

REPORT ON CHATTISGARH REPRESSION

The CDRO Organised a fact finding mission to Chattisgarh State during 14.01.2016 to 18.01.2016. The constituent bodies participated are

(1) Civil Liberties Committee (CLC), Telangana (2) Civil Liberties Committee (CLC), Andhra Pradesh (3) Peoples Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) (4) Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), West Bengal (5) Peoples Democratic Forum (PDF) and (6) Women against Sexual Violence and State Repression (WSS).

The fact finding committee divided into two teams and one team has visited Bellam Nendra Village near Basaguda Thana, Bijapur and Kunna Village, Sukma District., to investigate into gang rapes by Para Military Forces and the other team visited Pedda Zejjore Village near Bijapur District headquarters.

Pedda Zejjore Encounter: It has been reported in the news papers that an encounter occurred at Pedda Zejjore on 15th January 2016, where four naxalites have been killed. However the facts of the said encounter are as follows:

On 15th January 2016, at around 7.30 morning some six young villagers, consisting of three young men and three girls were going from Pedda Zejjore to Reddy Village market to purchase consumables provisions. The three young men were aged between 21 and 24, while the three girls were aged between 9 and 13 years. As they were in young age and walking down through the forest area playing, singing and listening to radio songs. It was a child hood fun and frolic morning for them to go to Friday market at Reddy village 20 kms away from their village. However, as they were reached at thick forest track near Chinna Zejjore Village, the para military forces waylaid themselves behind thick cover of the trees and bushes fired at them indiscriminately without giving any cautions. The four youngsters including a girl were collapsed instantly. The forces went closer to the bodies and pierced the bullets into their bodies, from point blank range. The dead are 1. Majji Budram (21), 2. Oyam Munna (24), 4. Madkam Pandu (21) and 4 teenage girl Oyam Tulasi (13). The other two young girls aged 9 and 10 also received bullet wounds. One girl aged 9 has been injured with bullet on her ankle and the the other girl aged 10 injured on stomach and arm with bullets. Both injured girl children managed to run away from the scene and reached the village and informed their elders. Hearing the children and also gun shot sounds the villagers came to the site of the encounter only to the find that the bodies are removed and shifted to the Bijapur General Hospital by the police force. The point to note here is that the police force never bothered to inform the families and conduct the inquest on the bodies at the scene of offence.

The villagers went back to Pedda Zejjore Village to collect some more people and then went to Bijapur General Hospital. But post mortem was done to the bodies much before being identified who they are. Infact, the post mortem cannot be done to the bodies without proper identification of the bodies according to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) guidelines. No press notifications were issued for

identification of the bodies. The post mortem process was not carried out under video graph. The doctor and police authorities have brazenly violated all legal procedures. The villagers told the committee that the police demanded Rs. 4,000 per body to transport back to their village. Only when the villagers staged a protest, then the bodies were transported to the village by a state vehicle.

The fact finding team incidentally reached the village soon after the bodies were brought to the village. We have first seen the body of the Majji Budram (21) and found that two bullets were pierced on the two sides of the chest, one on the left shoulder and left arm. There was also a big bullet wound on the left side of the Jaw.

Budram was a farmer with ten acres of land. His widowed mother, younger brother and wife were innocently crying around the body. He was married just two months back.

We also observed the body of Oyam Munna (24) and found severe bullet wounds on his body. One bullet pierced through his forehead and the one behind his ear and two bullets on two sides of the chest indicating that he was shot dead from close range. Munna has only widowed mother.

We noticed severe bullet injuries on the body of Oyam Tulasi (13). We could see many villagers approaching her house from all directions. We noticed bullets piercing through her abdomen, chest and arm. Tulasi had widowed mother, three sisters and two brothers.

Madkam Pandu (21) was also a farmer was having three little children. The villagers told us that severe bullets pierced through his body from front side.

At each of the houses, we were told that the children were going to Reddy Village to get groceries and other provisions when the police personnel hiding in the forest had killed them. It is well established that they are innocent villagers working in the agricultural activities and not Maoists been claimed by the police. They were unarmed civilians.

Gang rapes

On January 11, 2016, a large contingent of security personnel entered Bellam Nendra Village near Basaguda, Bijapur District. The strategy of the forces is to enter the village open fire in the air and terrorise the villagers so that the male folk run away from the villages. The men have to leave the village or either face death or otherwise if caught, face false cases.

When the men leave the villages, the police forces enter the houses and assumes the position of their husbands for some time. In this village, the police forces looted the provisions, they just like cut the throats of goats and chickens and thrown away. About 16 women have been sexually harassed by the police forces between 11th and 14th January. One woman was gang raped by the security personnel under the cover of mosquito net. In another incident a mother and daughter were gang raped by the police after dragging them together into one place in their house.

There was a similar attack on Kunna Village, in Sukma District during 11 and 14 of January. The modus operandi of the forces is similar, terrorizing, loot and pillage of the village and sexually harassing the women. Seven women were sexually

assaulted; two women had to be hospitalized with severe injuries. On January 13, Lalu Sodi was severely beaten by the police with the result he died on the next day. About 24 male and 5 women were taken to CRPF camp and tortured and women were stripped and sexually harassed enroute to the camp.

The fact finding team met the DSP, Dharendra Patil, Bijapur and explained how the Pedda Zejjore encounter was a false encounter. He only said routine police answer that “it has to be proved by Executive Magistrate”.

The team also presented the case of fake encounter to the District Collector Yashwanth Kumar only to hear him that ‘we will look into the matter’.

The fact finding team also brought about 18 villagers including 16 woman victims from the village to present before the District Collector. The women describe their woes to the collector, his representative the SDM and police representatives on January 18th. However even after four days of testimonies from the women, the police was not willing to file FIR against the police and security force responsible for crime. This is in complete violation of Supreme Court guidelines that mandate immediate registration of FIR instance of prima facia proof of cognizable offences. The FIR was finally registered only after four days of consistent struggle by WSS activists.

The instance of state sponsored violence are occurring in Chattisgarh State as part of coordinated operations by several wings of state police and central forces. These combined operations are increasingly brutalizing the village communities and disrupting their livelihood, besides eliminating Maoists in the name of third phase of Operation Green Hunt (OGH). The women are increasingly raped and innocent children are killed in the third phase of Operation Green Hunt.

We Demand

1. Operation Green Hunt (OGH) and its subsequent variations must stop at once.
2. Murder cases under IPC and SC, STs Atrocities (prevention) Act must be booked against the police forces involved in the crime.
3. Judicial enquiry must be conducted into the cases of encounter killings and sexual harassments.
4. With draw CRPF, COBRA Campus immediately.

COORDINATION OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS ORGANIZATION (CDRO)