

Condemn the Arrest of Com Batakrushna Swain, Leader of Upakulia Jami o Jungle Surakhya Samiti

Comrade Batakrushna Swain, Convenor of Upakulia Jami o Jungle Surakhya Samiti was arrested on 16th August while he was returning to his village after participating in a group meeting of the samiti. A group of lads looking like hooligans caught him on the way and taken away. Later it was informed that these hooligans like fellows were members of special squad of Puri Police. In the year 2015 he was also arrested and booked under National Security Act besides a number of other fabricated cases. Puri police has been after him for a long time as he leads the land rights movement of landless people. Upakulia Jami o jungle surakhya samiti under his leadership opposes the govt projects like Samuka tourism project and proposed Airport project in Sipasarubali area of Puri district. A group of people lead by previous land owners support the project and continuously press the police to arrest him.

Few months eariler Govt of Odisha came with a proposal to build an Airport at Sipasarubali mouza of Puri district. It is this land which has been in possession of local village poor people for the last eleven years by ousting a numbers of land Mafia. Instead of giving right to the landless people, Govt want to hand over it to corporate capitalist in the name of Samukha Tourism Project and Airport.

Here it is noted that the Airport project is not only economically unviable but also disastrous for environment. Govt still manages the international route from Bhubaneswar Airport with heavy subsidies (Rs 240 million per annum), that to a single route and also to a single air operator 'Air Asia'. Here the rich people are subsidized on poor people's tax. So another international Airport at Puri is ridiculous. It seems that the airport will be built on PPP mode and later will be handed over to Adani like Corporates. The fate of the airport will going to be like 25 airports recently Govt of India decided to monitise. (privatise).

This is a method of accumulation of capital by displacing the local people from their common resources such as land, water, forest and at the cost of environment and ecology.

Coastal forest and sand dunes are today the most important for reducing the impact of cyclone. But the ruling class want to destroy it undermining the lives and livelihood of the people.

Against the arrest of Com Batakrushna, demonstrations were held at Puri, Bhanjanagar, Berhampur, Bhubaneswar.

A big rally and protest meeting was also held on 3rd September at Tehsil office Brahmgiiri, Puri against the arrest and it is also demanded to release him unconditionally. Noted Environmentalist Prafull Samantray, Com Srikanta Mohanty leader of AIKMKS, Com Narendra Mohanty Convenor, campaigned against fabricated cases. Com Nirnanjan Mohanty AIKMKS, Basudev Das, AIKMKS, Com Mohan Naidu and others addressed the rally.