

Condemn Killing of People by Police in Odisha

The *Class Struggle* condemn the gunning down of five poor adivasi people, including a child of two years, and injuring two persons by the armed police in Odisha on July 8th, 2016 as brutal, unjust and anti-people act. On this day, the police rained bullets on the people travelling in an autoriksha at Kuttamgad, Kandhamal district of Odisha. The people fled the spot leaving deceased there.

It is not an isolated incident in Odisha. There occurred 11 incidents of similar nature just in last one year. The police sought to justify its present crime with the plea that the victims came in the “cross fire” between the police and alleged Maoists. But the facts that have come to the light incontestably proved that the claim of the police is a blatant lie. It was a one sided and unwarranted firing on the part of the p[olice and the victims are innocent and poor adivasi and dalit people.

Faced with the strong protest from the political, democratic organisations and persons as well as the people of Odisha, the state Government has come out with a statement like, the incident was “most unfortunate” and promising action on the guilty and compensation to the victims. But the people know that this can be nothing but an attempt to eyewash and pacify the victims as well as protesting people.

The massive deployment and presence of armed police, the so-called encounters and the killing of innocent people in the vast forest and rural areas of Odisha in the name of curbing Maoists are seriously disturbing the normal and peaceful life of people and forcing them to live in fear and terror rather than ensuring them the conditions of security. The people want not only action on those responsible for the policekilling in Kuttamgad, but also an end to the presence of armed forces in the areas. The people want that their democratic right to express, live and struggle for better life must not be interrupted, curbed and attacked by the state, It is needless to say that the democratic forces would stand by them.

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