

Press Statement :**Condemn State Terrorism Committed in the name of
Encounter**

On 24th October, 2016, AP Grey hounds and Odisha SOG, in a joint operation, have gunned down 24 persons – the leaders and cadres of CPI (Maoist) and the adivasi people - near Panasput village in Malkangiri district of Odisha. 4 more dead bodies were found on October 25th in the same forest area. With this, the toll of dead has reached to 28. The police claimed that these deaths have occurred in an ‘encounter’ between their security forces and the Maoists. But the facts show that these were nothing but cold blooded murders meticulously planned well in advance and ruthlessly executed. Here, the rulers, who swear by democracy, Constitution and rule of law, have blatantly violated them. We condemn this act of state terrorism and the methods of terror used against the people in the name of combings. We demand that the onslaught on the people must immediately be stopped in the area.

The rulers at the Centre as well as in States are going all out in their policies of selling out the natural and human resources of our country to the imperialists. They have turned India into a tool of US strategy for hegemonism. Their pro-imperialist and pro-feudal policies have already driven every section of our people and every branch of life in the country into a worst crisis. They have intensified the attacks on the democratic rights of our people and are doing everything to inflame communal, regional, casteist, national chauvinistic and fascist tendencies and forces to divide and divert the people from the real issues and suppress their struggles. Our people are struggling hard to come out of this situation.

We are clear that the politics and practices of terrorism in any form will not serve and even cause harm to the people. The most essential and unavoidable task before all those who are committed to bring a basic change in the lives of our people is to help the people – the real victims of the policies of exploiting ruling classes—to organise, assert and exercise their democratic rights to defend their lives and win a better future.

October 26th, 2016

Viswam
GENERAL SECRETARY
CC, CPI (ML)
