

An Appeal to the Representatives of People On the danger of eviction of Adivasis in the context of directive from Supreme Court

You are all aware that the Supreme Court ordered the eviction of adivasis from the forest lands whose claims were rejected under the The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (also known as Forest Rights Act) by the time of next hearing of the case that is, July 27 and submit the satellite images as a proof of eviction. It sent this direction to the Chief Secretary of AP. Similar direction were given in the past by the Supreme Court on 9 January 2016 and March 2018. Without deciding the validity of FRA in the litigation came before it, the Supreme Court issuing directives to evict the forest dwellers whose claims were rejected by the district administration disregarding the resolutions of Gram Sabhs. The central and state governments, not trying to correct this situation, in the latest instance no lawyer appeared before the Supreme Court on behalf of the government to defend FR Act, are repeatedly resorting to forceful eviction the adivasis from their habitat – is it not violation of civil and democratic rights of the Adivasis and other forest dwellers?

Is it not the dereliction of duty on the part of central and state governments that have not the defended the rights of the adivasis before the Supreme Court, to which duty they are constitutionally bound

In Andhra Pradesh, from Srisailam to Srikakulam, 63,337 adivasi families cultivating 1,49,421 acres of lands in the forest are going to be evicted if the Supreme Court's directive is to be followed. Is it not negligence on your part by not putting the pressure on the government to defend the rights of adivasis?

In 2002, nearly 3 lakh adivasis were forcefully evicted from their habitat. Now another 10 lakh adivasis are going to be evicted. How much more time they have to wait in their lives under the constant threat of eviction? Is there any end to this threat?

It seems that the statutory body, Tribal Advisory Council, has never met during the last five years. At least now, let the Tribal Advisory Council take stock of the situation and recommend corrective actions.

We make our earnest appeal to your consciousness to introspect on the above question and to come forward to defend the rights of adivasis and traditional forest dwellers.

Awaiting solidarity for the cause of adivasis!

yours sincerely,

**Rytu Cooli Sangham
(Andhra Pradesh)**
