

A CRIME

The EU countries try to portray themselves as the real champions of the earth. But the truth is that since the 1997 Kyoto Accords (which set binding limits on emissions from developed nations) carbon dioxide emissions in the European countries as a whole, have actually risen 5 percent! (*UK Guardian*, November 30, 2009)

While China has surpassed the US in global emissions, this is largely because China is now the workshop and sweatshop of the world—integrated into a global network of Euro-American production. Fully one-third of China's emissions have been linked to production for export, overwhelmingly goods produced by exploited masses of proletarians for consumption in the rich western countries. What this means is that all the investments in China by the industrially advanced countries, taking advantage of the low wages and lack of safety and environmental standards, amount to offloading pollution from the rich countries onto China.

This production fuelled by international capital has led to a situation where 7 of the world's 10 most polluted cities are in China. Eighty percent of China's major rivers are so degraded they don't support aquatic life and 90 percent of all ground-water systems under the major cities are contaminated. Even with the surge of emissions in China, still 75 percent of the carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere is the result of emissions from the advanced industrial countries. The US, with 5 percent of the world's people, still produces 25 percent of the world's carbon dioxide. This amount is 30 percent when the emissions from the US military, which aren't included in any of the account books, are added on. And the US produces 4 times more greenhouse pollution per person than China.

Some environmental groups have bought into the deadly logic that at least Copenhagen is a "step in the right direction." They should be sharply challenged that such low sights means writing off much of humanity and huge swaths of the globe and its ecosystems to destruction. Others have condemned the accord but continued to direct their efforts towards appealing to world leaders to "do the right thing."

But Copenhagen didn't "fail" due to a "lack of will" on the part of the participants, or simply because there are just "too many divisions" that could be overcome by these leaders if they would just decide to put the planet first. Yes, the dominant forces in power are facing some very extreme environmental problems too. But they are only capable of addressing them within the confines of their systems of production—which is the problem in the first place.

A Reader, Chicago

THE BIHAR MASSACRE

People's Union for Democratic Rights is outraged by the massacre of 12 people, including women and children, and wounding of 50 others on 17 February in Phulwaria-Korasi village of Jamui district of Bihar allegedly by the CPI (Maoist). The massacre is reported to be in retaliation for killing of eight Maoist cadres on 1 February, who were allegedly taken into custody and then

killed by the police. Even if this is true, what causes concern to all concerned citizens is a party which claims to represent and fight for the emancipation of the 'poorest of the poor', shows such callous disregard for lives of the very same people, and considers them to be a fair target for acts of revenge.

Instead of occupying ethical high ground or representing higher political morality, which the CPI (Maoist) claim for themselves, such acts show that their forces are indisciplined and the leadership incapable, if not unwilling, of guiding them to avoid acts which are reminiscent of feudal barbarism. No resistance, let alone one which claims to be revolutionary, can survive by succumbing to primordial calls for revenge especially against helpless and poor villagers. PUDR has repeatedly urged and reminded the party to strictly abide by principles enshrined in Geneva Convention and protocols which govern armed conflicts. It is indeed unfortunate that those pleas have gone unheeded. They have no one but themselves to blame if all that public will recall of them will be their wanton acts of violence rather than hard and self-less labour of their members. Least they can do is to mete out exemplary punishment to those who carried out this massacre and declare their unilateral commitment to the precepts enshrined in Geneva Convention holding themselves accountable for their actions and open themselves up to investigations by civil liberties groups.

Asish Gupta and Moushumi Basu

New Delhi,

19 February, 2010

(Secretaries PUDR)