

NOTE

Kashipur Struggle Continues

Debranjana Sarangi writes :

At last Saroj, an activist of Kashipur struggle (PSSP), who was arrested on 14th July, 2007 got bail on August 8, 2007.

He has charges of dacoity, trespassing and attempt to murder. Though he was released on bail but the cases would continue. Saroj himself will prove his innocence before the court as per Indian court of law.

Definitely it is a SURPRISE for many : how he got the bail so quickly? Earlier in 2004-05 on same charges activists of PSSP had to spend more than six months in jail before getting released on bail. Some of their cases are still pending and they are attending court cases regularly to prove their innocence. Saroj was 51st victim of police arrest in a row since December 2004.

In truth Saroj's quick release was possible due to LOT OF PRESSURES EXERTED by different people's movements, human rights groups, social activists, writers, poets and several individuals from across the country.

If anything the coming days would be more harsh for social activists as in 2008, because the Orissa state would go for general election and whichever political party comes to power, THE CORPORATE LOBBY WOULD WORK in tandem with the administration which would result more such ARRESTS AND REPRESSION.

Because people are fighting to save their land, their livelihood, their forest, their dignity of life and culture, this is inevitable.

People are fighting against the government, the police, the administration and also against the higher middle class and upper class beneficiaries of capitalist development.

It is quite logical that more and more people will join in the struggle and will express their solidarity to Kashipur struggle and all other similar struggles with their passion. □□□