

Condemn the Brutal Suppression and Detention of Peasantry at Ghaziabad by the Central government

A I K M K S

Friends!

Once again farmers rose in protest with the major demands of complete waiving of farm loan-waiver, implementation of the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission, on fixing of minimum support price, and prevention of suicides of farmers.

Thousands of farmers started their march from Tikait Ghat in Haridwar, Uttarakhand on September 23rd and planned to reach Kisan Ghat in Delhi on 2nd October. Responding to this call of Kisan Kranti Yatra given by Bhartiya Kisan Union (Tikait group), thousands of farmers joined the march all along the way. To prevent the farmers from entering Delhi, the Central Government deployed 3000 armed police personnel at all the highways bordering Delhi. When the farmers insisted in continuing their march, they were lathi charged, and fired with tear gas shells and water cannons. Many farmers were seriously injured in this police action.

On the one hand Central Government is making nation-wide grand celebrations on October 2nd, as the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi, the man who became synonymous with *Ahimsa*, and on the other hand it showed its iron heel on the peaceful rally of farmers to Kisan Ghat with barricades, lathis, water cannons and tear gas shells.

All India Khet Mazdoor Kisan Sabha (AIKMKS) strongly condemns the central government for its suppression and detention of Uttarakhand peasantry by police forces.. It gives a call to the people and all the democratic forces to condemn these acts of suppression on peasantry and to express solidarity with them.

The brutal police action did not make the peasantry run amok but instead thousands sat on the roads in protest. They raised slogans in protest against the government and suppression by the police who were not addressing their justified demands.

The immediate nation-wide protests against this suppression and highhandedness on the peasantry of Uttarakhand made the government take a back step and start 'fire fighting'. The Central Home Minister made immediate discussions with Agriculture Minister and sent a delegation headed by the state agriculture minister to discuss with the peasant leaders on their demands. The peasantry rejected this delegation which offered namesake announcements and petty assurances. They sat on the roads for the entire night and continued their protest. This stands as another example to the rising anger and discontent among the entire peasantry of our country against the negligence of the governments in solving their genuine demands.

In June, 2016, in the village of Mandasaur, Madhya Pradesh, Police fired on agitating peasantry and killed 6 farmers. In 2017 the peasantry of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamilnadu led militant agitations that could cow down the ruling classes to get solutions for their woes. This year, in the month of March, thousands of peasants and Adivasis in Maharashtra took a 200 km march on bare foot from Nasik to Mumbai to be heard and get their woes solved. Whenever the agitations of peasantry becomes uncontrollable the governments announce some temporary relief packages which do not address the real problems but only pushes the agriculture sector into further crisis.

On the one hand the state and central governments are increasing the input costs on peasants by not controlling/regulating the prices of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, on the other hand they are not making institutional credits available to farmers, not providing facilities to sell their produce, not providing minimum support price, instead are hastening measures that force peasantry into the quagmire of debt. As part of the imperialist's policy of alienating small and marginal farmers from agriculture and undertake contract/corporate farming the governments are dislodging farmers with the help of economic tools. This intensified the woes of tenant farmers and greatly increased the forced migrations of agricultural labour due to unavailability of employment in cultivation. Without cancelling all the deals made with imperialists that are the root causes for the sinking of tenant farmers, peasantry, rural poor and agricultural labour into more and more crisis; without providing 'land for the tiller', the fundamental problems of peasantry are not going to be solved. In this direction, AIKMKS calls for united agitations of peasantry with other oppressed sections of the society to get solutions to their fundamental problems.

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**All India Khet Mazdoor Kisan Sabha
(AIKMKS)**
