and establishment of puppet governments. In these countries the local ruling classes are reduced to puppets of the imperialist forces.
2. In large number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the ruling class comprising of big bourgeois, big landlord and bureaucrat classes are predominantly subservient to the imperialist system or they can be called

as the best examples of comprador bureaucratic bourgeois- landlord classes and these countries are the best examples of neo-colonies.

3. In countries like India, Brazil, South Africa etc. the ruling big bourgeois-big landlord classes are basically comprador in character, they serve as junior partners of imperialism, especially US imperialism. They can be characterized as junior partners of imperialism.

4. Apart from these, in countries like Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador etc. and in countries like Cuba, North Korea etc. which were called socialist once, though the democratic revolutions are not completed and people's democratic power is not yet established, they are taking anti-imperialist, especially anti- US positions. At the same time these countries are compromising with other imperialist powers, maintaining membership of IMF-WB-WTO, allowing MNCs to operate and pursue neoliberal policies to a certain extent. These countries can be called countries with comparatively least neocolonial dependence.

It is hoped that the statistical datas and analyses based on them provided in this study shall help the Marxist- Leninist forces and all those who take positions against the imperialist system and aspire for a socialist future to make scientific analysis of the present international and national situation when the imperialist system, especially US imperialism, is dominating the whole world through neocolonial methods. Such a scientific understanding will create conditions for chalking out *Programme* and *Path of Revolution* in each country according to the concrete conditions there, always upholding the principles of proletarian internationalism. ●

THE Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2011 [LARR Bill] argues for a perfect land market, unrestrained urbanisation and industrialization.

On September 7, Jairam Ramesh introduced the Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2011 in the Lok Sabha within six days of the end of the public comment period on the bill that is to replace a 116 year old colonial law. This bill argues for a perfect land market, unrestrained urbanisation and industrialisation. It sounds strange that rural development ministry is working for urban development as if latter is unquestionably the pre-condition for the well being of rural people and their ecosystem . Will the prime minister reveal the role of urban development ministry if what rural development ministry is doing is indeed its mandate?

Will Ramesh explain as to whether what he said as secretary, economic affairs, Indian National Congress remains relevant or not? Ramesh, a representative "of a generation that was created by public investment" and as a key player in developing India's 1991 economic reforms said in 2001 that "in 1715 they (India) accounted for 25 percent of world industrial output, so it's always been an industrial nation in that sense of the term." Caught in the time warp and frozen with the contested developmentalism, corporate fund driven political parties and NGOs are out to decisively put the State and the natural resources on sale unmindful of its cognitive and ecological cost and intergenerational inequity that it promotes almost forever. Both ruling parties and most of the opposition parties are hand in glove in this regard.

These anti-citizen entities are acting as if present and future citizens, gram sabhas, panchayats and zilla parishads do not matter. Their responses to enactment of Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 and its implementation is a case in point.

WHY THE LAND ACQUISITION BILL IS FLAWED

Gopal Krishna

The Special Economic Zones and land acquisition by companies are about generating financial wealth with naked political patronage at the cost of natural and human wealth. The Land Acquisition Act, 1894 has been useful for it. It is indeed "painfully evident that the basic law has become archaic". It used to be said that company is an artifact of law, it now appears that law such as this is an artifact of companies. Every act of privatisation of the government through legislations like these is quite painful too.

If that is not the case why should State use its sovereign power to acquire land for companies either partially or fully in the name of industrial and urban development or legislate to facilitate the same? If 'development' wasn't a notorious and negative word why has a benign and positive word 'sustainable' pre-fixed to it unmindful of this the bill cites developmental imperatives with the assumption of its innocence.

The argument of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs that acquisition of land for industrial and urban development is a necessity -- is driven by corporate funding of ruling and opposition parties since 2003 when the ban on company donations was lifted. Clause 59 of the Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2011 deals with the provision of 'penalty for obstructing acquisition of land' that seems to be about punishing the protesters and dissenters.

It reads: "Whoever willfully obstructs any person in doing any of the acts authorised by section 9 or section 15, or willfully fills up, destroys, damages or displaces any trench or mark made under section 15, shall, on conviction before a magistrate, be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding one month, or to fine not exceeding five hundred rupees, or to both." Ramesh argues that this is required because "Land markets in India are imperfect."

Is it a coincidence that Ramesh who is also a member of the Cabinet Committee on Unique Identification Authority of India related issues has introduced UID provision in Section 10 and 36 of the Land Titling Bill, 2011? Will CCEA and CCUIDAI reveal all the proposed legislations that are aimed at creating property based democracy? Can parliament, all its standing committees, state governments and state's legislative bodies ever exchange notes to unearth the legislative web being woven at the behest of transnational financial institutions before it is too late?

In the backdrop of such unanswered questions, the 70-page LARR Bill has 74 Sections and 3 schedules in its English version to deal with the grievance accumulated since 1894. Clause 69 of the bill deals with the 'Return of Unutilised Land'. It reads:

"(1) The land acquired under this Act shall not be transferred to any other purpose except for a public purpose, and after obtaining the prior approval of the appropriate government, and any change in purpose made in violation of this provision shall be void and shall render such land and structures attached to it liable to be reverted to the land owner.

(2) When any land or part thereof, acquired under this act remains unutilised for a period of five years from the date of taking over the possession, the same shall return to the land owner by reversion;

(3) The appropriate government shall return the unutilised land or part thereof, as the case may be, to the original owner of the land from whom it was acquired subject to the refund of one fourth of the amount of compensation paid to him along with the interest on such amount at such rate, as may be specified by the appropriate government, from the date of payment of compensation to him till the refund of such amount; and

(4) The person to whom the land is returned being the owner of the land shall be entitled to all such title and rights in relation to such land from which he has been divested on the acquisition of such land."

Dr. Usha Ramanathan, a noted jurist, asks, "What happens when they (the displaced) are unable to buy it back" when the unutilised land is returned. This section permits the transfer of land for another public purpose. This particular clause is not acceptable and has to be removed from the draft bill. Unmindful of widespread concern in the academia and among citizens, the bill has been approved in a tearing hurry by the Union Cabinet which gives rise to valid questions about player behind the curtain in the backdrop of declaration of assets by billionaire ministers.

Schedule I of the bill deals with "compensation for land owners", Schedule II deals with the "list of rehabilitation and resettlement entitlements for all the affected families (both land owners and the families whose livelihood is primarily dependent on land acquired) in addition to those provided in Schedule I and Schedule III deal with "provision of infrastructural amenities" for resettlement of populations "to minimise the trauma involved in displacement."

Referring to schedule II, Ramaswamy R Iyer, former secretary, union water resources aptly concludes that "The principle of 'land for land' has been abandoned" because it is applied for irrigation projects alone that too with a provision that is inferior to the ones made for the displaced in the Sardar Sarovar Project. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs appears to be under undue influence from the funders of ruling political parties both at the centre and the states to exclude projects for power, mining, flood management, SEZ, urban development and several other 'multi-purpose' projects that cause displacement. So far neither the ministry nor the CCEA has responded to it.

The bill fails to address the question of transfer of agricultural land to non-agricultural use and the implications for food security although it does refer to multi-cropped irrigated land but it is hardly sufficient. It seems to be pursuing the path of regressive Bihar Agriculture Land (Conversion for Non Agriculture Purposes) Act, 2010 which is facing bitter opposition especially in cases where widely acknowledged and awarded fertile lands are being acquired for hazardous asbestos factories amidst paid news journalism and studied silence of opposition parties in the state.

If this is the fate of a state government whose head keeps referring to Ram Manohar Lohia's four tier governance, it is understandable why most of the socialist experiments become an exercise in sophistry. Instead of ensuring that private purchases of agricultural land be subject of state regulation from the point of view of land-use, water-use, soil health and food security, such legislations are indulging in a myopic exercise of according priority to creation of financial wealth at any non-financial cost and risks.

Section 2 of the ***Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill***

deal with the definition of the expression "public purpose" includes:

(i) the provision of land for strategic purposes relating to naval, military, air force and armed forces of the Union or any work vital to national security or defence of India or state police, safety of the people;

(ii) the provision of land for infrastructure, industrialisation and urbanisation projects of the appropriate government, where the benefits largely accrue to the general public;

(iii) the provision of village or urban sites, acquisition of land for the project affected people, planned development or improvement of village sites, provision of land for residential purpose to the poor, government administered educational and health schemes;

(iv) the provision of land for any other purpose useful to the general public, including land for companies, for which at least 80 per cent of the project affected people have given their consent through a prior informed process; provided that where a private company after having purchased part of the land needed for a project, for public purpose, seeks the intervention of the appropriate government to acquire the balance of the land it shall be bound by rehabilitation and resettlement provisions of this Act for the land already acquired through private negotiations and it shall be bound by all provisions of this Act for the balance area sought to be acquired;

(v) the provision of land for residential purposes to the poor or landless or to persons residing in areas affected by natural calamities, or to persons displaced or affected by reason of the implementation of any

scheme undertaken by government, any local authority or a corporation owned or controlled by the State". This definition of "public purpose" or common good destroys "the distinction between private use and public use".

In a text "Some notes on the Draft Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation Bill 2011", Ramanathan states that "The eminent domain power in India is not, and in any event should not be, so wide" wherein an inverted Robin Hood is created which takes from the poor to give to the rich.

The draconian black law of 1894 which is proposed to be replaced in the backdrop of massive bitter opposition to Special Economic Zones and environmentally damaging projects in Jaitapur, Haripur, Ghaziabad, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Bihar and Goa where lessons have not been learnt from the bloodshed and violence in Nandigram and Singur. The proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 in the aftermath of West Bengal's denunciation of Haripur nuclear power project in the aftermath of Fukushima and abandonment of nuclear power projects in Germany, Japan and other countries is uncalled for. But strangely, the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill, 2011 was introduced on September 7 itself without any public comments on the Bill. Both these Bills should be deferred till it provides for moratorium on acquisition of land for nuclear power projects.

Unlike in US, the Supreme Court of India observed, "The Act, which was enacted more than 116 years ago

for facilitating the acquisition of land However, in the recent years, the country has witnessed a new phenomena. Large tracts of land have been acquired in rural parts of the country in the name of development and transferred to private entrepreneurs, who have utilised the same for construction of multi-storied complexes, commercial centers and for setting up industrial units. Similarly, large scale acquisitions have been made on behalf of the companies by invoking the provisions contained in Part VII of the Act. The resultant effect of these acquisitions is that the land owners, who were doing agricultural operations and other ancillary activities in rural areas, have been deprived of the only source of their livelihood. Majority of them do not have any idea about their constitutional and legal rights, which can be enforced by availing the constitutional remedies under Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution."

If the bills are not sensitive to these observations in a context of corporate funding to political parties even if passed by the Parliament, they can be struck down by the apex court as contrary to the Preamble of our Constitution.

Admittedly, there is "asymmetry of power (and information) between those wanting to acquire the land and those whose lands are being acquired" but the role of futures markets in land within India and the land being acquired in African countries does not find any mention. Also "asymmetry of power and information" is acknowledged only to be ignored as if it's a merely an exercise in lip-service. The bill ignores how acquisition of land affects acquisition of water as well. The ministry has failed to provide a white paper on the impact of 1894 Act since its enactment before independence and after independence. A compensation and rehabilitation regime is needed with "reference not to the nature of the project but to the nature of the impact."

The parliamentary standing committee on rural development must ask for the status of the total land acquired and the total number of internally displaced persons till the introduction of the Bill in Parliament. Without such a paper and data, the ministry's rush to get the bill passed is an act in haste which generations to come will repent and it will be considered a monumental failure of Ramesh if he does not undertake rigorous outreach before arriving at a research based decision. Has his ministry bothered to send this bill to all the sarpanchs and mukhiyas of the country in their language to ascertain its implications and provide suggestions? The passage of the bill in its current shape must be deferred till this is done. The minister can check with his ministry, there is a precedent in this regard, a rural development minister had written such letters to sarpanchs.

This author was shown one such letter in a panchayat at a gram sabha meeting of Mendha Lekha, Dhanora tehsil in Gadchiroli district in July-August 2001. It would indeed be a sad commentary on the ministry and the standing committee headed by Sumitra Mahajan of Bhartiya Janata Party if they fail to genuinely reach out to villages before finalising the bill. The bill must factor in the provisions of Article 243 (G) of the Indian Constitution and Panchayat Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996. It must desist from "forced industrialisation" and forced urbanisation.

This is required to deal with an uncertain future being manufactured by real estate, food and water companies to safeguard agricultural land from being grabbed by powerful national and transnational companies that can undermine parliament, state assemblies, gram sabhas, panchayats, zilla parishads and the government for good by depriving us of our food sovereignty. If our legislature can legislate on land use, water use, land acquisition, rehabilitation, resettlement and land titling with the memory of country's past share in world trade, it will be acting to restore the sovereignty of our Parliament and ensure that companies of all ilk remain subservient to its legislative will. ● (Courtsey: rediffmail.com)

INQUILAB

**Organ of All India
Revolutionary Student
Organisation, AIRSO
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FIRST ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF AIKKS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED



objective conditions are favorable and the organization is strong enough to form *land struggle committees* and to launch land struggles. The area wise land study report should be distributed among the people for discussion, debate and finalization of the struggle programme. Mobilize maximum landless, dalits and adivasis for capturing the land held in violation of existing land rules, surplus land, government land and barren forest lands. Involve large number of women in this struggle.

THE FIRST All India Conference of the All India Krantikari Kisan Sabha (AIKKS) was successfully held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on 25-26 August. From seven eleven states 67 delegates and nine observers participated in the Conference. The Conference was preceded by the state conferences. The Conference discussed the Program and Constitution and adopted them with some amendments. The Conference discussed the Resolution for immediate action after thoroughly going through the condition in different states and how this resolution can be implement in the concrete conditions there.

The Conference elected a 15 member Central Committee which soon met and re-elected com. Satpal from UP as president and com. R. Manasayya from Karnataka as general secretary. The Conference concluded in a militant atmosphere with the call to carry forward the land struggles at all levels, creating conditions for the revolutionary transformation of the land relations based on land to the tiller principle. It adopted following resolution on Immediate Tasks.

1. Launch agrarian movements based on land to the tiller slogan

a. The AIKKS Committees at all levels should take up study of the land relations, land concentration and landlessness among the peasantry in selected areas where

b. Along with this, propagate the AIKKS agrarian programme with our agenda of land ceiling according to concrete situation of each state and areas taking into consideration the productivity of the land, cropping pattern and availability of water for irrigation. Struggle for land should be carried out along with political campaigns highlighting the importance of land to the tiller and socialization of the agriculture, overthrowing landlordism and corporatization of agriculture with the corporate and MNCs allowed free entry and domination in the agrarian sector.

2. Struggle against displacement

As a result of the intensification of neocolonial policies including corporate land grabbing in the name of express highways, SEZs, SAZs, and similar other projects vast number of peasant families are displaced from the agricultural land and adivasis from their habitats. In the absence of pattas most of these families are not given any compensation or nominal amounts, much below the market rates. As a result of being thrown away from their land livelihood they are forced to migrate to slums in urban areas. The AIKKS committees should play leading role wherever possible, or unite with other like minded forces to organize movements against displacement such as the anti Posco movement, Kalinganagar like in Odisha, Jaitapur movement

in Maharashtra etc. We should create conditions for coordinating anti-displacement movements at all India level.

3. Built and Coordinate house right struggles

In urban areas large number of people who were/are thrown away from the rural areas and working in unorganized sector are landless and shelterless. It very essential to mobilize them under *house right committees* and *slum committees* to protect their slums, to struggle for housing rights and to lead them towards capturing illegal urban land held by mafias as well as surplus lands with the government. For this struggle immediately start a survey of these lands, flats and other urban properties and publish it leading to discussions among the slum people. Firstly, demand the government to remove all illegal encroachments and distribute among houseless poor people with maximum propaganda. Secondly, march towards such properties for occupying them by the houseless people. Along with these struggles there should be intensive political campaigns for promulgation of laws declaring ceiling of urban property, including land. For this purpose the Coordination of housing right committees already formed should be strengthened

4. Organisational Tasks

a. Presently our organizational structure is weak. Without a strong organization built up from the top and consolidated from below the tasks of the agrarian revolution according to present concrete conditions as explained in the Programme cannot be carried forward. Take immediate organizational steps to strengthen the state committees.

b. Strengthen the existing district committees and form new district committees wherever possibilities exist. Under the leadership of the district committees launch membership enrollment immediately to be completed by 31st December. Organize village level committees as a very important part of the organizational task. Training cadres from the village committees form Panchayat committees and above them Block/ Tahsil/Taluka committees. Organize study classes and strengthen the committee functioning at all levels.

c. Identify thrust areas and build up struggles involving landless, poor peasants and agricultural workers based on the Agitational Tasks explained above.

d. Unite with democratic and like- minded forces against state repression, against attacks from land mafias and goondas, and in solidarity with the struggle of toiling masses and oppressed peoples.

5. The immediate tasks mentioned above should be carried out in such a way so as to prepare the peasantry to move towards taking up the task of agrarian revolution with the land to the tiller slogan according to the present neo-colonial conditions under the leadership of the working class. ●

CONVENING COMMITTEE FOR ASIAN AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE FORMED

BASED on the proposal of the International Coordination of the Revolutionary Parties and Organizations (ICOR) and under the initiative of its Asian Continental Committee(ACC), a meeting of the peasant organizations, agricultural scientists and economists was organized at New Delhi on 19 September. It was attended by leading comrades from CPI(ML) and CP of Nepal(Mashal), leading comrades of All India Krantikari Kisan Sabha (AIKKS) and All Nepal Kisan Sangh (AIKS) besides com. Arjun Prasad Singh, one of the conveners of the People's Democratic Front of India attended as an observer. Prof. K.R. Chowdry contributed much in preparing the synopsis and making the plans for convening the Conference, but could not attend the meeting as he had to leave Delhi just before the meeting. Invitations letters were send to different peasant organizations active in different parts of India also.

The meeting discussed and finalized the Synopsis for the Conference. It was decided that the revolutionary parties and organizations in all Asian countries should be requested to send the names of the different peasant organizations, progressive agricultural scientists/economists of different countries so that all of them can be approached to send papers for the Conference. A Convening Committee was formed with comrades R. Manasayya, general secretary of AIKKS and Bharat Bhandari, chairman, ANKS as co-conveners. The meeting decided to approach a large number of organizations, agricultural scientists and economists who have made studies of the present condition of the agrarian sector, the transformations taking place in the agrarian relations, the impact of the imperialist penetration under neocolonization in the agrarian sector and the approach towards the agrarian program in different countries, requesting them to send papers based on their studies by 31st December. All the papers received shall be send to all expected participants and authors of different papers for sending their comments by 11th February, 2012. And the Conference shall be convened at New Delhi in the first or second week of March, 2012. ●

CPI(ML): GUJARAT STATE CONFERENCE

THE First State Conference of CPI(ML) in Gujarat was successfully organized on 12th September at Ahmedabad with Comrades KN Ramachandran and Sanjay Singhvi attending it from the CEC. Com. Dmayanti Bahen

presided over the conference which was started after all delegates and observers remembering the martyrs. Inaugurating the conference, com. KN explained how the Party is being reorganized at all India Level defeating the sectarian line which had led to its disintegration in early 1970s and struggling against revisionist trends of all hues, based on the ideological political line put forward based on the concrete analysis of the Post Second World War situation when imperialism transformed its colonial forms of plunder and domination with neo-colonial forms. A revolutionary alternative to the ruling system can be built up and conditions for countrywide uprising for the seizure of political power can be created only by reorganizing the Party and class/mass organizations led by it all India level. So building the Party based on the revolutionary line put forward through the documents adopted by Bhopal Conference of 2009 and being discussed and finalized by the Ninth Congress should be given the top priority.

Following it the four draft documents: Party programme, Amendments to the Constitution, Political Organizational Report and Political Resolution were presented, discussed and adopted in principle with the delegates and observers given time till 31st October for presenting amendments to them. Following it, a five member state organizing committee (SOC) was formed and com. Kantilal Dabi was elected secretary by the SOC members. According to the guidelines of the Central Committee, delegates and observers for the Party Congress were decided.

Resolutions were adopted opposing the construction of the Mirdhaverdi nuclear plant and extending full support to the people struggling against it; Opposing the BJP government's opposition to the long delayed appointment of the Lokayuktha; calling on the people to resist the construction of a private railway line in Kutch by the Adani group and forcible allotment of land for it; and supporting the people's resistance to take over of agricultural land for the construction of the Nirma cement plant at Maowa. The Conference successfully completed with the concluding speech of com.KN, assurance by the secretary of the SOC that the Party will be built up attracting youth to its fold and educating them politically and with the singing of the International. One important feature of the conference was that half of the comrades attending it were women. ●

PUNJAB STATE CONFERENCE HELD

THE Punjab State Conference of the Party was held on 18th September at Barnala. Before that the Mansa District conference was held in which a new district committee was elected with com, Ujagar Singh as its secretary, Barnala District conference elected com. Darbara

Singh as secretary, and Ludhiana District conference which elected a district committee with com. Pappu Singh as its secretary. The state conference was attended by 21 delegates including four women comrades.

The com. Gurtej Singh presided over the conference, which was started after remembering the martyrs who laid down their lives for the liberation of the country. Com. K.N. Ramachandran inaugurated the conference explaining the history of the long struggle against both revisionist and anarchist trends and for establishing the revolutionary line. Following this the four draft documents were introduced the importance of each of them especially the Party Program which is basically different in explaining the concrete situation and charting the path of revolution. After discussion and reply to the discussion they were adopted. The amendments proposed shall be send the Party center before 31st October. After this the SOC secretary com .Ramesh Gautham presented the state report which was adopted after a brief discussion.

The conference elected an 8 member State Organising Committee which elected com. Gautham as its secretary. Later the SOC met and elected comrades Gautham, Gurtej Singh and Kamal as the SEC members. Three delegates and three observers were elected for 9th Congress of the Party. The second state conference of the Party marked a clear development of it in all fields. ●

TN: OPPOSE KILLING OF DALITS IN PARAMAKUDI IN POLICE FIRING

ON September 11, Sunday, police fired on people who were going to Paramakudi village to observe the death anniversary of Immanuel Shekar. John Pandian, leader of Tamil Makkal Munnetra Kazhgam, who was going to Paramakudi was detained by the police 30 kms from away claiming that his presence in the function would lead to violence because a day before the event on September 10, Saturday, a teen aged dalit was brutally attacked and killed by the upper caste Hindus saying that he insulted the portrait of their leader Muthuramalinga Thevar. This brutality by the upper caste sections was intended to threaten the dalits who were coming to the function to observe their leader's death anniversary. So tension prevailed in that area because of this murder. As Pandian was detained some of his supporters indulged in a road block and demanded his release. Police without warning started firing at the people and 7 youths in their early twenties died and many were injured. The explanation of the police was that the people indulged in violence. The chief minister Jayalalitha justified this undemocratic act saying that the protestors were violent. The protestors were

not having anything more than stones and crude petrol bombs. If the police had acted diligently they could have saved the life of 7 youths. This shows how bad the condition of the dalits is even 64 years after independence. They are not allowed to organise an event like observing the death anniversary of their leader peacefully. But quite contrary to this, one month before, the Thevar community was allowed to observe the anniversary of their icon Muthuramilinga Thevar with full state protection in which even some of the ministers in the government participated.

Surprisingly the civil society groups, political parties, chauvinist parties who had condemned the death sentence awarded to three, Perarivalan, Santhan, Murugan, failed to condemn this grievous human right violation. Naam Tamilar, floated by actor Seeman or the PDK (Periyar Dravida Kazhgam) failed to issue even a statement against Jayalalitha. It was only Law College students and few progressive lawyers who were in the streets of Coimbatore to condemn this act. The Coimbatore Law College students condemning this act gheraoed the office of superintendent of police and courted arrest demanding a judicial enquiry, dismissal of the police officers involved in the incident, and increase in the compensation from 1 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh.

Immanuel Shekar was an ex serviceman who was killed in Muthukalathur riots in 1957, September 11, when he opposed Muthuramilinga Thevar. He fought for the emancipation of dalits in Southern Tamil Nadu. He is considered to dalit icon, to remember whom 5 lakhs people gather every year, to pay tributes to him. He belonged to the Pallar community which is one among the three dalit communities (Pallar, Pariar, Arundathiyar) which is dominant in Southern Tamil Nadu. He got an iconic status four decades after his death during 1990s when caste based clashes reached its heights in Southern Tamil Nadu.

The CPI(ML) Tamil Nadu state committee condemned the brutal killing of the dalit youths by a police force which is influenced by caste bias. It demanded immediate action against the responsible police officers who perpetuated this crime and called on all democratic forces to come out against the casteist forces responsible for criminal acts. ●

Varga Porattam

(Tamil Political Monthly)

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OPPOSE COMMISSIONING OF KOODAMKULAM NUCLEAR PLANT

THE construction of the Koodamkulam nuclear plant in southern sea-coast of Tamilnadu was opposed by the fisher people and peasants of the area right from the beginning. The anti nuclear movements have made a number of studies which have exposed the damages going to be created by the nuclear plants in general and Koodamkulam plant in particular to the local population. The pumping of hot water from the Kalpakkam nuclear plant to the Bay of Bengal in east coast of Tamilnadu for the last three decades have already destroyed the rich fish wealth of this region to a great extent. This is same fate in all areas where the nuclear plants are pumping out hot water to the sea all over the world. Now the meltdown in the nuclear plant of Fukushima in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami has given a new dimension to the dangers of building nuclear plants in coastal areas. A few years back Tamilnadu had suffered from the disaster caused by the tsunami when more than 60 feet high waves had devastated the coastal areas of the state. It is in this situation the people of nearby areas of Koodamkulam have come out in large numbers to oppose the commissioning of the nuclear power plant there.

Already the ICOR and ILPS, as reported in this issue of Red Star, have launched a joint campaign against any new nuclear plants and for shutting down of the existing plants as the nuclear technology has not developed to prevent meltdowns like what happened in Chernobyl and Fukushima, to prevent the radiation hazards the nuclear



Indefinite fast by 127 persons including 20 women from 11 September demanding its shutdown of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant. Villagers and fishermen from Tuticorin and Kanyakumari districts thronged the protest venue at Idinthakarai to express solidarity.

plants are creating in nearby areas and the colossal problem of nuclear waste disposal.

In spite of Germany has already closed down more than 30 years old plants and are going to shut down remaining plants also, and similar steps are envisaged by a number of European countries and Japan, the Indian government, impervious to all these developments is going ahead with commissioning of Koodamkulam plant, acquiring land by force to construct Jaitapur like projects and drafting new nuclear 'safety' bills which only create lack of safety to the environment and people. So along with the international campaign a campaign is gaining strength in India also against the nuclear plans of the UPA government which is totally anti people and anti national. The indefinite fast started by a large number of people in front of Koodamkulam plant became a focal point for the hundreds of fisher people's families and peasants of nearby areas to get mobilized against the commissioning of the plant. The struggle is gaining strength day by day.

The Tamilnadu state committee of the CPI(ML) has extended full support to the agitation and its volunteers are participating in it. The committee has launched a statewide campaign in solidarity with the agitation. As the central and state governments are hatching plans to deceive the people and to suppress the agitation some way or other, the committee has warned against the heinous moves by the government and called for intensifying the campaign till the close down of the plant is announced. ●

SUPPORT MARUTI SUZUKI STRIKE AT MANESAR

MARUTI SUZUKI PLANT located at Manesar (near Gurgaon, Haryana) has witnessed a protracted struggle between the management and the workers over past four months. The company management has staged a lock out, demanding that all workers sign a code of 'good conduct', which is in complete violation to the spirit of our constitution and the labor laws. This code of 'good' conduct entails that workers cannot resort to anything that could be construed as slowing or stopping work, at any point, no matter what the management does.

Most of the clause of this code of good conduct could easily be described as outrageous. For instance, if the workers happen to remain in the toilet for too long, they could be sacked for 'major misconduct', Lack of proper personal appearance, sanitation, cleanliness and proper grooming, habitual neglect of cleanliness etc., are among the other list of clauses that denote "major misconduct", which can invite punishment, including sacking. Apart from this, there is a list of things that are considered "minor misconduct". For instance, chewing "betel leaves while on

duty within the boundary walls", can invite punishment.

This code of "good" conduct is particularly shocking because even before it was thrust upon the workers, the management was making them work under appalling conditions. The workers have a number of grievances with the working conditions in the plant: The actual working conditions, are oppressive, to say the least. There are about 3,000 workers at Manesar, with a large number on contract. Salaries range from Rs 6,000 a month to about Rs 18,000 for senior permanent workers. For the same kind of work the temporary employees are paid a much lower salary than the permanent employees. This fact is particularly alarming because recently the management has been trying to reduce the number of permanent employees and get done as much work as possible through temporary employees.

Each worker handles about 600 cars a day in his shift of eight hours, which implies that each worker's action is limited to much less than a minute. This means that the workers do extremely mechanical jobs for hours at a stretch without breaks or rest. They get no more than a 7-minute tea/snack/urinal break and another 20-minute lunch break every day. No medical or casual leave is allowed and each day's absence costs a worker Rs 1,500, so that, for instance if they take a five days' leave due to sickness, wedding, death in the family or any other reason, they stand to lose Rs. 7500 out of their total salary. Rs 700 is cut from their wages if they are late for a shift by even a few minutes.

It is due to these and various other issue relating to working conditions that the workers were impelled to raise the demand for an independent union in June. The existing union is management controlled and it has so far failed to take up workers demands. So the workers have been agitating for an independent union of their own for the past few months and have formed the Maruti Suzuki Employees' Union (MSEU) with workers of the plant as its office-bearers. Both the management and Haryana's labour department have refused to recognise the MSEU and negotiate with it. The workers on the other hand see the new union as essential to look into their concerns. They argue that signing the Good Conduct bond will effectively render the union powerless, since it ensures that the employees cannot use the only resource at their disposal: collective protest.

As expected at this critical juncture the workers have received no support whatsoever either from the government or the labor department, both of which are trying to work out a solution favorable to the management. The role of the media too has been, to say the least, dubious. In the coming days as the struggle of the Maruti workers for better working conditions, right to organise and dignity intensifies, they would require a broad based support from the democratic forces in general and the working class in particular from all over the country. ●

ICOR AND ILPS CALL FOR A WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN IMMEDIATE SHUTDOWN OF ALL NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS – WORLDWIDE!

A HEAVY earthquake and a tsunami wave caused **the heaviest nuclear catastrophe in the history of nuclear energy in Fukushima**, Japan, on 11 March 2011. The thus caused meltdown is not under control until today. It can make uninhabitable wide areas of the densely populated Japanese islands, contaminate by radioactivity the human food chain worldwide being spread via air and sea and even in decades cause heaviest diseases.

Since then resistance against the use of nuclear power has been developing worldwide. It develops in more and more countries and has revealed a **crisis of the entire energy policy of the international financial capital**.

In this situation **ILPS** (International League of Peoples' Struggle) and **ICOR** (International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations) with their mass organizations and member parties are calling: Organize **a common international campaign for a period of one year worldwide starting from 1 September under the slogan: "Immediate shutdown of all nuclear power plants - worldwide"!** Their united power embraces member organizations in ... countries of the world.

It was demagogic, when the imperialist governments in the last years promoted nuclear power in the last years as an alternative to avoid the climate catastrophe.

The super MCAs in US-American **Harrisburg** in 1979 and in **Chernobyl** in the Ukraine in 1986 – as well as a huge number of highly risky further accidents have proven more than clearly: the **production of nuclear power is uncontrollable regarding present estimation**. Also independent from outer influences like flood waves, earthquakes, sabotage acts or airplane crashes it is highly susceptible to mistakes and faults. Wear and tear and corrosion occur, mistakes during construction or handling are unavoidable – like with any technology operated by humans. But regarding nuclear power the possible consequences are unjustifiable and turn against the health and life of the broad masses.

The **waste from nuclear power plants** radiate in periods, which humankind cannot control – up to 1 million years. Even after sixty years of nuclear economy there is no acceptable possibility for the storage and final storage of radioactive waste without danger anywhere in the world. Uranium mining, the construction of nuclear power plants and nuclear research plants are already accompanied by

immense environmental damages and an unacceptable waste of energy.

In many countries nuclear power plants are constructed as a bridge for the **production of nuclear arms**, which depend on enriched uranium. Bombing of the Japanese big cities **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** in 1945 have burnt inextinguishable into the remembrance of the peoples the immeasurable consequences of the deployment of nuclear arms lasting until today.

It is a **lifelong illusion** to claim this kind of **energy production would be less expensive**. The construction costs of one nuclear power plant are between four and seven billion US\$. No other kind of energy production is being subsidized by financial support of the state to such a high degree. This is the reason which results in its maximum profitability for the energy corporations.

It is a **lifelong illusion** to claim that the construction and operation of nuclear power plants would be a **guarantee of national sovereignty** for neocolonially dependent countries lacking of raw materials. More than in any other area the technology of the nuclear power production is controlled by very few international energy monopolies and plant manufacturers, including Siemens, Toshiba, Westinghouse, General Electric, Rosatom and Areva. The will never let their technological **knowledge of rule** out of their hands. Besides that national sovereignty with the help of a deadly technology endangering the masses could never be a way of independence, but only a wrong track!

Although it is undeniable since Fukushima at the very latest that this kind of energy production is unprecedented **inhuman**, the international finance capital provocatively underlined their plans to build more than 500 further nuclear power plants with an order volume of around three trillion US\$ worldwide on its G-8 summit on 26/27 May 2011.

In a global wave of **mass protests** the first governments have been forced to refrain from this politics. In Germany eight nuclear power plants were immediately shut down, the government had to resolve to shut down the rest of nine nuclear power plants until 2022. In Italy the resumption to build nuclear power plants was rejected in a referendum. In Venezuela, in Chile and in Switzerland the construction of nuclear power plants is cancelled respectively the rejection underlined. In Japan in the meantime 82 percent of the population object the further use of nuclear power.

The member organizations of ICOR and ILPS are already part of this worldwide resistance. The common campaign is based on that and concentrates the forces: **The struggle for the worldwide shutdown of all nuclear power plants and for the ban and destruction of all nuclear arms** is meant to be made a **central task of the international revolutionary and working class movement** in the struggle against imperialism with **systematic work of enlightenment** among the broad masses, with the **formation of broad alliances of active resistance, winning over critical scientists, with sophisticated information events, common days of struggle, blockades and strikes.**

More and more people around the globe are struggling against the threatening destruction of livelihood of humankind by a worldwide environmental catastrophe. The struggle for the preservation of the natural environment is part of the struggle for social and national liberation and for a socialist societal order, which will develop the production and reproduction of human life in accordance with nature.

The campaign will be realized under the following main slogans:

- **Active resistance for the shutdown of all nuclear power stations and plants – worldwide and immediately!**
- **Save the environment from the greed for profit of the monopolies!**
- **Immediate shutdown of all nuclear plants at the expense of the operators –worldwide!**
- **Immediate extension of environmentally friendly energies!**
- **Ban and destruction of all nuclear, biological and chemical arms!**
- **For an international front of active resistance for the protection of the natural environment!**

Struggle against imperialism and for a socialist society, where the unity of humankind and nature can be realized! ●

CALL FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF ICOR

TODAY'S imperialist world order is based on a system of oppression and ruthless exploitation of humankind and nature.

A handful of international supermonopolies subjected the whole world economy to their will and erected a universal dictatorship to govern society. More than a billion starving people, chronic unemployment of hundreds of millions, over-exploitation of the working class in the factories, lack of perspective for the youth, discrimination and lack of rights of the vast majority of women in the world, racist religious and political oppression and not least aggressive wars and terror are characteristics of the imperialist world system.

To realize a new, liberated society on a worldwide scale, the exploited and oppressed of this world have to unite and overcome the existing power structure with determination.

To this end, the revolutionary parties and organizations need to overcome their differences of opinion, to create a power which is superior to the imperialist world system, to take forward the revolutionary perspective of the united socialist countries of the world.

With the foundation of ICOR on the 6th of October 2010, 40 revolutionary parties and organizations have taken the initiative for uniting the revolutionaries of the world. ICOR is an association for practical collaboration

and for mutual support in class struggle and party building. The time had come, given the deep crisis of imperialism and the threatening of the foundations of life of humankind by the destruction of the environment. The wave of democratic national uprisings in North Africa and the Arab countries, the rebelling mass movements in the squares of the Mediterranean capitals, in Africa and Asia, the anti-imperialist struggles in Latin America, the worldwide upturn of the rebellion of the youth and the growing autonomous environmental movement demand such an organized association. This is the only way they can develop the necessary maturity and power which is required for the victory over the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression.

ICOR calls upon all class-conscious workers, the oppressed peoples, the militant women, the rebelling youth and the large masses, to make the building and strengthening of ICOR their cause. A donation will help to guarantee the financial independence of ICOR and a practical initiative will strengthen the building of the ICOR parties and organizations. ●

Workers of all countries, unite!

Workers of all countries and oppressed peoples, unite!

International Co-ordination Committee of ICOR
29 August 2011

TERROR IN NORWAY : THROUGH THE LENS OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Mike S.

AS THE world reacted with shock to the murderous shooting spree of Anders Brevik, the right-wing, anti-Islamic and anti-left Norwegian, the Wall Street Journal was busy seizing the moment to spread anti-Islamic hysteria and rally the people for continuing imperialist “crusades” of invasion, occupation and war.

On July 23, 2011, the day after the carnage in Norway, the Wall Street Journal published an editorial entitled “Terror in Oslo.” Fanning the flames of anti-Islamic sentiment, the Journal editors squarely place the blame on “Islamic terrorists” writing, “... but in the Jihadists eyes it [Norway] will forever remain guilty of being what it is: a liberal nation committed to freedom of speech and conscience, equality between the sexes, representative democracy and every other freedom that still defines the West. For being true to those ideals, Norwegians have now been made to pay a terrible price.”

If their editorial was not enough to convince the reader that the dastardly act was carried out by Muslims(!), the “news” reporting on the same day certainly would leave little doubt. The front page article entitled “Savage Terror Attacks” included such statements as, “The attack came after a recent string of terrorist strikes and plots against the Scandinavian countries ... and the arrest of accused members of an Islamic terror cell in Norway.” These comments, in the guise of news reporting and responsible editorial, were made after it was already fully known that the gunman was an ethnic Norwegian and after other news venues had already brought to light that, much like Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, Brevik is a homegrown, right-wing extremist, a Christian fundamentalist fueled by anti-immigrant and anti-Marxist hatred.

The Big Lie projected by the Wall Street Journal, is fully consistent with the long standing war-mongering policies of the newspaper. It has been

a drum major for the invasion and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and to “stay the course” as these quagmires have become increasingly unpopular among the U.S. population. So too now with the military aggression against the sovereign, but oil rich, country of Libya. White, Christian and great nation chauvinism in relation to Muslim peoples and countries has been a key ideological weapon for launching and fueling these wars in defense of oil profits, oil reserves, oil pipelines, the military industrial complex and Wall Street finance capital! The constant barrage demonizing Muslims is also used to prepare the U.S. population to accept ever increasing repression and restrictions of civil liberties at home as well as to stir up anti-immigrant sentiments across the board. (Noteworthy is the fact that Brevik was greatly influenced by the right-wing anti-immigrant extremists freely functioning in the United States.)

According to the lawyer of the self-confessed killer in Norway, his goal was to incite bloody revenge against Muslim people. The end result of such diatribes as the WSJ’s “Terror in Oslo” editorial strive for the same aim – with far greater and bloodier success.

On July 25, 2011 the Wall Street Journal stated, “Brevik’s views echo anti-Muslim sentiment that has found a renewed voice on the fringes of European politics.” Fringes of European politics? How about in the pages of the Wall Street Journal itself! – the Rupert Murdoch-owned mouthpiece of finance capital.

The bloody hands of the Wall Street Journal are at work: The terrorism of the right-wing extremists like Brevik and McVeigh are justifiably condemned by most of us. But their crimes pale in comparison to the Wall Street and Wall Street Journal-inspired terrorism and bloodshed inflicted by U.S. imperialism, “the world’s No. 1 terrorist,” against the peoples of Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and Yemen.

“If You’re Not Outraged, You’re Not Paying Attention” ●

Get Angry, Get Active, Rise Up –Fight for Workers Power!

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a rise of the “official” unemployment rate to 9.2% and job growth of only 18,000 jobs in June. (At the same time the May Bureau’s report of 54 thousand new jobs was revised downward – to only 25,000 new jobs.) It takes a minimum of 125,000 new jobs each month just to keep up with population growth. Economic recovery has come to Wall Street with record profits but clearly not Main Street.

While devastating all the U.S. workers and oppressed, the economic crisis has hit the Latino and Afro-American households the hardest. While white household median wealth declined a significant 16% between 2005 and 2009, median wealth fell a shocking 53% for Afro-American households and 66% for Hispanic households!

In a massive blow to the equal rights fight of working women, the corporate dominated Supreme Court threw out a discrimination class action lawsuit filed on behalf of 1.5 million female Walmart workers. The Supreme Court ruled that the women did not constitute “a class.” The ruling forces these women workers who face pay disparity, discrimination in job assignments and promotion and sexual harassment at work to file individual lawsuits, impossible for workers to afford and pursue. In another example that “an injury to one is an injury to all” this assault on the rights of women will make it harder for all workers, of any nationality or gender, to band together and file class action complaints. No wonder the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups jumped for joy.

After months of savage US/NATO bombing of Libya, the U.S. government in mid-July recognized the “rebels” as Libya’s “legitimate” government. One result – the \$30 billion the U.S. government seized from Libya (the largest such seizure of assets in history!) can now be shared by the U.S. thieves with the U.S.-appointed rebel government. The Eisenhower Research Project based at Brown University released a study that pegs the monetary cost of the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, thus far, at \$4 trillion. Obama claimed only one trillion.

As Planet Earth itself is barreling toward environmental catastrophe, the coal and oil industry lobby and their media promoters have spread their lies in an effective disinformation campaign winning the hearts and minds of the U.S. population. According to a recent poll in USA Today, in 2001, 75% believed in the science of global warming, 19% did not and 6% were not sure. By 2011, despite all the global warming-induced extreme weather in the past 10 years,

only 44% believe in the science, 28% don’t believe and 28% are not sure. Bad news for Planet Earth and its inhabitants!

Verizon made \$6.9 billion net income in the first six months of 2011 and made \$20 billion in profit over the last four years. But that’s not stopping the company from jumping on the union-busting bandwagon and demanding sweeping concessions on health, retirement and other benefits from the unionized workers. Evidently, Verizon workers are paying attention. In response to Verizon’s concessionary demands at contract negotiations, 91% of the 35,000 unionized workers represented by the Communication Workers of America (CWA) voted to strike. ●

**[Ray O’Light Newsletter,
September-October 2011,
Publicaion of Revolutionary
Organisation of Labour, USA]**

TURKISH BOURGEOIS STATE CONTINUES RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

ON SEPTEMBER 2, the Turkish bourgeois state announced that it has suspended the military relations with Israel due to the fact that the UN report advises no sanctions to Israel because of the massacre that it has committed against the Blue Marmara Ship for solidarity with the Gaza people. The Turkish state announced a 5-point-list of sanctions, not including any suspense of commercial relations on the one hand, but on the other hand, it took a decision in the meantime to permit the deployment of a missile defence shield system of the NATO in Northern Kurdistan. The main aim of this deployment is to protect Israel from a possible offence from Iran, especially in case of a military intervention to Syria!

It has been alleged that the local command-centre of the system will be established in the 2nd Tactical Air Commandership in Diyarbakir (Amed) and the deployment process will be concluded before the end of the year. The system will be controlled by a central in Germany. This missile defence system was one of the main agendas of the negotiations between the Turkish state and the US imperialism to liquidate the PKK . On September 9, the Defence Ministry of Israel stated that the Turkish state has not suspended the military relations and the military ambassador of Israel is still working in Turkey.

Moreover, Erdogan, on a statement on September 8, repeated the demand that the Unmanned Air Vehicles (Israel-made Herons) which have been sent to Israel for repair should be sent back. Erdogan expressed that the killings by Israel are human rights violations and there has been a use of unproportional force and right after this he said: “Moreover, there was a date fixed for the repair of the Unmanned Air Vehicles but the planes have not been returned until now.

According to the last report, we have 6 planes there, and they have to give back the planes that we have paid the money for”. Erdoğan related this issue with “commercial ethics”.

These facts show once more that Erdogan and the AKP government stands on the side of the US imperialism and Israel Zionism on regional politics and it will never possible to stand against Israel, first because of being a capitalist country dependent on imperialism and secondly because of the colonialist dirty war continuing against the Kurdish national movement. Especially the Arab peoples should now that the relations of the Turkish bourgeois state with Israel is very deep and also rooted in military and political cooperation in the liquidation of the struggles in Palestine and Kurdistan and the common military activities of Turkey and Israel will not even come to discussion without the democratic solution of the Kurdish question. ●

MLKP, 10 September 2011

FAMINE IN SOMALIA: IMPERIALISM IS TO BLAME

THE FAMINE gripping Somalia is no “natural disaster”. Even leaving aside the question of what impact man-made climate change has had on the frequency of drought episodes (now recurring every three years or so, a far cry from the predictable decennial droughts that afflicted the region half a century ago), or the knock-on effects of deforestation (as foreign demand for charcoal accelerates the destruction of trees), the instant translation of that drought into a massive and cruel famine can only be explained by the complete social and economic devastation wreaked upon Somalia over many decades by imperialism.

How did Somalia get here?

In the early years of her independence, Somalia struggled hard against a legacy of clan conflicts bequeathed by colonial rule, rendering the country vulnerable to neo-colonial manipulation. After Siad Barre came to power in 1969 strenuous efforts were made to overcome clan divisions, unify the nation and achieve economic independence. Most major industries, farms and banks were nationalised, discrimination by clan was outlawed and a number of cooperative farms and factories were established. On the cultural front, a standardised writing system was introduced for the Somali language. It was taught in all schools and all government employees had to speak and write it. This was designed both to stop those equipped with the old colonial languages (English or Italian) bagging all the best jobs and to promote national identity over tribal identity. Great efforts were also made to deal with environmental problems, including a massive tree-planting scheme to slow the advance of desertification and, in the mid '70s, a Soviet-assisted airlift of drought-stricken nomadic families to more viable fishing and farming settlements.

Such progressive developments as these began to unravel in 1977 when unresolved border disputes between Somalia and Ethiopia were manipulated

by imperialism into a war in the Ogaden. Somalia's mistaken policy of annexation weakened her armed forces, wrecked her economy and lost her the support of the Soviet Union. With its gaze fixed on Somalia's strategic importance at the mouth of the Red Sea, the US naturally posed as Somalia's friend and saviour, over the next decade pumping in about \$100 million a year in economic and military aid. The rest followed a familiar pattern: IMF loans accompanied by “structural adjustment”, other shotgun “agreements” with the Paris Club and the International Development Agency, culminating in an economic collapse in 1990 which set the scene for Barre's overthrow the following year.

With the central authority gone, Somalia descended into a civil war fought out between rival clans. When in 1993 Clinton tried to shape the outcome of the feuding in a manner favourable to the US, sending US Army Rangers in to settle accounts with General Aidid, the relatively poorly equipped Somalis took heavy losses but were able to inflict humiliating reverses on the imperialist forces, most famously downing a Black Hawk helicopter gunship. The US withdrew with burned fingers from a conflagration it had helped to stoke up, for the moment restricting its meddling to covert CIA operations backing this or that warlord.

Impotent to establish a stable proxy regime to serve its interests, Washington understandably took no comfort when Somalis seemed to be on the way to achieving a stable government of their own. A number of groups coalesced to form the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) and took Mogadishu, defeating the CIA's pet warlords and bringing a degree of stability and order to the war-ravaged country. Enraged by this display of independence, in 2006 imperialism again set Somalis and Ethiopians at each other's throats, prevailing upon its pliant regime in Addis to inflict bloody war on its neighbour and tip Somalia back into the nightmare of civil war. In place of the ICU, the “international community” (imperialism) attempted to impose its own rootless “Transitional Federal Government” (TSG).

Yet all that imperialism has achieved by paying Ethiopia to smash the ICU alliance is to drive into new prominence one strand of it, Al Shabaab, which reportedly now controls all of Mogadishu bar the roughly 30 square miles of territory clung onto by the TSG. Al Shabaab is commonly recognised as the real government and would rapidly take power were African Union forces (9,000 strong) to be withdrawn. (see interview with investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill posted on 13th July on Democracy Now website, www.democracynow.org)

Playing politics with starvation

A country that has been deprived of any civil peace and stable government by the repeated meddling of imperialism over a period of decades, a country whose economy has been destroyed by IMF loan sharks, a country whose fishing industry has been wiped out by giant factory ships deployed by monopoly capitalist poachers, and whose fishermen have been transformed into pirates, is not well-equipped to deal with the consequences of major drought. Whilst the drought is, in some measure, a natural phenomenon, the famine is entirely man-made: the consequence of the decades of imperialist meddling which have effectively sabotaged any hope of peace and order for the Somalis.

Now to add insult to injury, US imperialism has chosen this time of immense

human suffering to play politics with food aid. Even the United Nations, criminally pliant to imperialist interests though it has become since the demise of the Soviet Union, has offered some mild criticism of US behaviour in face of this humanitarian crisis. Whilst it is blindingly obvious to everyone in Somalia that the TSG is a legal fiction and Al Shabaab is in many areas the sole governmental authority, Washington has been refusing to send any assistance to any communities where Al Shabaab has influence – i.e. most of the country. According to the Huffington Post on 21st July, Mark Bowden, the head of the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Somalia said that Western nations should set politics aside and concentrate on getting aid to the nigh-on four million at risk of severe malnutrition. Bowden added, "The risks involved with working with al-Shabaab have been a matter of considerable discussion here. No operation in Africa, and particularly Somalia, is risk free, but what we're saying is that donors have to share some of the risk that organizations already working there are dealing with." Bowden further noted that since the US stopped delivering aid to al-Shabaab areas two years ago, it has slumped from number one donor to about seven or eight in line. The Somali people, pauperised by IMF "assistance" in the '80s, are now condemned to starve as punishment for their lack of enthusiasm for the joke "transitional government".

Under the spotlight, USAID chief Steinberg pretends to be looking for a way to send aid that won't infringe US law, lamenting that this can only happen if the UN "tell us affirmatively" that aid workers will come to no harm and won't have to deal with Al Shabaab – in the middle of a civil war and under circumstances where in many areas Al Shabaab will be the sole administrative presence capable of organising aid distribution! Small wonder that, as the Huffington report notes, "The U.N., and OCHA in particular, have long made little secret of their frustrations with the American approach to foreign humanitarian aid and the country's self-imposed restrictions on working with groups that have been designated as terrorists. 'He's been frustrated for a long time,' Stephanie Bunker, a spokeswoman for OCHA in New York, said of Bowden... 'He is the humanitarian coordinator for this country, he's trying to coordinate the aid and he hasn't had enough aid to coordinate.'"

Secret war continues

In the Democracy Now interview Jeremy Scahill makes it clear that US imperialism does not rely on the weapon of starvation alone in its struggle for

domination in the region. There have been several US strikes inside Somalia in recent weeks, including one on 23rd June targeting an alleged Shabaab convoy, where Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) forces went in after the butchery to collect the slain. On 6th July there were three more US strikes in Kismayo district, and this time JSOC boots were on the ground, directly conducting operations.

In Mogadishu itself evidence has emerged that the CIA is running both a covert "anti-terror" headquarters and an underground prison to hold Somalis suffering rendition from Kenya and elsewhere. Yet despite the CIA's efforts to train up mercenary Somali forces to conduct operations against Al Shabaab, this has so far proved a dismal failure. An attempted operation against an Al Shabaab stronghold of Mogadishu late in 2010 ended in disaster, with the Somali agents getting wiped out. Since then the mercenaries have shown a marked reluctance to repeat the experience.

In a pattern that is starting to be sickeningly familiar to imperialism, every effort at brutal suppression of its enemies simply brings new enemies to the fore, as ever more of the world's masses are brought into the struggle against imperialism. In Somalia imperialism has never flinched at stirring up internecine wars, sabotaging national economic development or trying to turn Mogadishu into a new Guantanamo. Washington is now plumbing new depths, using the weapon of famine to force Somalis into neo-colonial submission. Yet at every turn on its brutal and cynical path imperialism encounters new enemies, as ever wider sections of the masses are drawn into battle. This confirms again the truth of Mao's dictum, that imperialism behaves like a fool who picks up a rock to crush his enemy, only to drop it upon his own feet. ●

(www.lalkar.org, September-October 2011)

Marxwadi-Leninwadi (kannada Monthly)

No. - 21, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Hanumanathpuram,
Shrirampuram, Banglore, Karnataka - 560021

Red Star (Punjabi Bi- Monthly)

Com. Ramesh Gautam
House No. - 5452; Street No. - 13; Basant Nagar
New Shimala Puri; Ludhiana (Punjab)

UTTARAN (Bengali Political Monthly)

Sankar Das
257, Nandan Kanan South, Rahara
Kolkata, West Bengal - 700 118

EXPLOSION AT FRENCH NUCLEAR PLANT

THE EXPLOSION at the nuclear re-processing plant at Marcoule on 12th September which killed one and injured three as admitted by the management so far after the meltdown at Fukushima in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami has once again raised the seriousness of the dangers posed by the nuclear power plants all over the world. The French authorities have come out with a statement that “France is treating the incident as closed. It does not stand any comparison with the Fukushima accident in Japan”. With 58 nuclear reactors France is in the forefront in the production of nuclear power and it is also the leading exporter of nuclear technology. The MNC, Areva, the nuclear giant involved in the accident which has taken place has tremendous influence in the ruling system. So such a statement, even denying any nuclear radiation after such an accident, can be easily understood. Such a damage limitation exercise is very much needed as Areva is hoping to sell six EPR reactors to India very soon, each of which has a 1650 MW capacity at an estimated 7 billion Euros each. But whatever Areva company and the French government as its spokesperson may say, the Marcoule incident has further strengthened the demand for shutting down of all nuclear plants from the popular forces. In this context the joint statement issued by ICOR and ILPS (published in this issue of Red Star) has attracted lot of public attention.

A member of the European Parliament’s Economic and Monetary Affairs Commission has stated: “The future of nuclear energy looks less radiant with every passing day and we would do well to ponder Germany’s decision not to extend the life of its ageing nuclear reactors and to invest massively in alternative energies”. It is very clear which way the wind blows on the question of approach towards nuclear power plants in European countries, in spite of the MNCs like Areva’s attempts to show that every thing is OK with the nuclear reactors. In this context, the MNCs are less concerned with the future of the nuclear reactors in Europe which they are going to loose definitely, but more

concerned with the damage done by any coverage about the extent of nuclear radiation at Marcoule on the contracts they want to rush through with countries like India whose governments are more concerned about the commission from these MNCs than the security of the people and environment.

But as the opposition to the use of nuclear power plants are increasing in India, in the context of Fukushima and now Marcoule, the nervousness is visible in the Indian nuclear establishment which is going to start the operation of a Russian built nuclear power unit shortly at Koodamkulam, in Tamilnadu, and is having many agreements with the nuclear MNCs of US, France and Russia. It is this nervousness and the cost factors which have forced the nuclear establishment to go for future agreements with South Korean nuclear companies which already won an international contract for building a \$20 billion dollar nuclear plant in UAE. Though the South Korean companies are claiming that they have further refined the US technology for nuclear reactors, the fundamental questions like danger of meltdowns and waste disposal are not yet resolved. The MNCs and the nuclear supply group countries are interested only in forcing the neocolonial countries to go for nuclear plants some how or other.

In this situation it is the task of all those who are aware of the dangers posed by the nuclear power plants and the nuclear armament projects pursued by the government in India, with near unanimity among all big and small ruling class parties, to unleash a concerted campaign and struggle as developing in the European countries to resist and defeat the reactionary nuclear policies pursued by the government. Along with it the campaign to educate the masses about the possibility for developing the eco-friendly, renewable, alternate energy sources also should be strengthened to challenge the claims of the government and the nuclear establishment that the only alternative to solve the power deficiency is the nuclear one. ●

CRACKDOWN ON MALAYSIAN SOCIALISTS

THE Malaysian Government, as a part of its anti-communist policy has openly attacked the PSM (Socialist Party of Malaysia) and accused them of attempting to spread communism and bring back the “old communist party”. 30 Activists from Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) including two juvenile have been charged under the Section 122 of Penal Code (waging war against the Monarch and trying to revive the communist ideology) and are remanded for 7 days for practicing their freedom of expression.

The group were arrested on the 25th June at Kepala Batas, Penang while they were distributing leaflets to inform the public in their campaign Uдахlah-Bersaralah (It is Enough, Time to Retire) national awareness campaign that PSM recently conducted from 24 to 26 June 2011. The news of PSM trying to revive communism was based on common t-shirts of left leaders found in the bus carrying the PSM activists. The news that PSM trying to revive communism was the major story in all the local mainstream media and it

is meant to create fear on an imaginary enemy – a tactic used commonly in the past to crackdown on activist.

Among those arrested are PSM National Deputy Chairperson M. Saraswathy and PSM Member of Parliament Dr. Jeyakumar Devaraj. PSM condemns the charges by the government who is trying to implicate PSM as waging a war against the King and reviving the old Malayan Communist Party. This big blatant lie is used on the 30 PSM activists who were involved in the (It is Enough, Time to Retire)”, national awareness campaign by PSM held from the 24th-26th June 2011. The activists who were supposed to be released unconditionally have been remanded for 7 days under Penal Code Seksyen 122 that is waging a war against the King. The statement by the police and the accusation by the current government on the PSM activists is baseless, absurd and politically motivated. Thus PSM demands the government to stop all this nonsense, release the detainees and apologise to the PSM on its baseless accusation.

PSM feels it is rather hilarious that the government tries to connect PSM with Communists just by finding a few t-shirts that have communist leader images. This t-shirts are sold very openly and anyone can buy it without any problems. Moreover the government of Malaysia has political and diplomatic ties with the Communist Party of China, Cuba, Vietnam and many other countries.

Besides that, it must be pointed out that the, the Malaysian government has signed the peace agreement with the MCP in 1989 and also senior communist leaders like Rashid Maidin, Suriani dan Abdullah CD have had a royal audience with the DYMM Sultan Azlan Shah. Thus, bringing back the communist bogeyman in post cold war era is a desperate move by the UMNO–BN regime to continue to cling in power while instilling fear among the people and to justify the use of the draconian ISA.

PSM is a registered party who is doing legal (above ground) activities and is well known and a popular party. PSM has always acknowledged the contribution of the left parties in the struggle for independence such as PKMM, API, AWAS and the MCP (PKM). These recognition of these left parties by the PSM cannot be narrowly interpreted that the party is trying to revive the MCP.

PSM is aware that the action against the PSM is a systematically planned action by the police to create an imaginary enemy with the intention to create an "Emergency" environment where the government can justify the use of the ISA....

The recent police action on PSM will not stop us from continuing our struggle and fight for the rights of the workers and people.

Long Live Socialism ! Long Live the PSM ! ●

Issued by ICOR, Asian Continental Committee and PSM (Socialist Party of Malaysia), 7 July 2011

TEN YEARS AFTER SEPTEMBER 11

ON SEPTEMBER 11, the US imperialists observed the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the World Trade Centre, with the president reading from the Bible as if the god justifies whatever is done by them around the world in the name of 'war on terror'. It is not only the US citizens, all right minded people are united against all acts of terrorism all over the world and are one in condemning the killing of the 2749 people during the attack on the US targets.

But such a grief or even an iota of it is not expressed by the US president or the imperialist class running that country on August 6 and 9 when in 1946 the US nuked Hiroshima and Nagasaki and killed or maimed millions. After that, around the world US has committed umpteen numbers of terrific crimes against world people, killing many more millions or devastating their lives and surroundings in order to impose its hegemony and to intensify imperialist plunder. In the name of throwing out Soviet troops from Afghanistan, once again it was the US imperialists who organized, trained and armed the Al Qaeda and Taliban. In the name of punishing Saddam Hussain for his adventure in Kuwait, the US imperialists had killed half a million soldiers and people of Iraq in the 1990s. None of these things are mentioned or any remorse expressed when the US president Obama was remembering those who were killed on September 11.

He did not mention what was perpetuated or continues to be imposed over the people of Afghanistan or Iraq or Libya or Pakistan or in other places during the last one decade under the banner of 'war on terror' in the name of taking revenge against the terrorists who 'attacked US'. During this decade both Afghanistan and Iraq were devastated, killing hundreds of thousands of people and destroying the cities and villages. Concentration camps were created to torture the so called terrorists, many of whom were earlier recruited and trained by the US agencies themselves. For killing bin Laden deep inside Pakistan, Obama had sent mercenaries violating the sovereignty of that country. Utilizing the rebellion of the people of Libya for democracy, the urban centers of that country are virtually reduced to rubbles, all for the plunder of its oil wealth.

The US imperialists, their allies and lackeys are the real terrorists who are creating havoc all over the world, killing or maiming millions, destroying the urban centers and villages and plundering the wealth of the world people. So long as they are not overthrown no solution to terrorism can be found. So, in order to put an end to terrorism the world people should unite against the US imperialists, their allies and lackeys everywhere. ●

EXTEND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLOODS, EXPOSE AND FIGHT AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH INTENSIFY FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

VAST AREAS of Odisha, especially the districts on both sides of Mahanadi and its tributaries are ravaged by floods with thousands of villages and tens of thousands of families, especially the poorer sections facing terrific miseries, losing their huts and belongings. While the threat of flood waters inundating more areas in Odisha is intensifying, the damages in UP, Bihar, Bengal and other states due to devastating floods for last many weeks are increasing manifold. Even many areas of Mumbai city was seriously affected by floods following heavy rains. As in previous years millions of families are affected with many of them losing their hutments and belongings including animals, impoverishing them further.

As usual the state and central governments are taking up the flood relief work just as a ritual. Though funds are allotted for it most of it is pocketed by the government staff entrusted with this job and the contractors as it happens every year. Though after every year's floods the government announces many river training and flood control policies, either they are not implemented or most of the funds allotted for them are pocketed by the concerned government officers, political leaders and contractors. As a result neither the flood relief work or flood control projects succeed in reducing the misery of the affected people or help the prevention of the recurrence of floods.

The advancement of science and technology has opened many avenues for river training and flood control which can serve to prevent the recurrence of droughts also through the construction of check dams, afforestation of the river banks, de-silting of the rivers wherever it is necessary and such other projects taken up based on scientific studies. But the history of these projects so far is the history of numerous scams. Even after so many five year plans and claims about allotment of huge funds, no substantial improvement has taken place. Worst is the case of the flood relief work taken up. As a result more and more people, especially of the poorer sections are suffering every year under floods. The damages caused and areas affected by floods are increasing every year.

In this situation, CPI(ML) appeals to all party committees to join hands with all progressive forces and involve themselves in the flood relief work wherever possible urgently. Along with this the demand for setting up of people's committees and channeling all relief works through them should be raised and struggled for.

As the occurrence of floods and droughts are inter related, people should be organized for campaigning and struggling for the implementation of effective flood and drought control measures in all areas where both are chronic problems before them. ●

NARENDRA MODI CELEBRATING THE PAINS OF THE VICTIMS

THOSE WHO had gone around Faisabad after Bari Masjid was demolished in 1992, and those who have travelled through places like Naroda-Patiya in the city of Ahmedabad after the communal pogrom in 2002, it is difficult to forget the horror in the eyes of the victims they had come across. It was like they were hunted in the very streets they were born and lived just because they had a different religious belief than that of Advani or Modi. So when Modi is organizing a drama of a fast in Ahmedabad to launch himself to national politics, as the *Jan Sangharsh Morcha* of Ahmedabad has asked: is he celebrating the pains of the victims or trying to confuse the people by making false claims that the cases against him has been closed? The Supreme Court after years of procrastination has created a condition in which a communal fascist

scoundrel can parade himself before the people in this manner by organizing the drama of a fast, once again spending the people's money and government facilities for it.

It is high time we start learning to hate such criminals and all those who indulge in glorifying him. And when the democratic forces try to express their anger against the fascist Modi through a protest dharna, the system which protect the criminals like him is denying them even the right to protest. Not only Modi and company, the Congress leadership which is trying to stage its own drama of a fast by its leaders are not doing it to protect the victims, but to use their anger to get their votes, and all those who are

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DECLARE SOLIDARITY WITH IROM SHARMILA, STRUGGLE FOR REPEAL OF AFSPA AND WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY FROM NORTHEAST AND JAMMU-KASHMIR

THE INDEFINITE FAST by Irom Sharmila demanding the repealing of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) started when the Assam Rifles empowered with this draconian black law gunned down 11 people in Imphal in 2000 and as all the armed forces are indulging in wanton attacks on the people of Manipur and especially women, wherever this Act is imposed, is going to complete 11 years on 2nd November, 2011. The CPI(ML), joining hands with all democratic forces have campaigned in support of the struggle of Irom Sharmila for last two years, demanding the repealing of AFSPA and withdrawal of the armed forces from the Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir. Manipur state committee of the Party right from the time of its formation in March, 2010, has campaigned for this cause. A delegation of the Party led by com. K.N. Ramachandran, general secretary, CPI(ML) is trying to meet Sharmila, arrange a public program in support of this struggle and to address a press conference on 29th September to counter the vilification campaign launched by a section of the media to tarnish the image of Sharmila and to declare solidarity with the valiant struggle she is waging against the state terror launched against the people of Manipur and elsewhere.

Com. Sharmila is waging an indefinite fast, an entirely peaceful form of democratic struggle. But the central governments right from 2000 have taken an autocratic approach towards it by declaring her struggle illegal, at the

behest of the armed forces which have vested interests to continue its 'military raj' wherever it is deployed using this draconian Act. So she is kept under detention and subjected to nasal feeding forcefully all these years, irrevocably damaging her health. It is a fascist act pursued by the consecutive governments as part of the suppression of the people's struggle for their democratic rights. Using the terror imposed through the military the central government is trying to impose unity, instead of achieving unity through political means by ensuring the right of self-determination of the people of Northeast and Jammu and Kashmir.

The CPI(ML) has decided to organize a countrywide campaign uniting with all like-minded forces from 1st October to 2nd November demanding that com. Sharmila should be released from detention and allowed to continue her struggle; the AFSPA which is against the spirit of the Constitution should be repealed forthwith; withdraw the military from Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and Chhattisgarh, and settle the demands of the people of Northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere through political means. The CPI(ML) appeals to all left and democratic forces to come forward to wage a relentless campaign and a movement in support of the valiant struggle of Irom Sharmila and to achieve the above demands. ●

KN Ramachandran
General Secretary, CPI(ML)
14-09-2011

NARENDRA MODI CELEBRATING THE PAINS FROM PAGE 34

extending support to Modi's fast, all are in unholy alliance to protect the system which massacres its own citizens. That the ruling system is becoming more and more anti-people, communal and casteist is being proved everyday. The 2156 unidentified bodies in Kashmir graves speak volumes about the atrocities committed by the military in these virtually occupied areas. The killing of seven dalit youth in Paramakudy by the Tamilnadu police and the Jayalaitha government justifying it, and the communal orgy in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, a few happenings in the span of few days reveal the extent of the degeneration of the state in to an anti-people establishment. Modis flourish in this situation.

It is high time we should learn to hate these criminals and to hate the ruling system they are running roughshod

over the people. It is high time we should start mobilizing our forces to overthrow this criminal ruling system. Intensifying the struggle against fascists like Modi should be seen as part of the struggle for creating a people's government which shall punish all these scoundrels without any mercy. ●

Rebel

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