

# **All India Protests against Starvation, Suicides and State Repression in UP**

Saturday 14 October 2006, by [CPI \(ML\) Liberation](#) (Date first published: 1 October 2006).

CPI(ML) observed October 9 as All India Protest Day to condemn the spate of starvation deaths and suicides and continuing attacks on people's movements by the Mulayam Singh Govt. in UP. Recent incidents of police brutality on CPI(ML) and AIALA leaders in Sitapur district and arrests of 138 protesters led by Party's Central Committee member Krishna Adhikari in Pilibhit were opposed through these protests and it was demanded to withdraw all cases imposed on leaders and activists in Sitapur, Pilibhit, Ambedkarnagar, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra and other districts of UP. Protests were held at many important centres throughout the country including Delhi.

In UP, a 50-hour hunger strike was organised on 9-11 October by hundreds of workers and peasants led by UP State Secretary and Polit Bureau member Akhilendra Pratap Singh. A rally was also taken out from Charbagh Railway Station to the Vidhan Sabha.

A number of organisations including Jan Morcha and PDF expressed their solidarity with the hunger strikers. Speakers in the dharna condemned the UP Govt. and said that its attitude towards the people's movements is utterly undemocratic and barbaric. The activists are being subjected to third degree tortures by the police. When activists were sitting on a peaceful dharna in Sitapur to demand job cards, their leaders, human rights activist Brij Bihari and AIALA National Councillor Rakesh Singh, who is also the state President of Revolutionary Youth Association and was a popular students leader in Lucknow University, were forcibly picked up by the police and sent to lock-up on Sept. 8. Then, after midnight, Rakesh Singh was taken for a medical check-up after which he was subjected to severe torture. He was hanged upside down and lathi-blows brutally showered over his soles. Comrade Krishna Adhikari and 138 other activists in Pilibhit were framed with false charges under 7 CL Act and sent to jail on Sept. 20 for demanding red cards to all BPL families. Earlier, CPI(ML) leaders Rambharos and Bal Mukund Dhuria along with a number of comrades were arrested in Ambedkar Nagar district for leading agitation on similar issues.

UP Govt. is hell-bent on suppressing every movement against policies leading to starvation and suicides. Ongoing repression of Dadri farmers agitating against SEZ and land acquisition is another glaring example of this. Common citizens are also facing such repression. Even Mau riots victims are now facing police atrocities to prevent them from giving statements before the court. Police has not recorded statement of a rape victim and her mother despite High Court orders. Communal attacks have also taken place and shops of minority community members were burnt in Barabanki. An incident of attack after forcibly taking out persons of minority community, including women, from a bus where one youth was killed reminds us of communal tendencies which have so far been characteristics of states like Gujarat and Maharashtra, and never seen in UP before.

CPI(ML) CC member and AIALA National Vice President Krishna Adhikari, General Secretary of Jan Sanskriti Manch Ajay Singh, Ex-President of JNU Students' Union Pranay Krishna, AIALA State Secretary Shriram Chaudhary, General Secretary of AISA Sunil Yadav, RYA State President Rakesh Singh, AIPWA's Sunila Rawat, PUHR's Dr. Brij Bihari and many other leaders also accompanied hunger strikers. While Nationalist Congress Party's UP President Ramesh Dixit, All India Muslim Forum's Nihaluddin, Jan Morcha leader Brajendra Pratap Singh, Nationalist Communist Party leader Kaushal Kishore, Sandip Pandey, Arundhati Dhuru, Rakesh Maurya of Indian Justice Party,

Salahuddin of Muslim Forum, Ex-MLA Kuber Bhandari, All India Forward Bloc leader Ramkishore and many others addressed the protesters in solidarity. It was demanded to issue Job Cards, red cards, guarantee employment, loan waiver of peasants, tax-free diesel, to give foodgrains to the poor at subsidised rate of Rs. 2 per kg. and kerosine at Rs. 2 per litre. Speakers also demanded proper handling of Dengue and Chikengunya and free treatment and action against police officers not recording statements of Farzana Khatun and her daughter, victims of Mau riots.

In the national capital Delhi, a protest demonstration was held at Parliament Street and an effigy of Mulayam Singh was burnt. A memorandum addressed to the Governor of UP was handed over by Haryana unit of the Party to the Governor of Punjab in Chandigarh demanding immediate withdrawal of cases from the activists, issuing red cards to all BPL families and punishing the officials involved in repression of CPI(ML) and AIALA activists. A dharna and protest meeting was held at district headquarters of Mansa in Punjab. An effigy of Mulayam Singh was also burnt in Gwalior in MP on this issue while a protest demonstration and mass meeting was held in front of district headquarters in Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan on October 10.

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\* From "ML Update", a CPI(ML) Weekly News Magazine, Vol.9 No.41 1-16 OCT 2006.