

LETTERS

UNLAWFUL ARREST

Dr Binayak Sen, a veteran human rights defender, National vice- president of PUCL & General Secy. of Chhatisgarh PUCL was arrested by Chhatisgarh police on 14th May, 2007 under the provisions of UPA-1967 & Chhatisgarh (Special) Public Security Act-2005. Both the laws are draconian laws & which are generally abused against the persons/organizations which do protest the anti-people actions/policies of the Govt. The arrest of a human rights defender under such laws speaks for itself, the motive & high handedness of the state to silence the dissent voice & legitimate expression of disaffection against the policies of the state.

Dr Sen had been to Orissa on different occasions to attend several mass meetings. Recently after the Kalinga Nagar incident, he had led a delegation of fact finding team from Chhatisgarh to Kalinga Nagar. He had also attended a mass protest meeting at Bhubaneswar on 20th January, 2007 against the Kalinga Nagar mass killing.

It is believed that his strong position to protest the human rights violations throughout the country & exposing the evil design of Chhatisgarh Govt. in piloting "Salwa Judum" programme to alienate Bastar tribals from their life, livelihood & culture, was not palatable for the state administration. So his arrest by the Chhatisgarh administration on 14th May, 2007, on the allegation that he had passed on letters to Piyush Guha, written by CPI (Maoist) leaders lodged at Raipur central jail, was not credible. Because the fact remained that Dr Sen met the Jail inmates at Raipur Central jail, with the permission of jail authorities & also in the presence of police & jail staff.

The arrest of Dr Sen is not an isolated act of repressive measures of the state. It is the part of the same policy which has been followed by different state Governments vigorously to suppress democratic struggles against the policy of alienating the tribals, dalits, peasants, landless labourers, workers etc from their traditional base of life, livelihood & culture. So the arrest of Dr Sen is a matter of concern for all sections of society.

Now, it is minimum responsibility of all democratic, patriotic, progressive, concerned individuals, groups, organizations etc. to condemn this undemocratic act of Chhatisgarh Govt.

Sri Biswapriya Kanungo,
Civil Rights Activist

(For & on behalf of Committee for concerned citizens, Orissa)

CORRECTION

"AN APPEAL" [LETTERS section of FRONTIER (Vol. 39, No. 41, April 29-May 5, 2007)] :

1. The purpose of the above mentioned Appeal to the West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi will be served better if readers (agreeing to the content of that letter) themselves mail, e-mail or Fax the same or any other to the same effect to the Governor. The required addresses/number, which can be found on the Governor's website (<http://rajbhavan.kolkata.nic.in/>) are as follow :

Postal address : Raj Bhavan Kolkata 700 062, E-mail ID. : governor@wb.nic.in

Fax : 033-2200-2444/1649

2. Any interested reader can write to the e-address : subhas ganguiy@gmai.com, to get, over e-mail, a scanned copy of the paper clipping (*Dainik Statesman*. April 4, 2007), referred to in the appeal, which he/she may then enclose with the appeal to be sent to the Governor.
3. The signatories to the above-mentioned have already faxed a version of this appeal to the Governor that contained the additional information that the signatories themselves went to Tamluk Hospital in the evening of the very day (3rd April,2007) on which the injured patients of Nandigram went into Hunger-strike in protest against banishment of Dr Pradip Das from their ward.

This version can be found in the web-site : <http://sanhati.com/news/210/>. There they can find a Link for on-line petition, where too one can put one's name as a signatory. This is same as what has been published in the above issue of Frontier.