

We Condemn Attacks on NewsClick

CPI(ML) strongly condemns the illegal arrest of NewsClick Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha and its HR Head Amit Chakraborty by the Delhi Police under UAPA, and also condemns the attacks on those working as an affiliate of NewsClick.

On Aug 7th, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey alleged NewsClick and other organisations as 'Anti-India Gang', 'TukdeTukde Gang'; and said, on August 5th the "New York Times" reported that they received funds from China, alleging that they were a mouth-piece of the Communist Party of China.

The NewsClick Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha, HR Head Amit Chakraborty, Writers, Columnists, Anchors, Staff and others associated with NewsClick were attacked in the early hours of Oct 3rd 2023. Their laptops, phones and other electronic devices have been seized. NewsClick's office and their houses are being taken into custody by agencies like CBI, ED, EoW and others to reinforce their allegations as true, but they could hardly find any evidence. NewsClick denied all the allegations against them as "Lies". In the past too, the government has conducted attacks on the same NewsClick, NDTV, The Wire, BBC and other media organisations.

The government portrays the activists of people's organisations, social activists, writers, artists and intellectuals as traitors and detains who ever criticizes and question the government and the government's undemocratic policies and laws in a democratic method and is imposing draconian and arbitrary laws on them. They are put in prisons for several years. Even the Journalists and Media organisations were forcibly put under this category. Govt is taking away the freedom of the press by spreading fantasies, not taking any action against individuals and organisations that incite hysteria; and attacking journalists and media organisations who stand by the people. The fall of India to 161st position out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index is a testimony to the fact that democratic values in the largest democratic country are being undermined and a testimony to the prevailing rule of the fascist government.

Journalists, Journalists' Associations, Political parties, People's organisations, social activists, writers, artists, intellectuals, as well as many individuals and organisations internationally have strongly condemned the attacks on assets and individuals associated with NewsClick.

Therefore, we demand that the cases filed against the people associated with NewsClick should be withdrawn and they should be released immediately and the assets and belongings of the organisation be re-seized. Illegal attacks and arrests on individuals, organizations and associations who work for the people and against the anti-people policies should be challenged and the draconian and dictatorial laws such as UAPA, NASA and MISA should be repealed. The Left, Revolutionary and Democratic forces should work in that direction.

Viswam

**General Secretary,
Central Committee, CPI(ML)**