

NOTE

AI Report 2010

Nirmalya Biswas writes :

Amnesty International Report 2010 : “The State of The World’s Human Rights” was released on 27th May, 2010. The report recorded cases of torture in 111 countries, unfair trials in 55 countries, restriction in free speech in 96 countries and prisoners of conscience in 48 countries. It called for the G20 countries claiming global leadership to adduce compliance of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It urged the United States, China, Russia, Turkey, India, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia to come under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to ensure that crimes under international law can be prosecuted anywhere in the world.

The report further emphasized that all in position of power and influence be accountable to human rights violation. The question of accountability seems to be a far cry so long repression, violence, discrimination and muscle power trample the human conscience to live in dignity.

Amnesty International Report 2010 highlighted forceful eviction, illegal arrest, unlawful detention, intimidation and grilling of human rights defenders campaigning in India for the rights of the tribals on land and environment. Following a series of bomb-blasts in the city hubs of Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Malegaon, Delhi and Imphal killing in all more than 400 civilians and the 26/11 Mumbai attack taking away 170 innocent lives the Government of India promulgated draconian anti-terrorist legislations which had been deliberately misused for arbitrary detention and torture.

A quarter of the population approximately 300 million tribals, landless farmers, slum-dwellers live in abject penury across India. Their sole livelihoods had been put under constant threat by the neo-liberal economic development programme. They were forcibly evicted by the local authorities to make room for mining, irrigation, power, and other industrial projects and urban infrastructure. The victims struggled and even took arms to resist corporate moves in connivance with the government to grab their land and whatever little resources they possessed. Trigger-happy police and paramilitary forces were deployed to disperse the peaceful rallies organized by the marginalized communities in Koraput district of Orissa and other places across India. In Dantewada district of Chattisgarh clashes continued between the Maoist rebellions and the security forces supported by the state-sponsored Salwa Judum militia. Killings, kidnappings and tortures were reported from Gahanpalli and Gampad of Dantewada district. About 40000 tribals were displaced from their traditional lands, 20000 living in camps and the rest fled away in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh. Human rights activists supporting the victims were subjected to state oppression. Vanabasi Chetna Ashram, a non-government organization working for resettlement of tribals was ruthlessly demolished by the bulldozers and the inmates were harassed. The violent conflict in Chattisgarh spread over

other states—Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Killings continued to be reported from several north-eastern states especially Manipur and Assam. Despite ongoing protests in the north-east states and Kashmir the authorities refused to repeal the Armed Forces Special Power Act strengthening the security forces with the prerogative to shoot to kill in situations where they were not at all warranted.

The report criticized the judicial process in India which failed to ensure justice for many victims of human rights abuses, communal hatred, corporate exploitation, poverty and hunger. Barring rarest occasions the authority was held liable for violating the code of human rights. Extra-judicial executions took place in different states. Human rights defenders were constantly threatened with dire consequences.

It turns out from the Amnesty International Report 2010 that the powerful states impede justice by overpowering the law on human rights and shield the offenders, hand in glove with the governments, against the charges of abuse and become pro-active only when it stands them in good stead. It is always true that no one is above law and everyone has access to justice against human rights violation. But so long the government ceases to subjugate justice to vested interests human rights remain elusive for most of humanity.□