

WILL YOU VOTE ?

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It is high time for the voter to decide to boycott elections and support people's struggles surging forward on the lines of armed revolution.

I confine myself to the situation in Andhra Pradesh. In this State, according to available information, not less than 150 revolutionaries were shot dead by the police during 1969-70. The Andhra Police Minister, Mr J. Vengal Rao, speaking in the State Legislative Council on December 10, 1970, admitted that 110 "Naxalites" were shot dead by the police in "armed encounters". The phrase 'armed encounter' is a cloak the ministers and bureaucrats use to cover police atrocities.

In Srikakulam district alone the police have shot dead 140 revolutionaries. In Khammam district along with Battula Venkateswara Rao, two others were shot dead; in West Godavari one, in Krishna district three, four in Guntur district, and one each in Ongole and Anantapur districts.

Battula Venkateswara Rao, Suryanarayana and Venkanna, belonging to the Revolutionary Communist Committee headed by T. Nagi Reddy were captured near Gondigudem in Khammam district, tortured by the police for two days, taken to the hillocks near Aswaraopet in an unconscious state and shot dead.

Panchadri Krishnamoorthy, a top leader of CP(ML) and six others were apprehended while they were alighting from the train at Sompeta and were taken to a nearby forest on the same night. In that forest they were shot dead.

Tamada Ganapati, Dr Bhaskar Rao and two others were arrested in a village near Amadalavalasa in Srikakulam district and were confined in the Amadalavalasa police lock-up for

two days, tortured there, taken to the hills near Tekkali and shot dead.

Srimati Panchadri Nirmala (wife of Mr Panchadri Krishna-moorthy), Srimati Saraswati and Srimati Ankamma were arrested in Berhampur ; Mr Panigrahi, S. R., a famous revolutionary poet, was also apprehended along with them. They were kept in various police stations in Sompeta taluk. The hired police goons beat them into pulp. Later, all of them were killed by the police gangsters.

Veeranki Rajagopal (Eluru), Dasari Venkataramana (Vijayawada) and B. Janakiramaraju (Kapileswarapuram) of the CP(ML) were arrested near Samalkot in East Godavari district. Rajagopal was taken to the East Godavari Agency area and there the police killed him. The other two were taken to Mangipudi near Machilipatnam and there the police C.I.D. inspector, Pilla Satyanarayana, shot them dead. Before shooting them the two were kept in Nuzveed, Veeravalli and Kodal police stations for a month and tortured. Similarly B. Ramulu, a teacher belonging to Nulakaluru in Guntur district, Dasari Koteswara Rao belonging to Golantla in the same district and two others were taken to Nallamala forest and shot dead. Mr Bali Reddy of Gudluru in Kandukur taluk of Ongole district was arrested on the night of 20 July, 1970, at Kanigiri town. He was taken to Munnangidinae forest and killed on the 24th morning.

There are now more than 2500 revolutionaries in jails on various charges framed up by the police. The Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry and Warangal Central Jails and the Secunderabad district jail are filled with revolutionaries. They are lodged in various sub-jails too. A majority of them were not produced before any magistrate in the stipulated period of 24 hours by the police. Article 22 (2) of the Indian Constitution says that no arrested person could be kept under police custody for more than 24 hours and he should be produced before a magistrate within the prescribed period. The police have completely violated this. They were kept in various

police camps for months together and tortured brutally. The police have beaten all the past records of the world in proving their own brutal nature. In this regard information is also gathered from reliable sources and in certain cases from the very persons who have experienced the police brutality.

In the first instance, the reactionary government resorted to a swoop on the Revolutionary Communists in the State in July, 1969. Arrests were made on a mass scale on the night of July 26. But the High Court ordered the release of many, including its top leader, Mr T. Nagi Reddy, on their writ petitions. Hence the government's conspiracy—to frame conspiracy cases against the rank and file of the Revolutionary Communist Committee. After arresting Mr Nagi Reddy and others in Madras on December 18, 1970, Revolutionary Communists were arrested all over the State.

Mr V. Ramalingachary, a provincial member of the A. P. Revolutionary Communist Committee and former Secretary of the Srikakulam district committee, was arrested in Kakinada village in the Agency area of East Godavari district. Along with him Apparao Reddy (Visakhapatnam), Bhaskar Rao, a polytechnic student, and Bose, a medico, were arrested on September 7, 1969. Till September 22, they were kept in Donkarayi, Salem and Sabbavaram police stations. On the 16th and 17th of that month they were confined in a forest travellers' bungalow near Donkarayi and brutally beaten. Pins were pressed into their nails. Their hands were scratched with glass pieces. But the police announced that they had been arrested on September 23, when they were produced before a magistrate.

The police did not exclude even priests in temples. They spread their "dragnet" to apprehend one T. Jogiraju of Neharbara Temple at Kakinada. Our intelligent police officers raided Vigneswara Temple near Achutapuram gate in the same town on the night of September 16, 1970, and caught hold of its "Archaka", Bucchi Sanyasiraju. The police told him that he was wanted by the DSP to perform some "Puja"

in his house. On this pretext he was taken to the police lock-up and tortured to vomit all that he knew about "Naxalites". Later the police came to know that he was not the priest wanted. Meanwhile some of the devotees of the Vigneswara Temple came to know about this and intervened to get the poor priest released.

Andhra Pradesh has become a scene of foisted conspiracy cases. Apart from the two major conspiracy cases, one against Mr Nagi Reddy and others at Hyderabad, and the other against CP (ML) cadres known as Parvatipuram Conspiracy Case, a number of conspiracy cases have started in many districts. There are the East Godavari District Conspiracy Case, Tallapalem and Kodavaluru Conspiracy Case in Nellore district, Kurnool Conspiracy Case, Kazipet Conspiracy Case in Cuddapah district, Timmapuram Conspiracy Case in Nalgonda district and City Conspiracy Case in Hyderabad, on record at present.

Quite a number of medical and engineering students, advocates, journalists and several other highly educated persons are falsely implicated in these cases. Several educated women also have been dragged into these fictitious cases.

The degree of repression in the Agency areas of Srikakulam and Telengana areas is immeasurable. In the Srikakulam district seven taluks out of eleven are declared as "disturbed areas". In the Telengana area Mulugu, Narasampet and Parakal in Warangal district, Illendu, Burgumpahad and Bhadrachalem in Khammam district, Mantalna in Karimnagar district are "disturbed areas". Everyday a number of new police camps with CRP men are being set up. There are 11 police camps in Mantalna taluk; in Iylapuram and Bandala villages in Mulug taluk, in Kottagudem in Narasampet taluk and in Koyagudem and Kasinepalli in Illendu taluk new police camps have sprouted up.

Police raids on villages in forest areas are a daily feature. Every time the police raid a village, all the people in the village are assembled in a particular place and all people irrespectively

beaten. The chickens, the grain and the little provisions the Girijans have are forcibly taken away. The dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in vogue in those areas since several months. The government has opened a number of concentration camps on the model of Vietnamese "strategic hamlets". On 22 November 1970, UNI in a despatch stated :

"250 Girijan families consisting of 600 members were evacuated from their villages and were settled in Ramabhadrapuram, Jammivalasa and Peddabalibanda villages...The government took this measure to wean away the Girijans from the Naxalite influence."

The government is not only using its "iron hand" on revolutionary movements and other mass movements, but is also ruthlessly curbing the movements of government workers. The government is running amuck and throwing its own employees behind bars.

M. B. Krishnamma, President of the State Elementary School Teachers' Federation, was arrested in 1969 and is still kept in dark dungeons. P. N. Bhushanam, Secretary, Srikakulam District Elementary School Teachers' Federation, was first detained in 1969 and later was implicated in the Parvati-puram Conspiracy Case. The same is the fate of Chowdary Balaji, a clerk in the Shermahammadpur Panchayat Samiti Office. Dongaiah, a lecturer in Srikakulam district, was shot dead by the police. V. Syamsunder Rao, Secretary, District NGO's Association, Kakinada, was arrested and implicated in criminal cases. Prasad and Yugandhar, two railway employees and a health inspector, P. V. Subbarao and Sarabandhi, a Basic Health worker, were arrested in connection with the Prodduvaka murder case. Bikkiramulu, a teacher, who was a native of Mulakaluru village in Guntur district, was brutally shot dead by the police. Pandi Venkaiah a postal employee in Guntur in Nellore district, was arrested and tortured for 3 months in police custody. Later, he was implicated in the Kodavaluru Conspiracy Case. Miss Rajeswari, who is an accountant of the Reserve Bank at Nellore, was arrested on

the ground that she was harbouring "Naxalites" and kept in police custody for over a month and tortured. Now she is confined in Central Jail, Rajahmundry, as a detenu.

Most of the accused implicated in the City Conspiracy Case Hyderabad, are government employees : Baburao is a railway guard at Donakell, Samuel, an employee of AG's office, L. V. Subbaiah, an employee in HMT.

Janasakti, the official organ of the "Revolutionary Communist Committee", was not spared by this pseudo-democratic government. The police raided the *Janasakti* office on the midnight of July 26, 1969 and arrested D. Krishnamoorthy, who was looking after the organ. Sub-editor, N. Venkata Rao and managerial clerk K. Satyanarayana were also arrested. The government has not banned *Janasakti*, but the police officers who raided the *Janasakti* office carried away all the office records, files and all other equipment with them.

It is no exaggeration to say that the jails in our state are hell on earth. Proper food is not given, no amenities are provided, no medical attention is paid. More than 45 revolutionaries died in jail during 1969-70 owing to lack of proper food and medical attention. More than 5 undertrial prisoners are confined in a cell which is actually intended for one. Bugs, mosquitoes and scorpions are co-dwellers. No doubt these are affectionately fostered by the department to suck the blood of the revolutionaries.

In Chittoor sub-jail a startling incident took place. Narayana Reddy, a revolutionary undertrial, was shot dead inside the jail. The police version is that the undertrials attacked the jail authorities with sticks and they had to open fire. From where can the undertrials get sticks when even a razor blade is not allowed inside ?

In these circumstances it is up to the elector to decide whether he will vote in the coming elections.

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