

Firing on Harvesting Poor Farmers by Landlords – The Root Cause of this Attack is the Land Problem

On 7th and 8th of November 2023 the Bihar State Conference of AIKMKS was held successfully. Thousands of peasants took a procession in the streets of Bhabua town. One week after this conference landlords shot the Mahadalits who were harvesting their crops.

Santosh, a resident of Kudini village under Kudini police limits in Bihar's Kaimur district, was harvesting paddy on his land on November 19, 2023, along with his family members and members of his organisation. At around 3 pm, a feudal landlord from Damdama village, along with armed mobs, opened fire on poor labourers who were harvesting paddy, with guns and rifles. Santosh Mushafar was killed in the firing. Other agricultural labourers could save their lives. This murderous attack was carried out by a landlord named Satyendra Roy, who conspired to grab the lands, and physically attacked the poor labourers. Prior to the attack, on November 16, fourteen men and women agricultural labourers were brutally beaten up with the help of police forces while they were working in their fields. When a complaint about the attack was reported to the SP and the police officers in the area, no complaint was taken. The culmination was on November 19, when the landlords attacked the agricultural labourers and killed Santosh Mushahar. They threatened to kill all those who owned the parcha land. Thousands of poor farmers demonstrated in front of the offices of the administration in protest and demanded to punish the landlords.

The Root Cause of this Attack is the Land Problem:

Between 1984 and 1985, the government took over the surplus land held by the landlords and gave away to 500 people from landless poor (Dalit) families. Only for a few years did the farmers plow and use these lands.

The feudal heads and landlords there, illegally repossessed the land. For the past 30 years, the poor farmers have been fighting in different forms to get the parcha lands in their name returned to them. They continue to appeal to officials in both the ruling and opposition parties.

This struggle was intensified under the leadership of the AIKMKS organisation. Santosh Mushahar was murdered in a physical attack by the landlords in a 30-year-long struggle in the hope that their lives would be better if they got the fertile land where two crops could be cultivated.

The above incident shows that the rulers, who have been promising many schemes, are resorting to such attacks; they do not agree to let go the lands of the poor peasants which

are in the illegal possession of the landlords. There have been cases where around 500 families have lost their lands in the area. They (landlords) conspired to prevent any poor peasant from entering into these lands and resorted to these physical attacks. It was a murder with the intention of terrorising the people. But the organizing agricultural labourers faced this attack and seized the crop.

AIKMKS requests the peasants, workers and democrats to condemn this attack made by feudal forces.

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