

## Massacre in Nagaland!

# The Draconian AFSPA must be Repealed!!

The ghastly and brutal killing of 14 coal mine labourers and injuring 28 civilians by 21<sup>st</sup> Para Special Forces in Nagaland State amply exposes once again the dubious nature of the so-called democratic state of our country.

This is not the first time that the armed forces have killed civilians with impunity. For the past few decades, the army which is supposed to protect our country from external aggressions has been indulging in killing the civilians in the name of fighting against terrorists, extremists, anti-nationalists, cessationists etc. and protecting internal security.

While on one hand the Indian state has been claiming and grandly publicizing that it is a great democratic nation, on the other hand it has been making draconian laws against its own people in the name of protection of internal security, integrity of the country etc; and using army against the people whenever they dissent and protest against the anti-people policies of the rulers and government at the behest of the ruling-classes.

In the name of protecting 'disturbed areas', the draconian act '**Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act**' was made giving extraordinary powers to the army personnel, to suppress and subdue civilians in the North-Eastern states, Jammu Kashmir and the so-called Naxal effected areas. This AFSPA has been playing with lives of the civilians of these states. People are being killed, torture, and roped indiscriminately by the army personnel with impunity. Fake encounters and 'disappearance' of people in these states has become the order of the day. Properties of civilians are being vandalized by the army personnel. There is no rescue for the civilians from these monstrosities.

Thangajam Manorama Devi of Manipur who was tortured and raped by the armed forces had exposed the brutalities of armed forces being perpetrated against her and other people by protesting nudely along with other nude women protesters demanding the special of the draconian AFSPA.

Irom Sharmila had protested demanding the repeal of AFSPA, through her indefinite strike for years.

The people of Jammu & Kashmir have been protesting against 'disappearances' of youth caused by armed forces and demanding the repeal of the draconian AFSPA.

Now after the recent incident of massacre of the labourers coal mines besides injuring many civilians, even the Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Meghalaya are forced to demand the repeal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act; in a bid to save their faces.

The Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee in 2005 has recommended too repeal AFSPA. And J.S. Varma Committee too has recommended for the repeal of AFSPA.

But instead of immediately taking steps to repeal the draconian act, the rulers representing the ruling classes are diverting the attention of people by ordering for a "Court of enquiry" by the army and by forming a 'SIT' of police to enquiry is to the inside by the Nagaland State government, to eye wash the rage of people against the massacre in Nagaland. They want to project this incident as a mere aberration caused by some 'rogue' personnel of army and absolve themselves from the monstrosity that is unendingly being caused by the draconian AFSPA imposed by them due to their anti-people pricy. Just punishing some army personnel do not ameliorate the brutality of the AFSPA that gave extraordinary powers of impunity to the armed forces.

Repealing of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is the only and real solution to this menace!

Hence the draconian AFSPA must be repealed immediately!!

**Central Committee,  
CPI (ML)**