

Unity in Struggle

[Kishenji's another letter to his mother, through a Telugu daily 'Andhra Jyoti', published on 27-09-2009, was republished by the same daily in his memory when he became martyr on 24-11-2011 as his badly tortured and mutilated body near Sorakatta hamlet of Burisole village was found. This is in continuation of the earlier letter published in the Frontier in its 19-25 February 2012 issue.]

Dear mother, my salutes!

Mother, how do you do? Our letter of January published in *Andhra Jyoti* daily greeting you might have been seen by you. This time, to greet you through a Letter and by this way to share your thoughts I am writing this letter again. Just to wipe out tears from your eyes on the eve of some festivals and festive times, and like-wise, to wipe out tears from crores of mothers like you and also every community should observe their respective festivals according to their customs, in peaceful manner, is our sole desire and goal. As the ruling classes are not allowing our desires to be fulfilled and to be carried on, we are writing this letter to say that the people's movements are only the way out to accomplish this.

Mother Today is the id festival!

Our village area is (Kishenji's native village—Tr.) also full of Muslims. Now I have got no guts to enquire the well-being of those Muslim-brothers! Why? You may ask, In those days the people in our village, except one or two houses, majority of them were stark poor. Some were bidi-makers and some were rickshaw pullers. They were all leading a life of poverty and hand to mouth existence.

On the eve of this id in West Bengal's junglemahal area, a festival by name 'arandhan' is being observed (Arandhan means no cooking in the village chullahs, complete fast by all—a kind of protest against the ruling classes, a form of struggle by the people). For the last so many days, everyday people are bringing out processions, specially by the ladies, and gheraoing the police stations for some hours. The govt has initiated conspiracy cases against the ladies who participate in these processions and sending them to jails. And against this repression, on lid Day (due to id, Muslim women were exempted from participating in the movement), and no cooking was done in each and every house.

Villagers from nearly 300 villages have participated in these processions. And therefore, mother, we are campaigning to celebrate our festivals peacefully.

Mother today is our party's foundation day! (22-04-1969—Tr.)

We requested all the people and the masses in the struggle areas in the country to observe and make every effort to conduct meetings, seminars so that we may resist the oncoming repression to be launched by the govt. With the help of USA's chalked out plan to suppress our

movement, Chidambaram is trying to bring out a massive attack on us, which is to be confronted by the people, and this was our call and slogan to the people. I would narrate one incident which has occurred, mother, today. The left front has been ruling Bengal for the last 33 years. Their democracy is sham.

There is a village named Inayatpur which is at a distance of eight kilometres from Madanpur town. An office building was built by CPI(M) at a cost of one crore rupees in the village. Since the first week of September, there were nearly 400 armed CPI(M) men. They were all from Lalgah area and nearby villages and called as Harmad and cadres and leaders of CPI(M) (*Harmad*—a name of armed CPI(M) cadre given by the people and the media). On account of movements by the people of the area all these armed cadre of CPI(M) were confined to 12 camps set out for these men, by the CPI(M). Inayatpur camp was one of them. In the afternoon, for puja purpose, to purchase some materials Someshwari Besra and Dulali Besra, two housewives were going towards market. They belonged to Polasimagaon. The CPI(M) army fired at them, and they both were seriously wounded, struggling for their lives in the hospital. When the news spread, nearly 8000 men and villagers from the neighbouring village gathered and encircled the Inayatpur's CPI(M) office. Seeing that the people approaching from a distance, the CPI(M) cadre started firing. At that time our PGLA forces were camping nearby, arrived at the place of incident. At first, they removed the people to safe place. Arranged nearly one thousand men to construct barricades to stop further reinforcement of CPI(M) army. The people's guerilla Army retaliated fire on this armed men of CPI(M) causing severe losses. Before this incident, on 15th of this month another incidence of firing took place. There was another armed camp of CPI(M) in Shapugaon village, which is some five kilometres from Inayatpur camp. The armed vahini of CPI(M) and our people's army fought a three-hour gun-battle on the border of Midnapore block and Salboni. This was a pitched battle.

Mother, the children of this place are facing so many hurdles in their education!

Here I want to narrate another incident on this issue. Almost in every school in Bengal, have at their entrance the following slogans enscripted :

“Shikka aane Chetana, Chetana aane Biplob, Biplob aane Paribortan”—that means education brings in consciousness, consciousness brings in Revolution, revolution brings in the change. Mother, if you think that this is true, then you are mistaken. Here majority of teachers are belonging to CPI(M) and they are the leaders. Schools, temples, markets and police stations all are equal and same to them. Now you can imagine, what they would do in the matter of schools. On June 18th, the Centre and state Govt started their campaign and on the 5th, itself from Kharagpur to Binpur area, the headmasters of 30-40 schools along with the local authorities, education department have received notices from the Central government and state government that all the schools should be vacated and be handed over to them within 15 days. Almost all these schools have been occupied by the police, for their camps, as per these orders. Though the Home Secretary Ardhendu Sen has been issuing so many

declarations to the effect that the schools would be vacated soon but that could not be in spite of his off and on declarations.

On July 10th, the high school students of Binpur Block headquarters had gheraoed the camp school and locked it out. Their demand was that their school should be vacated and this was their only sin. Additional forces poured in, lathis broken on their backs, Tear gas shells were thrown. This is Buddhababu's revolutionary consciousness!

Mother, the whole junglemahal is echoed by the slogans given by these boys and girls. The movement of junglemahal has found a new form in our movement.

Though the villagers are not celebrating their usual festivals as in earlier days due to market prices, but they believe and follow their rituals and customs. We always respect people's beliefs. But against superstitions, we try to educate them consciously and continuously. Though the festival of Dusserah celebrated all over the country, the speciality of Bengal is known all over in the world. The non-tribals, in the tribal area, celebrate this festival in a grandiose manner. But here, it has become a practice to arrest all those who visit their native place on this occasion. The left front, the Trinamool Congress of Mamata and the Congress under Sonia, have joined hands and despatched joint forces to attack the people.

Mother, A word about Mamatadi!

That if I don't say and comment anything about our Railway Minister, the letter would be left incomplete. The struggles of Singur and Nandigram have given her a new lease of life and paved her future. What is more, the ladies of these areas had given her an opportunity to shine, but the people who gave her specially the ladies this opportunity are now losing *sindoor* from their foreheads. The land at Singur has not yet been returned to the people. The chemical hub at Nandigram, stopped for a while, possibly to hoodwink, but it is learnt that the spade work to construct the hub has been done by the Central and the State government. The paper work is over. At the same time, at Kolkata's Rajarhat, for developing a sub-city, a very big land scam has been perpetrated in which CPI(M)-Trinarool and Congress have taken part. Some 60 peasants have been murdered and nearly 120 of them disappeared. Rajarhat has become a battlefield. Now the policy of cent percent land acquisition has come to the forefront, to give to the SEZs. The same policy has been implemented and adopted in case of Rajarhat. In place of petty thieves, now dacoits have come to rule. Mamatadi is showing green flag every day to a new train. From yesterday to today, Iftar dinners/parties, meetings with Rizwan's mother etc. all to corner minority votes and tactics of vote parties. The Central government, while holding in its right hand Mamata's Trinamool and in its left hand left front parties, is implementing anti-people policies with impunity.

Therefore, Mother, only struggles and movements would bring light in the dark lives, of the people.

Mother, crores of greetings and wishes to you as also mothers like you. Not only from crores of Venus (Venu—name of Kishenji's younger brother—Tr) but crores of your children's wishes and love to you.

—Kishenji

[Translated from original Telugu by S Mohon Rao]