

## **SONBHADRA MASSACRE HIGHLIGHTS THE PERILS OF SEMI-FEUDAL SYSTEM FOR A COMMON MAN !**

---

**On 17<sup>th</sup> July**, in Umbha village of Sonbhadra district of UP more than 100 gun-wielding goondas belonging to the village Head (pradhan) Yagya Dutt Bhuriya shot dead 10 poor people of gond tribe, including a teen ager and three women in cold blood. Many others were critically injured. The innocent Gonds were killed and injured while they were working in their fields of the land in their possession and cultivation for decades.

The land being cultivated by the Gonds once belonged to the earstwhile Raja of Badhoor Anand Brahma Saha. After the abolition of Zamindari system, the land was marked as 'barren' in the revenue records and later transferred as Gram Sabha land to be cultivated by Gond tribals. But this land was illegally and fraudulently transferred first to 'Adarsh Krishi Kalyan Society' in 1955 and sold to the village-Head of Umbha in 2017. This unlawful and illegal transfer and sale of the land cultivated by the gonds is not known to them and they are cultivating it as usual.

A Bihar cadre IAS officer Prabhat Kumar Mishra formed the Adarsh Krishi Kalyan Society appointing his father-in-law Maheshwari Prasad Sinha from Muzafarpur of Bihar as its president and his daughter Vinita as the Manager and his wife Asha as an office bearer. The society was registered illegally under the UP Society Act, by violating the stipulation of the said Act that a person should be the domicile of UP to get a society registered.

Around 463 bighas of the Gram Sabha land was transferred unlawfully to this illegal society in 1955. After Sinha's death, about 200 bighas of land was transferred to Asha Mishra and Vinita in 1989. They then sold 144 bighas to Yagya Dutt Bhuria the village pradhan of Umbha for Rs 2 crores in 2017. Gram Pradhan, being an influential person in Ghorawal area in Sonbhadra district, has chosen to massacre the Gond tribals cultivating the land to evict them from their lands and to take those lands into his possession.

This is how the landlords, rich powerful and influential people became a law unto themselves, are illegally grabbing the lands belonging to the people of weaker sections with violence and carnage.

Though it is a recent one, such incidents of violence against the people of weaker sections for grabbing their lands have been occurring throughout UP and the Country for all these 72 years of our 'independent India'. This is a common phenomenon in our Country where the landlords, money lenders and rich classes commit horrible crimes against the people of weaker sections, to gobble up their lands with violence and slaughter. But, as a part of the ruling classes, they are never restrained or punished by the governments under their class rule and are acquitted, set free unscathed in courts of law. Most of the incidents of atrocities and physical attacks against the Dalits and weaker sections occurring in our Country are basically related to so-called 'land disputes' arose from the illegal land grabbing of landlords and rich classes.

Sonbhadra massacre is highly condemnable and reprehensible. It symbolizes the existence of semi-feudal system in India with its grip over the people, permitting illegal land grabbing by the landlord classes with impunity at the cost of lives and livelihood of the people.

To appease and hoodwink the public outrage and outcry against Sonbhadra massacre, the Yogi's BJP govt. of UP has ordered an enquiry into the incident, besides suspending some lower officials.

But, even at the beginning of the farcical enquiry, it is discovered that papers related to the unlawful transfer of Gram Panchayat land to Adarsh Society in 1955 are missing from the district revenue office. This exposes the nexus between politicians, landlord classes, revenue officers and other governmental agencies that facilitates the unlawful land grabbing by the influential and rich classes.

It is not a secret that in BJP raj of UP state, it is the poor, landless peasants and other weaker sections are bereft of governmental protection in a range of crimes in which communal gangs or

[classstruggle-jun-july-2019-pnen-sonbhadra-massacre](#)

particular caste groups have typically been perpetrators. Members of Muslim community have been frequent targets using the slogans of love Jihad, cow slaughter and the like. Atrocities against dalit are a daily occurrence in UP. Now the Gond tribal people are the target. And the perpetrators of all these crimes are ensured by the BJP Govt. to go scot free by defeating the very process of justice. So one need not have any illusion whatsoever that the perpetrators of Sonbhadra will be punished. Such is the class nature of our semi-feudal system. The tribal people of Sonbhadra have a long struggle to wage in defence of their rights.

It came to light that there are around 4000 such cases of illegal land grabbing land disputes in the state. It is also noteworthy

that in UP around 6 % of the total forest land of UP-one lakh hectare – is under the illegal occupation and possession of big guns not only of UP but also from adjoining states since 1987. These forest lands are rich in mineral wealth like bauxite, lime stone, coal, etc. Sonbhadra attracts land grabbers from other states also. A report of former Chief Forest Conservator in 2014 pointed out that most of the offices in the district manage to get so much land that several of their generations reap its benefits. This is possible only with strong nexus between politicians, forest and revenue officials.

Before taking illegal possession of the forest land, it was declared as non-forest land through tampering of the land records. Subsequently, the land is shown as transferable in gross violation of Forest Conservation Act for selling it off conveniently. The same violations and tamperings are resorted to by the rich and landlord classes in other states too to illegally grab the lands.

The rural masses of exploited and oppressed people in India who are engaged in struggle in defence of their lands from the illegal, forcible grabbing, atrocities, attacks and massacres by the landlords, rich classes and influential people must realize the need to root out the semi-feudal system in our Country through an agrarian revolution with land to the tiller as its central slogan and herald the New Democratic Revolution in success. This alone will put an end to their problems once forever.

THE CLASS STRUGGLE condemns the ghastly Sonbhadra massacre of Gond tribal people and stands in solidarity with their struggle for justice and reassertion of their inalienable right over the land.

\*\*\*\*