

The State Itself is the Sponsor and Promoter Of Fake Encounters!

After 25 years of the fake encounter in Philbit at last in April 2016 the special CBI court of Lucknow of U.P. has convicted 47 police men of a fake encounter and sentenced to life imprisonment.

On July 12, 1991 a bus carrying Sikh pilgrims was intercepted by the police near Pilibhit in U.P. The police claimed that a group of Sikh militants from Punjab had infiltrated in to Pilibhit area in U.P. They were taken to a nearby forest area and shot at close range. The police also claimed that they captured guns and ammunition from them.

A judicial commission appointed by the Kalyan Singh government had given a clean chit to the police, even contending that the officers involved in the Pilibhit operation deserved 'commendation'. And those involved in the 'encounter' are enjoying impunity from then onwards.

However a CBI probe ordered by the Supreme court has revealed that this was the most heinous crime and one of the most heinous massacres perpetrated by the police in the name of an 'encounter' with armed terrorists, just for no other reason than to claim credit, awards and rewards.

Again the NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) recently has held four cases of encounters in Assam as fake and has directed the Assam government and defence ministry to pay relief to the families of six victims.

On June 22, 2009 Jionwm Basumatary and Okhaphat Basu-matary were killed in a fake police encounter at Furoivasi under Sonitpur district of Assam. On July 9, 2009 Rajit Narzary alias Abraham was killed by Assam police and Assam rifles in a fake encounter in Sonitpur district.

On Feb 23, 2011 two persons Mriganka Hazarika and Himanshu goga were killed in Dirpur by police in a fake encounter.

On July 23, 2008, one Piku Ali was killed in police firing in Nagaon district of Assam.

NHRC held that all these encounters are fake and directed the respective governments to pay relief to the families of the victims.

Fake encounters galore in our country and they are being justified in the name of eliminating the terrorists, by the governments as well the police officials/security officials that it is irrelevant whether the encounter is factual or fake since the killed victims are terrorists. Thus extra judicial killings by police and security forces are being granted immunity by our rulers and the institutions that are supposed to maintain law and order by abiding to law.

No doubt both these instances of conviction/direction to pay relief to the victims may appear to be merely a justice delayed but not denied, but they speak volumes about the class nature of the state and its machinery.

By granting incentives, inducements and promotions to those police/security personnel involved in encounter killings, the state has created a culture of 'encounter specialists' and thus the state itself has promoted the culture of fake encounters, becoming the very sponsor of extra judicial killings with impunity. Moreover time and again the rulers in governmental power are demanding for more and more draconian powers in the name of fight against terrorism by making more and more draconian laws, that allow the state and its forces not to be accountable to the law and justice.

Such a situation has naturally prompted the men in uniform to resort to extra-judicial killings even to garner rewards and promotions besides to wreak vengeance on militants or extremists targeting their colleagues.

The above are not the first time incidents in which the police men have killed innocent people for petty gains in fake encounters.

Fake encounters are started from the early 1970s, with Varghese, a kunnikalite was killed in a fake encounter in Kerala. From then onwards several fake encounters have occurred in several states and the killer police are left scot-free with impunity.

Such atrocities can never happen and do not happen without the sanction and support of the state and the connivance of those rulers in power.

Hence it can easily be deduce that the very state it-self is the sponsor and promoter of fake encounters, which menace has to be fought out by the democratically minded peoples' stable movements, constantly demanding to end the culture of extra-judicial killings through fake encounters!
