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## **Stop the Hydro-electric Dams in Arunachal!**

### **Stop Shooting Protestors!**

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The Class Struggle strongly condemns recent police firing at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh which have left two persons dead and about a hundred injured. It was a typical tale of repression: police hounded, threatened and arrested Lama LobsangGyatso, a monk and the popular leader of Save Mon Region Federation (SMRF), a group that has been spearheading the agitation against several big, medium and small hydro power projects in the Tawang region. When people demonstrated for his release, police opened fired upon them. Though since then police and the local administration have been spreading rumours about the incident, the truth stares one in the eye. Lama LobsangGyatso and the agitators wanted the hydro power projects to stop because these would pollute and destroy the pristine river valleys. However, the malady of development has penetrated into Arunachal Pradesh, which has already had more than 32000 Mega Watt worth of projects lined up in various stages of construction. The life and livelihood and environmental concerns of the people go unheeded and the state admini-stration decides to crush the anti-dam movement by force.

We demand that exemplary punishment is meted out to those directly and indirectly responsible for the firing incident on May 2, and no hydro power project is taken up in Tawang and other areas of Arunachal without people's consent. A project that requires diversion of forest is also illegal without community consent, under Forest Rights Act 2006 and PESA Act.

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