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Landelijke India Werkgroep

29 januari, 1986

Beste mensen,

Hierbij willen we jullie medewerking vragen voor de campagne die door de Landelijke India Werkgroep wordt gevoerd tegen de recente golf van arrestaties van mensenrechten aktivisten, met name in de deelstaat Andhra Pradesh in India.

We hebben een persbericht gemaakt en brieven voor premier Rajiv Gandhi en N.T.Rama Rao, premier van de deelstaat.

We willen vragen of jullie organisatie deze brieven wil ondertekenen en vervolgens naar ons terug sturen. We zullen dan alle brieven gezamenlijk opsturen naar India. De ondertekende brieven graag vóór 12 februari retour naar onderstaand adres. Eventueel kunnen jullie ook telefonies laten weten dat jullie organisatie de brief wil ondertekenen.

Inmiddels heeft Amnesty International ook besloten een campagne te voeren, met name tegen de arrestatie van Dr.K.Balagopal.

Alvast onze dank voor jullie medewerking.

Met vriendelijke groeten,

Jenneke Arens

bijgesloten:

- persbericht d.d. januari 1986
- brief aan Rajiv Gandhi
- brief aan N.T.Rama Rao

Voor verdere informatie zie:

- Terrorist Act against Democratic Rights Activists in Economic and Political Weekly van 7 december 1985
- Torn Asunder I en II in Frontier van resp. 14 en 21 december 1985

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Landelijke India Werkgroep

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januari, 1986

De Landelijke India Werkgroep is gestart met een protestkampagne tegen de recente golf van arrestaties van mensenrechten aktivisten, met name in de deelstaat Andhra Pradesh, op grond van de 'Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act' (TDAP Act). Deze wet, die in 1985 werd ingevoerd, beoogt terroristiese en ondemokratische activiteiten te voorkomen. In de kampagne wordt tevens de onmiddellijke vrijlating geadviseerd van Dr.K.Balagopal, sekretaris van de Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC) - een van de mensenrechten organisaties in India - en van andere mensenrechten aktivisten.

Dr.K.Balagopal werd op 16 november, jl. gearresteerd en ten onrechte beschuldigd van moord op sub-inspecteur van politie Yauagiri Reddy, die op 2 september door onbekenden was vermoord. De definities van 'terroristiese en ondemokratische activiteiten' in de TDAP Act zijn zo breed dat ieder demokraties protest of uiting van ongenoegen er onder kan vallen. De verdachte kan een jaar lang zonder vorm van proces worden vastgehouden en alleen op borg vrijgelaten als de rechtkant er zeker van is dat zij/hij onschuldig is. Het proces vindt plaats achter gesloten deuren.

Met de toenemende politieke activiteiten in de deelstaat Andhra Pradesh blijkt de regering meer en meer repressief. De politie is een ruimer mandaat gegeven en met de invoering van nieuwe repressieve wetten (zoals boven genoemde wet) wordt een groot aantal mensen geintimideerd, gearresteerd en vermoord. In het afgelopen jaar zijn er minstens veertig gevallen van verkrachting door politie-agenten geweest. Dit alles gebeurt onder het mom van handhaving van orde en gezag.

Mensenrechten organisaties in India hebben een cruciale rol gespeeld in het onderzoeken van wrechtheiten van de politie en het naar buiten brengen van de ware toedracht van de incidenten. Hun onderzoeksrapporten brengen de regering van de deelstaat in verlegenheid. Het afgelopen jaar alleen al zijn verschillende bestuursleden van de APCLC en andere mensenrechten-organisaties gearresteerd op valse beschuldigingen. Sommigen van hen zijn door de politie gemarteld. Op 3 september jl. werd de kinderarts Dr. Ramanatham in zijn kliniek door de politie vermoord, de dag na de dood van politie-inspecteur Yadagiri Reddy. Dr. Ramanatham was vice-voorzitter van de APCLC.

Nota bene waren het o.a. mensenrechten organisaties die in oktober 1984 massale protesten organiseerden toen de huidige Eerste Minister van Andhra Pradesh, N.T.Rama Rao op ondemokratiese wijze door manipulaties van Indira Gandhi was afgezet.

De onlangs gestartte kampagne bestaat uit verschillende onderdelen:

- medewerkers en professoren van verschillende universiteiten hebben een open brief gestuurd aan N.T.Rama Rao en Rajiv Gandhi waarin ze om een 'normale' procesvoering vragen voor Dr.K.Balagopal, zelf een wetenschappelijk medewerker in de wiskunde.
- mensenrechten- en andere organisaties in West Europa zijn gevraagd om brieven te sturen naar N.T.Rama Rao en Rajiv Gandhi om te protesteren tegen het misbruik van de Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act en om de onmiddellijke vrijlating te eisen van alle mensenrechten aktivisten.
- mensenrechten- en andere organisaties sturen een brief naar Mr.Bhagwati , Chief Justice van de Indiase Supreme Court om een beroep op hem te doen om er voor te zorgen dat deze wet niet tegen mensenrechten aktivisten en organisaties wordt gebruikt en dat deze aktivisten worden vrijgelaten.

Open letter to:
Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
Government of India
New Delhi
India

date:

Dear Sir,

We have come to know of the increasing repression that your government is enforcing on the people of your country.

In the last few months far greater powers have been given to the police and their atrocities on the people have increased tremendously, particularly after the enforcement of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act in 1985.

Individuals and groups who are working for civil liberties and democratic rights seem to be one of the targets. The killing of Dr. Ramanatham and the arrest of Dr. K. Balagopal in Andhra Pradesh, both office bearers of the APCLC, are a reflection of this general trend. It is a contradiction that this Act is used against those very organisations and individuals that have contributed to the upholding of democratic rights in your country.

We strongly object to such a misuse of powers and we condemn the arrest of Dr. K. Balagopal and others who like him have been falsely implicated in cases, arrested and often tortured under the guise of maintaining law and order in the country.

We demand the immediate release of all the victims of the increasing repression of your government.

Sincerely yours,

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Open letter to:
the Chief Minister N.T.Rama Rao
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
Hyderabad
India

date:

Dear Sir,

We have come to know of the increasing repression that your government is enforcing on the people of Andhra Pradesh. In the last few months you have given far greater powers to the police and their atrocities on the people have increased tremendously, particularly after the enforcement of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act in your state in 1985. Individuals and groups who are working for civil liberties and democratic rights seem to be one of your targets. The killing of Dr.Ramanatham and the arrest of Dr.K.Balagopal, both office bearers of the APCLC, are a reflection of this general trend. It is a contradiction that the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act is used against those very organisations and people that have contributed to the upholding of democratic rights in your country.

We object strongly to such a misuse of your powers and we condemn the arrest of Dr.K.Balagopal and others who like him have been falsely implicated in cases, arrested and often tortured under the guise of maintaining law and order in Andhra Pradesh. We demand the immediate release of all the victims of the increasing repression of your government.

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Terrorist Act against Democratic Rights Activist Case of K Balagopal

P A Sebastian

K BALAGOPAL, general secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC) and professor of mathematics in Kakatiya University in Warangal, was arrested in Hyderabad on November 16. The APCLC has been fighting for civil liberties and democratic rights in Andhra Pradesh and has repeatedly exposed the brutalities and unlawful activities of the Andhra Pradesh police. This year so far there have been about 30 deaths in fake encounters in the state. The APCLC has carried out detailed investigations into several of these deaths and established the falsehood of the police version in each case. The APCLC has also been responsible for recently exposing nine cases of rape in police custody. Balagopal, in his capacity as the general secretary of the APCLC, has filed four writ petitions against the Andhra police which are pending in the Supreme Court. He has also initiated proceedings against the Warangal police before the AP Lokayukta in which he has brought to the notice of the Lokayukta 532 cases of illegal detention and torture.

Balagopal has been charged with the murder of police sub-inspector Yadagiri Reddy, who was killed by unknown assailants at a railway station on September 2. An accused is normally charged with murder under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. The maximum period for which an accused can be kept in police custody in such a case is 90 days. If the case is not committed to the Sessions Court within 90 days along with a chargesheet, he must be forthwith released on bail by the magistrate. If the accused is committed to the Sessions Court, the Sessions Court has the power to release him on bail. The Supreme Court has laid down that bail is the rule and jail the exception, until the accused is convicted and sentenced.

However, Balagopal has not been charged with murder under section 302 of the IPC. He has been charged with murder under section 3 of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act. A person arrested under this Act need not be produced before a judicial magistrate within 24 hours. Instead, he can be produced before an executive magistrate. The Collector of a district is an executive magistrate. The executive magistrate being a government officer, judicial impartiality cannot be expected of him.

The maximum period for which an accused person can be kept in police custody under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act is one year. Police custody is notorious. Unlike judicial custody, accused persons are invariably subjected to third degree in police custody. There is no assurance that even after one year Balagopal will

be released on bail. Nobody arrested under this Act can be released on bail unless the public prosecutor is given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release. Where the public prosecutor opposes, two conditions must be fulfilled before bail can be granted: (a) The judge must be satisfied that the accused has not committed the crime alleged against him. But how can a judge be satisfied that the accused has not committed the crime unless there is a full-fledged trial? (b) The judge must be satisfied that the accused will not commit any offence while on bail. How can any judge give a guarantee that the accused will not commit any offence while on bail? Thus both the conditions are incapable of being fulfilled. The result is that Balagopal can be kept in jail until the trial is conducted, which can take a few years. Whether or not he is acquitted of the charge may not really matter to the government. The purpose of the government would have been achieved: Balagopal will have been incapacitated for years from continuing his work in the area of civil liberties and democratic rights which has hitherto been so effective in exposing the wrong-doings of the AP government and police.

Even when he is eventually brought to trial, Balagopal will not be tried in an ordinary court. He will be tried in a designated court. The AP government has notified the

setting up of designated courts on August 28, 1985. A designated court may be housed in a protected place like a jail. The entire proceedings of the designated court will be held in camera. The well known legal maxim that justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done is thus dispensed with. A trial is open to the general public with a view to achieving a specific objective—to ensure that no undue influence is exercised in the administration of justice.

The defence for Balagopal will not know the identity of witnesses who will depose against him. This would make cross-examination impossible. How can there be an effective trial unless there is effective cross-examination? And there cannot be effective cross-examination if the defence does not know who the witness is and what his background is. It is possible that all the witnesses are hirelings of the government or agents of landlords who have a vested interest in getting a person like Balagopal implicated in a murder case and ultimately punished. But the outside world will not know the truth because everything will be done in secret.

At the moment one does not know whether the trial will be conducted in Andhra Pradesh or outside. If any area in the jurisdiction of a designated court has been declared to be a disturbed area, the Central government can set up the designated court outside the state. Certain parts of Warangal district have long been declared a disturbed area. This will make defence further difficult.

The prospect is really dreadful. Balagopal may be hanged on a trumped-up charge. This will happen not under the martial law of Zia-ul-Haq, not in Pinochet's Chile, but in India under Rajiv Gandhi and N T Rama Rao.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Arrest of K Balagopal

IN the year 1978, at the Delhi Centre of the Indian Statistical Institute, we welcomed in our midst a frail looking, shy and young mathematician by the name K Balagopal as a post-doctoral research fellow. As per reports published in the *Deccan Herald* of Bangalore dated November 19, 1985 he was picked up by the police at Hyderabad at 11 a.m. on November 16 and his whereabouts are unknown. We distinctly recall the esteem and affection that he commanded in our campus and also the lively seminars he delivered on the applications of limit theorems of probability theory to problems of operations research.

Sacrificing the pursuit of theoretical research in the comfortable atmosphere of our centre Balagopal decided to take up a teaching position in a provincial establishment and at the same time pay attention to some of the pressing social problems in a rural area. We in the academic community do not know how to help him in his present situation except by touching the conscience of fellow scientists and appealing to the concerned authorities to ensure that the normal avenues of justice are open to K Balagopal.

P L MUTHURAMALINGAM,
K R PARTHASARATHY, K B SINHA,
K G RAMANURTHY, B S MINHAS,
NAresh SHARMA, A N NANKANA,
B L S PRAKASA RAO, S K MITRA,
B RAMACHANDRAN, B K SARKAR,
S RAJENDRA PRASAD

Indian Statistical Institute,
New Delhi

lock-up deaths continue unchecked. Sudhram, Saranga Pani and Suresh were killed in Kazipet and Warangal police stations.

NTR is determined to destroy all the democratic values and practices. No judicial inquiry has been announced about the Karamcheddu Harijans' cause have been thrown behind bars under NSA. The main culprit in the Karamcheddu killings, D. Chen churamaiah, NTR's brother-in-law has been made the chairman of a cooperative oil mill in Prasam district.

In Warangal district there have been no students' union election in the last two years and Sec. 144 has been imposed in twelve colleges of Warangal town. No public meeting has been allowed in Warangal in the last six months, whether on the Bhopal tragedy or the Karamcheddu killings.

The NTR Government is particularly cruel in its treatment of student and youth activists. The latest news from Hyderabad is of mass arrests of college students and young persons. Mrs Ambika, an artist and leader of Arunodaya Sanskriti Samakhyay, was one of those arrested in a midnight swoop in Hyderabad on November 16. The students who were released later had been severely beaten up; their books, calculators and clothes seized by the police have not been returned. Mr Nammu (a former executive member of the Revolutionary Writers' Association and now the convener of the Democratic Writers' Federation) had to go through a similar experience. Not

even the lone CPI(ML) MLA, Mr Gummadi Narasimha, was spared. By the middle of September, a massive raid converted all hostels of the Regional Engineering College (REC), in Warangal into armed police camps. Hundreds of students were arrested and about 35 detained in Kamardddy. And so on goes the list of murders.

These massive raids have become a recurrent feature of social life in the 'Disturbed Areas'. The police have also officially issued a pamphlet warning all house owners of Warangal not to let out their houses to any one in the age group of 18-30 also to the citizens of Karimnagar. Those without the 'identity cards practically this city of four lakh people is under a state of siege.

NTR's police are determined to take away even the last remnants of civil liberties. The SP of Nizamabad has called upon the people to kill the Naxalites and assured (To be concluded)

them of adequate protection. In Nizamabad, a Banjara tribal, Bhukuya Kishan, was killed by the police in the fields in front of his wife and children. People witnessed Amarender Reddy getting killed by the police on the roads of Kamardddy. And so on goes the list of murders.

There are mobile police camps in Adilabad district, asking villagers not to give food and shelter to the Radicals. Identification cards are being issued to the students of BC and SC hostels at Warangal and also to the citizens of Karimnagar. Those without the 'identity cards will be considered 'outsiders' and so suspects in the eyes of the police. Nobody is allowed to enter Jagityal town after 3 p.m. Coalmine workers and tribals of Adilabad are terrorised by police hunting.

(To be concluded)

women were raped from June onwards and some twenty of them were stripped naked and paraded in front of the police station.

Between September 17 and 20, 4,000 people (including a bank manager) were arrested from four localities in Warangal, kept in police lock-up for three days and tortured, following a constable's murder in the remote area of Warangal—which has become the hotbed of Naxalite-police confrontation. Unable to round up the political leaders who have built a solid underground network, the police have been harassing academics and members of the intelligentsia.

Dr. B.V. Subba Rao, Associate Professor in REC, was arrested and implicated in a case that he had been harbouring top-ranking Naxalites in Warangal. When the Principal tried to intervene, he was asked to go on leave. Incidentally, the REC principal who is deemed vice-chancellor, was the chairman appointed by the NTR Government to go into the issue of the capitation fee in private engineering colleges.

Mr A. Bobbili and Mr Nageswara Rao, lecturer and librarian respectively in Evening College, Kakatiya University, were arrested, severely beaten and then charged that they had been taking classes for Naxalites. Mr K. Sita Rama Rao, a lecturer of Kakatiya University and APCLC activist, was beaten black and blue when the police raided his house on October 29. Police threatened his wife that they would rape her.

When things are taking such an ugly turn, it is quite natural that the Chief Minister will try to gag the press. That is why there is talk of a Press Bill against which the working journalists and demo-

cratic forces are building up a movement. NTR's plea is that the Bill is intended to ban yellow journalism and check abusive and "scurrilous" writing which sometimes drive people to suicide. The real reasons are of course different.

The film star, long used to public adulation, cannot stand a press criticism of his methods of dealing with the Naxalite opposition and his patronage of some of his rela-

being worked out. The top police officials of AP, MP, Maharashtra and Orissa met recently at Hyderabad to finalise the strategy. It is reliably learnt that this concave decision upon a concerted operation in the forest zone where the Naxalites are said to have taken shelter following intensive weeding out in the countryside. Additional police reinforcements are being sent to Karimnagar and training courses for them are already under way in the Amberpet area of Hyderabad city. These newly trained batches of policemen will very soon begin combing operations. Already the Mahadevapur area linking AP, MP and Maharashtra is the scene of indiscriminate repression, so much so that even the 'sarpanches' complained to their MLA. The policemen do not seem to be very happy either, as they will be forced to live dangerously away from their families and the financial benefits promised by the government will not be enough for the risks involved.

Curb on the Press
Between September 17 and 20, protection of the police sub-inspectors in Warangal, kept in Gollopalli on October 29 while, following intensive weeding out in the countryside. Additional police reinforcements are being sent to Karimnagar and training courses for them are already under way in the Amberpet area of Hyderabad city. These newly trained batches of policemen will very soon begin combing operations. Already the Mahadevapur area linking AP, MP and Maharashtra is the scene of indiscriminate repression, so much so that even the 'sarpanches' complained to their MLA. The policemen do not seem to be very happy either, as they will be forced to live dangerously away from their families and the financial benefits promised by the government will not be enough for the risks involved.

Women were stripped naked at Veleru village of Warangal district and made to run around the Gandhi statue. It is reminiscent of the Malabar police atrocities against communists and people after the police action in the days of the Nizam. The wrath of the police is turning into lunacy. A police procession accompanying the corpse of a constable ended up in Pyidipalli near Warangal, where the celebrated martyr Jannu Chinnulu's memorial monument drew their ire. The local villagers declined to supply them axes and crowbars. In their desperation the policemen tied the statue's neck with a strong rope and fastened the other end to their vans and succeeded in pulling it down. But they could not destroy it altogether right then. So they brought dynamite from Warangal to explode it.

Police Strategy
A police strategy to weed out Naxalites from the entire stretch on either side of the Godavari is

December 21, 1985

Torn Asunder-II

By A Correspondent

Andhra Pradesh

In Andhra Pradesh today women, treating them as Radicals in Karimnagar villages, it is not safe for men and young women to stay in their houses. When six hundred people from Dharmapuri came to Jagityal police station to protest against the increasing torture on them, they were lathicharged

FRONTIER

in the police have been deployed in villages to play as it were the role of an occupation army. Selecting villages one by one they make all the people assemble at one place and then they beat up all the men and young women, treating them as Radicals in Karimnagar villages, it is not safe for men and young women to stay in their houses. When six hundred people from Dharmapuri came to Jagityal police station to protest against the increasing torture on them, they were lathicharged

tives eager to make quick money and wield power. Mr P. Dasarathnam, editor of 'Encounter', a political fortnightly, was killed by goondas in Vijaywada on October 20, allegedly with the connivance of TDP top leaders including the Home Minister and the police.

Mr K. Chenna Reddy, editor of 'Ea Tharam' (This Generation), a political weekly, was arrested and beaten up by the ABVP men in all the political weeklies in Vijaywada were forced to stop publication. Mr Karunakar Reddy, sub-editor of the 'Andhra Prabha' daily, was arrested and beaten up severely in Mothkur police station of Nalgonda district.

The Government is determined not to allow left literature circulate in the State. For this reason, the Peace Book Centre of Hyderabad has been forced to down the shutters. Three salesmen were arrested in quick succession and produced in court after prolonged illegal detention.

The proposed Urban Police Bill will give judicial powers to the police officers in the urban police districts. The SPs in these districts will be elevated to the rank of commissioners and vested with judicial powers. They will have powers of censorship too. It will be enforced, it is gathered, first in Vijaywada and Visakhapatnam cities and then extended to Warangal, Guntur and Karimnagar. The police in Vijaywada have already asked the magazines to submit the press material to the police before publication.

Civil Liberties

It is quite obvious that a Government that has no regard for democratic rights will come down upon

civil liberties activists. Here is a brief account of the attacks on them : Gopi Ranjana killed by RSS men ; Dr K. Balagopal, Dr Ramamathan and K. Sita Rama Rao implicated in false cases, Mr Balagopal and Mr. Sankar (an advocate) beaten up by the ABVP men in Jagityal ; the Lalacheruvu conspiracy case—the latest in the series of conspiracy cases—foisted upon Mr Subramanyam, lecturer in Law, Nagajuna University, Mr Subhas Chandra Bose, advocate and executive member of the APCLC. Dr K. Narayana Rao, a popular doctor of Rajahmundry and Mr Venkateswara Rao, a lecturer in a government college and secretary, OPDR ; Dr Ramanathan killed by police on September 3, Dr Balagopal's room raided on October 13 and his books and typewriter taken away.

Dr Balagopal is a lecturer in Mathematics at Kakatiya University and also general secretary of Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC). After attending on his sister who is at Osmania Hospital with brain cancer, Balagopal went to K.G. Kamabiran's office (Kannabiran is the president of APCLC) on the evening of November 16. While returning from his office in Hyderabad city he was arrested by plainclothesmen and whisked away to the police control room and then shifted to Warangal. He was shown to have been arrested at Kazipet on the 17th and are demanding that their right to honour, with the slogan—"Land to the toiler". There are eleven lakh hectares of waste land in four Telengana districts alone. The landless and agricultural labourers, backed by revolutionary mass organisations, are occupying the land and are demanding that their right be recognised.

Today the major tribal tracts

of Central India—from Koraput in

Orissa through Visakhapatnam,

Telengana region to Bastar in MP

and Chandrapur in Maharashtra

are under Naxalite influence. This

is another major reason why the police administrations of the four States are working in close coordination. In this situation it is not difficult to guess how other mass organisations will be treated by the administration. Mr Sagar, executive member of RWA, was held and charged with having two rifles in his home at Nizamabad. Mr Usha S. Dani, convener of RWA, Krishna district unit, was implicated in a similar false case as he was very much involved in the Karamcheddu Hatiyan struggle ; he has been asked not to enter Chirala, the camp of Karamcheddu victims. Mr Sudhakar, general secretary, Radical Students Union (RSU) had been arrested several times and now he is languishing in Chittoor jail. The house of the general secretary of the AP Ryndhu Coolie Sangham, Mr Raghavulu, was ransacked and destroyed by the police.

Why This Repression ?

One may reasonably ask, why is all this repression going on in Andhra Pradesh ? The simple answer is that the toiling masses there are struggling for land, liberty and honour, with the slogan—"Land to the toiler". There are eleven lakh hectares of waste land in four Telengana districts alone. The landless and agricultural labourers, backed by revolutionary mass organisations, are occupying the land and are demanding that their right be recognised.

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possibility as a superpower desiring to preserve international peace. Hussein made no attempt to conceal his willingness to make concessions to imperialist and Zionist pressure. Moreover, he announced his readiness to enter into "direct and immediate negotiations with Israel" on the basis of UN resolutions which make no mention of the political rights of the Palestinian people : "We are ready to begin negotiations with Israel under the auspices of a suitable and acceptable party as soon as possible, according to UN resolutions 242 and 338..." Finally Egypt's Mubarak described Peres as being "flexible" and said : "We can come to an understanding with him on peace."

Concessions

Nineteen districts of the State are declared drought-affected areas. NTR's Government has released only Rs 5 crore for relief operations, while it is spending Rs 150 crore on the police. There are no drinking water facilities in thousands of villages where you find armed police camps. There the tribals and bonded labourers are forced to bring water, wood and food for the policemen from faraway places. No parliamentary opposition party raises its voice against this state of affairs since all of them are in alliance with the TDP. To the TDP the only opposition is the NTR's Government which has a disreputable record. The CPI of course does not openly support the repressive measures. Anyway it is almost non-existent in most parts of the state.

(Concluded)

The Days of Rage

By A Correspondent

Palestine

On the other hand, the BJP, GP(M) and MCPI [a group that broke away from the CPI(M)] are demanding even severer repression and denial of all civil liberties for the Naxalites and their sympathisers. Interestingly enough, on November 13, two workers of the MCPI were arrested, stripped and paraded on the streets. Representatives of seven mass organisations of AP-RWA, Jana Natya Mandali, APRSU, APRYL, APRCS, All India Revolutionary Students' Federation and All India League for Revolutionary Culture— are on a tour to let the People outside the State know the facts.

A new organisation—Movement Against Repression (MAR) has been formed. Like all dictatorial regimes, Congress(I) which has a disreputable record. The CPI of course does not openly support the repressive measures. Anyway it is almost non-existent in most parts of the

state.

The United States and Israel lost no time in responding to the concessions made by Arafat and King Hussein. A few days after Arafat

and Hussein made their statements,

Israeli Phantoms bombed the PLO

headquarters in Tunis, causing

devastating losses, 60 Tunisian and

Palestinian martyrs and hundreds

of wounded. Then Peres and Rabin levelled a direct warning at countries which harbour Palestinians,

meaning Jordan in particular. They stressed that the arm of Israel is long, and there is no safe refuge

for the PLO. They presented the

Amman accord to the U.S. He said that after the signing of the Amman

exchange for peace" as mentioned in the Amman accord. In the same interview, he praised Thatcher's decision to meet with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. In another interview with the Saudi newspaper 'Shark al Awsat' (Paris), Arafat said that Thatcher's decision gave a boost to the Amman accord.

Then King Hussein made a

statement on the Israeli terrorism, describing it as a justifiable act. Richard Murphy, U.S. envoy to the Middle East commented on the results of the raid, saying that it will not slow down the peace process in the Middle East. He

Indiase politie pleegt moorden op 'extremisten'

Van een medewerker

De politie in India neemt het niet zo nauw met de mensenrechten. Leden van burgerrechten-groepen melden dat ze herhaaldelijk door agenten worden aangevallen. Sommigen worden vermoord. Een comité in de deelstaat Andhra Pradesh decideerde onlangs mee dat haar voorzitter, de kinderarts dr. Ramanathan in september in zijn kliniek in Warangal door politieagenten is doodgeschoten. De autoriteiten zeiden tot nu toe dat het een schietpartij betrof. Het comité echter meent dat het om een wraakactie van de politie ging.

De agenten zouden de dood van een van hun collega's, inspecteur Yadagiri Reddy, hebben willen wreken. Vermoedelijk werd Reddy om het leven gebracht door een groepering die zich "Naxalieten" noemt. Een "marxistisch-leninistische" beweging die opkomt voor de arme boerenbevolking van India.

Wijzigd
8/11/85

Begrafenisstoet

Op de morgen van 3 september begeldeerde een stoet van ongeveer 200 gewapende politiemannen de lijkbaar van inspecteur Reddy naar zijn geboortedorp Toen de optocht langs de kliniek van dr. Ramanathan kwam stormden ongeveer twintig agenten de kliniek binnen. Ze haalden alles overhoop, sloegen de aanwezige apotheker en patiënten — meest moeders met kinderen — en schoten de arts dood. Daarna, het gebeurde in een omzien, sloten de daders zich weer bij de begrafenistoet aan.

Ramanathan was een pionier van de mensenrechtenbeweging in Warangal en kwam op voor het welzijn en de rechten van arme mensen. Tijdens de noodtoestand in 1975 zat hij twee maanden gevangen. Op 18 januari van dit jaar werd hij samen met andere burgerrechten-activisten opnieuw gearresteerd en een week lang vastgehouden op beschuldiging van het hebben van explosieven. De derde maal werd Ramanathan niet meer aangehouden, maar meteen vermoord.

De moord staat niet op zichzelf. De



Indiase boeren moeten hard werken om niet verhongeren.

laatste maanden zijn herhaaldelijk leden van burgerrechten-groepen het doelwit geworden van de aanvallen van de politie. Men heeft het vooral gemunt op de Naxalieten, die zeer succesvol zijn in het organiseren van arme boeren tegen uitbuitingspraktijken. Plaatselijke machthebbers zijn bevreesd voor de Naxalieten, die daarom meedogenloos worden aangepakt.

Terrorisme

De incidenten van dit jaar zijn talrijk. Al zeker 18 mensen zijn in Warangal vermoord. De "dappere" politieagenten krijgen zelfs beloningen in geld of goederen en worden openlijk tot geweld aangemoedigd door het bestuur van de deelstaat. Men heeft de hulp ingeroepen van twee bataljons reserve politie van de centrale overheid. Ook in andere deelstaten, zoals de Punjab, Haryana, Bihar en West-Bengalen worden opposanten hard aangepakt.

In mei van dit jaar is een nationale "wet tegen het terrorisme" aangenomen, die het mogelijk maakt iedereen die van terrorisme wordt verdacht een jaar vast te houden zonder vorm van proces. De definitie van terrorisme is zo breed dat ieder democratisch en vredzaam protest er onder verstaan kan worden. Van het burgerrechtencomité van wijlen dr. Ramanathan wordt beweerd dat het alleen voor de Naxalieten opkomt. In werkelijkheid komt het comité (APCLC) op voor alle onderdrukten, maar omdat de Naxalieten het meest gepakt worden, gaat daar ook de meeste aandacht naar uit.

Indien er een incident gemeld wordt stuurt het APCLC een team van deskundigen om de ware toedracht te achterhalen. Zo kwam men er achter dat vijf boeren in de buurt van de stad Narsapur in april van dit jaar niet tijdens een "incident" waren gedood, maar koelbloedig vermoord werden door de politie.

Volgens ooggetuigen werden de vijf

uit hun slaap gewekt, hun handen werden achter op de rug gebonden. Vervolgens moesten ze in een rij gaan zitten, waarop ze werden neergeschoten. Twee getuigen van het incident werden nog steeds door de politie vastgehouden. Een paar dagen na de moord werden de inwoners van de omringende dorpen door de politie op een plein bij elkaar gedreven. Hen werd onder bedreigingen en door slagen te verstaan gegeven dat er niets over het gebaarde verteld mocht worden.

Op 26 mei stormde de politie in Narsapur een vergadering van "extremisten" binnen. Volgens de politie ontstond er een vuurgevecht waarbij twee mensen gedood werden. De APCLC sprak met de advocaat van de gedode activisten, met hun familie en met de arts die sectie had verricht. Hieruit bleek een geheel andere toedracht. De twee mannen werden door de politie ontvoerd en buiten de stad doodgeschoten, aldus de conclusie van het onderzoek.