

NOTE

Remembering 'Development' Victims

Bhagaban Majhi writes :

On 16th Dec 2000, po-lice firing took place in Orissa's Kashipur at Maikanch village and three people died on that day. But the struggle continued even after the firing. And from December 1, 2004 a second phase of state repression started.

Since 1993 the people of Kashipur have been opposing Utkal Alumina International Limited (now fully owned by Aditya Birla) company. Earlier Tata, Hydro and Alcan companies who were in the joint venture of UAIL left the scene. It happened due to popular opposition movement. Many groups and individuals in different parts of the world expressed their solidarity in many forms and took up the issue at international level.

In Orissa the repression on local struggles opposing the big projects is increasing with every passing day. Most heinous incident happened at Kalinganagar where the state police of Orissa killed fourteen tribals for a Tata project. Now at Dhinkia near Paradeep, police and ruling Biju Janata Dal cadres are attacking the local agitationists for POSCO Steel Project of South Korea.

On 29 November at 4.30 pm about 300 goons hired by Posco officials and ruling BJD party attacked the camp of *Posco Pratirodh Sangram Samiti* (Anti-Posco movement) at Balitutha and set them on fire. They also set off five country-made bombs, destroyed about 100 bicycles and injured about 30 protesters. In between, specifically after 2000, people in Orissa faced police firing thrice in different parts and 24 agitationists lost their lives. At fourteen places police resorted to lathi charges and tear gas shellings. Nearly 300 people have so far been sent to jail in these years and 5000 people are on police warrant list. And this is Nav in Patnaik's showcase of democracy. This is happening due to popular resistance to Aditya Birla, Posco, Vedanta, Tata, Bhusan and Nepaj companies at Kashipur, Paradeep, Lanjigada, Kalinganagar, Dhenkanal and Sundergarh areas.

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