

## LETTERS

### "CROWD OF THIEVES"

Communist rulers think that dalits and adivasis dont deserve any human rights.

CITU, INTUC, AITUC, BMS, UTUC, KTUC all have conjoined to 'evict' 30,000 people fighting in the Chengara estate on 3rd September 2008. For that purpose, the slogan raised by this united front of trade unions is "crowd of thieves, leave Chengara"

When the Congress union of INTUC says this, one can ignore it as sheer ignorance. If the BJP/RSS-led BMS is saying this, one knows for sure that it is their brahmanical ideology behind this. Not only that, but for any caste-religious reasons, the dalits and adivasis have not so far stood by such a party or its ideology.

But when through the mouths of the left organizations of CPIM, CPI and RSP, the dalits are clubbed as the 'crowd of thieves'....!!! Remember, dalits are those who gifted martyrs to the Communist Party in Kerala...it is in the blood of dalits and adivasis that the left parties have been built up in Kerala. Those who had been oppressors then, use the Party positions to attack the dalits and adivasis today.

On one side, the struggle for social justice led by dalits and adivasis and on the other side, the violent repression led by the political combination of CPM, CPI, RSP and BJP... What does this poliical combination represent? Isn't this politics of committing violence on dalits and adivasis to protect the interests of the monopoly companies, the Left's own final political suicide? The Chengara struggle demanded that the 70 odd workers employed by the Harrissons should also be assured of land and livelihood. But these combinations have turned them as a shield to attack the dalits and adivasis in their frantic moves to serve the interests of the company.

When the CITU calls the dalits and adivasis who fight for land and livelihood, the 'crowd of thieves', the communist consciousness of attributing the dalits and adivasis the second class citizenship is reinforced.

The blockade and violence in Chengara continues. These trade unions have blockaded all possibilities of providing food and medicines to Chengara. 30,000 people are stranded there, surrounded by blockade and violence. Yet, no human rights commission steps in... When women are brutally raped, no women's commission intervenes... Are they not human beings?

***Samkutty Pattomkary***  
*Chengara, Kerala*

### ACID ATTACK

Recently, the Pakistani unit of the Taliban announced not only that it demands "unislamic" businesses to close (CD shops, cable service providers and internet cafes)—they also warned women that they have 15 days to start wearing *hijab*—or have their faces maimed with acid. These people claim to be out to destroy the "traitors to *Allah*"—while they go against every *Qur'anic* command to respect human rights.

Disfiguring women's faces with acid has a long, scary history—including in Kashmir, in Pakistan, as well as Bangladesh, Uganda, Vietnam, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the UK, Turkey, Colombia, Thailand, and the US Sadly, this is the short list.

***Raquel Evita Saraswati***