

STOP
THIS
REIGN
OF
TERROR
IN
WEST BENGAL

★ FACTS WHICH HIGHLIGHT THE CONSPIRACY
TO SUPPRESS THE TRADE UNION AND
DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT BY CONGRESS (R)
GANGSTERS, POLICE, CRP AND
ADMINISTRATION.

★★ *Foreword by* B. T. RANADIVE

WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE
CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

FOREWORD

The ensuing pages describes only partially the cruel and blood-curdling events that are taking place in W. Bengal over the last couple of years. They narrate in the barest possible words the attacks on the trade union leaders, on workers and their organisations, all owing allegiance to the CITU ; on their women and children. They do not represent even a tenth the tortures and cruelties perpetrated on the workers and their families and yet they are sufficient to give an idea of the grim happenings under the Congress rule in W. Bengal.

More than 150 trade union leaders and activists have been killed ; several hundreds arrested and jailed ; a large number wounded, suffering from loss of limbs due to police and gangster attacks ; incapacitated for life and unable to support their families any more ; thousands of young men—sons of workers and employees arrested ; their wives and daughters humiliated and often outraged ; infants and teenagers mercilessly beaten in the presence of parents...such is the horrible and unbearable long tale of Congress police and goonda atrocities against the workers.

It is the CITU, the most powerful trade union organisation in W. Bengal and claiming a membership of more than half a million in the State that is the object of this gangster attack. The INTUC, that piece of the ruling Congress is of course free to pursue its own activities, the AITUC, led by the Right C. P. which is in alliance with the Congress when the latter is doing this nefarious job, is of course not affected by this terror.

The CITU, its cadre, its leaders, its offices...they are the constant targets of these armed attacks. The workers enrolled in its unions have to face the goonda raids against their residential localities which are often burnt down in the presence of the police. Com. Ajit Mukherjee, Member, Working Committee CITU from Durgapur was attacked with lethal weapons causing grievous injuries while Com. Sunil Sen, Member, General Council CITU from Dum Dum area was shot dead and his body was thrown in a tank.

These are a part of the ordeal which the fighting people of W. Bengal under the leadership of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) are passing through.

During the last two years or so, the Congress Party has been assailing the militant democratic movement through a variety of ways. In the beginning, it used the Naxalite elements to attack and murder the cadres of the CITU and the CPI(M). Later on, it used mass raids by the police, and military combings to arrest and terrorise the people in constituencies which returned CITU and CPI(M) candidates. Simultaneously it used local goonda groups, recruited anti-social elements to murder individual leaders and intimidate the democratic movement.

The use of these goonda gangs has now reached another stage. They are recruited en-masse and given police protection to attack the localities supporting the CITU and the CPI(M). They are armed, often supplied with weapons by the police and any resistance to them invites police shootings. They are allowed to loot properties, destroy belongings, burn down houses and force the residents to leave the localities so that the constituency can be free for a fake electoral success of the Congress. Thousands have to leave their places from localities like Dum Dum, Barrackpore belt and others.

Hundreds of rifles mysteriously disappear from police armoury but no explanation is forthcoming. Newspaper reports of gun-snatching have often proved to be nothing but the police method of supplying guns to the gangster elements.

Here there is no semblance of a legal order. An entire locality may be attacked in broad daylight within a stone's throw from a police station. Murders are committed during day-time but no one is arrested. The same ruling party talks of rule of law, of the Supreme Court, the Constitution elsewhere. In W. Bengal, it has made the gangsters the main defender of its Constitution. In the beginning, these gangsters were described as resistance parties of the people. But now that posture is given up. Now, however, they often call themselves Chhatra Parishad. The combined offensive of the CRP, the police and the goondas, and the open murders are the semi-fascist methods used by the Indira Congress Govt. in W. Bengal to suppress the democratic and working class movement. To mislead the people in other States, the wanton attacks are represented as clashes between the Congress or its student wing and the "attacking" Marxists.

It goes without saying that when the police take action, it is against the mass of people, the workers, the CITU and the CPI(M) cadres. After a gangster attack, the police raid the locality and arrest the residents especially all young persons, who are taken to the police station to be beaten mercilessly. False charges of murder, possession of arms are launched against them. Thousands have been arrested in this fashion. When the magistrates discharge any one for want of evidence they are promptly re-arrested under the MISA or the PVA Act. Prominent trade union leaders of Hindusthan Steel Employees' Union, Sen Raleigh, were re-arrested in this way after their discharge by the magistrate for failure of the police to produce any evidence against them.

The Congress press which pretends to defend freedom of expression and information has surpassed all records in subservience to the ruling party. It is suppressing all news about these tortures and murders screening the authorities and carrying this trend towards totalitarianism in Indian politics.

The Right Communist Party which is now in treacherous alliance with the ruling party is directly helping it to conceal its misdeeds and perpetrate further atrocities by itself slandering the CITU and the CPI(M) and holding them responsible for these developments.

Thanks to the blackout by the press the entire country is unaware that this kind of semi-fascist terror reigns supreme in W. Bengal...a terror which represents a grave danger to Indian democracy and its future. With promises of *garibi hatao*, with the newly earned majority in the last Parliamentary elections, the newly earned prestige because of the Bangla Desh victory, Indira Gandhi's Govt. is making desperate attempt to extinguish the advanced democratic movement in W. Bengal and suppress it with totalitarian methods. It is the prototype of things to come elsewhere whenever a serious democratic challenge emerges to the Congress from the genuine left forces. It is ominous that the rest of the country should fail to see the danger arising from the developments in West Bengal. It is alarming that the international Communist movement, misled by the Right C. P. should busy itself praising the Indira Govt. while it is taking decisive totalitarian steps against the advanced section of India's working class and people.

The immediate aim of this semi-fascist terror is to get a fake electoral verdict in favour of the Congress in the coming elections. It is clear from the fact that the main concentration of attack is on the strong constituencies of the CPI (M) and CITU leaders. The main objective is of course to suppress this advanced democratic and trade union movement.

Why have the people and working class of W. Bengal earned this hatred from the Congress? It is because the CITU unions have led repeated and mighty struggles in defence of the working class and foiled on many occasions the game of the employers and the Govt. to make the workers a scapegoat of the recession and crisis. Under the leadership of

the CITU unions, which forged a united front with others, the jute workers waged two successful big strikes and earned a substantial increase in wages. The tea workers, the engineering workers, the textile and the steel workers of Durgapur all were successful in securing big advances in wages. Numerous and prolonged have been the strikes struggles led by the CITU in the period of the recession, when attacks on the workers were mounting. The INTUC and the AITUC leaders stood virtually paralysed in this period, refusing to lead for the most part this militant battle. The number of man-days lost in the strikes during the period was one crore and the majority of the struggles were led by the CITU. The employers with the help of the Govt. and the reformists, tried to launch attacks on the recognised unions affiliated to the CITU but the workers beat them back.

The Hindusthan Steel Employees' Union, Durgapur waged a glorious struggle in this period fighting against tremendous repression. The workers of Sen-Raleigh and others fought prolonged battles waging over months against lockouts or prolonged strikes to enforce their demands.

And above all, the CITU unions and the workers actively participated in the political and democratic movement, enhancing the striking power of the latter by their initiative, strength of numbers and consciousness ; participating in the election struggles in the three elections ; launching political protest action against the dismissal of the first U.F. Ministry ; launching several bundhs in support of other workers ; wresting almost all the seats from industrial constituencies and giving victory to the U.F. ; launching a bundh after the collapse of the second U. F. Ministry—the West Bengal working class showed its rising political consciousness.

It capped all these advances by defeating the Indira Congress candidates in the last Parliamentary and Assembly elections in industrial centres. It continued to participate actively in all democratic issues and organised protest actions

against the dissolution of the last West Bengal Assembly. It was the only section of the working class that organised strike action to support the cause of Bangla Desh in March and again in August 1971. It continued its fight for other sections and organised a bundh in support of the victimised State Govt. Employees in Oct. 1971.

The Congress Govt. and the employers seek to employ terror against it for its advanced proletarian consciousness.

As has been pointed out, the terror is being practised not only against the working class but the entire advanced democratic movement led by the CPI (M). It should be noted that over five hundred cadres, sympathisers and workers of the CPI(M) including 150 trade union cadres mentioned in this document have been killed since 1969 by the police, the CRP and the goonda gangs. The hunt is for the cadres and mass workers of the CPI (M) which heads the democratic challenge to the rule of the Congress. The students, the employees, women, kisans—all are subjected to this terror. The same brutalities are repeated against them that are perpetrated against the workers. To quote but only a few :

In the town of Garia in 24-Parganas, CRP engraved the letters CPM with sharp weapons on the head of a senior political worker, Narayan Roy Chowdhury. The local magistrate in his order stated "The Sonarpur police officials have engraved the letters "CPM" on the head of the accused. I myself have seen the wounds. It is strange that the police report does not mention the injuries nor do the police make a request for administering medical treatment to the accused." This is the rule of law operating in W.Bengal.

An instance of the student wing of the Congress winning elections. The Chhatra Parishad won 123 seats out of 124 :

How did they secure them ? These "students" threatened the rival candidates with revolvers in their hands, forced them to withdraw from the contest and got their nominees elected without contest.

In Asansol, the police assaulted Mr. Girdhari Mukherjee, the Defence lawyer of workers and the CPI(M) members, tied him with a rope and kept him in custody for thirty-seven hours.

Eighteen-year old Salil Das of Dhakuria was arrested on 1st October by the police. His father was assured that the son would return after interrogation. But next day, his father saw only his body in one of the hospitals.

The house of Subhas Sarkar, an employee in Sadhana Aushadhalaya was set on fire by a CRP man. Two women and an infant were burnt alive. But the perpetrators of this crime and those who helped in it have not been arrested though their names are known.

Ashima Poddar, a young girl was arrested and assaulted by the police. She was made naked in the police lock-up and a police man outraged her modesty.

These are some of the instances of the goondaism that represents the Indira Raj in W. Bengal.

There is one instance at least when a person reading the Kalantar, the paper of the Right Communist Party which is in alliance with the Congress (R) was shot by the police. This happened in Shanti Nagar colony. This of course has not led to the weakening of ties between the revisionist CPI and the Indira Congress.

The kisans and the villages are also undergoing the same fiery ordeal in some places. Congress hirelings from towns come in trucks and lorries, swoop upon a village where the Kisan Sabha or CPI(M) is strong-spreads in constituencies which have routed the Congress, attack the leaders of kisans, burn the crops of the peasants and

their houses, murder people and return without any action by the police. They come in daylight in full possession of arms, they come across miles but the police do not notice them. The police swoop upon the peasants to arrest them if they resist these murderers.

And when they come they arm themselves with written orders which authorise them to round up all male members of the village. The rule of law indeed !

The democratic movement led by the CPI(M) and its allies have emerged as a challenging force to the Congress (R) which represents the rule of the big bourgeoisie and landlords. The Congress has failed to get an electoral verdict in its favour in successive electoral battles. It lost its majority in 1967 though all the opposing democratic forces were not united. It got rid of the first United Front through constitutional chicanery but was faced with a united front of all democratic parties in the 1969 elections. The latter headed by the CPI(M) got a majority and could be dislodged only with the aid of betrayal by the Right Communists and some others.

Since then the Congress directed ruthless terror and murderous attacks against the CPI(M), its cadres and the cadres of mass organisations led by it. It thought that it had softened the electorate sufficiently by 1971. Its goonda gangs roamed over constituencies, held the voters and polling officers at pistol point.

In Com. Jyoti Basu's constituency, armed gangs did not allow hundreds of voters to approach the polling booth and this happened with the connivance of the police. In spite of this Ajoy Mukherjee, who was pitted against Jyoti Basu and who was the joint candidate of Jana Sangh, Congress and the Right Communists, was defeated. In the Parliamentary elections in West Bengal, the CPI(M) won 20 seats out of 40, with the Congress winning only 13. In the Assembly elections, the CPI(M) and its allies emerged as the biggest single

group—the CPI(M) alone winning 107 seats out of 280 and the Congress winning 104.

Incensed by this failure to get absolute majority, the Congress (R) has launched the white terror against the CITU and the CPI (M) hoping thereby to terrorise the people in the coming elections.

Thus the rule of law, the right of opposition party, fundamental rights—everything is being attacked to maintain the illegal domination of the Congress (R).

Let Journalist—the W. Bengal Correspondent of the Economic and Political Weekly of Bombay speak: "While every detail of Gestapo storm-trooper atrocities is being recreated in this State, there is hardly any protest or concern voiced by any section of liberal democracy, within the State or outside." "In the circumstances, besides, arrests, tortures, and some liquidations under suspicious circumstances, miniature Baranagar-Cossipores are hanging over some other parts of the City—partially paralysing the normal life of the locality for days together. Besides hundreds of innocent and politically untouched persons, within a particular age-range, accidentally caught in suddenly cast police dragnets are having to pass through the mill...

"Against this background of white terror, the State and Union Government have launched their offensive against CPI(M)-led trade unions. The private sector employers though not yet fully reassured, have started flexing their muscles and there is already a perceptible change in their attitude to their employees." (Nov. 6.1971.)

Let the same writer speak on the significance of the victimisation of the State employees in September last which led to big protest strike in October. "The solid strength of militant trade unionism right inside the citadel of State power—the Secretariat—has long been a thorn in the side of all anti-CPI(M) forces in W. Bengal. For years, various attempts were made first by the undivided

Congress and then by CPI and its allies, to split the ranks by setting up splinter organisations: but without much success. During the recent "democratic coalition" rule (of Congress (R), Muslim League, and Bangla Congress, supported by CPI and F. B.), there was even a mass raid on Government employees in Writers' Building undertaken by youth brigades of Congress (R) under ill-concealed police protection.

"The last move of the crumbling coalition government had been to plant some thousands of their tough gangs in Govt. offices by appointing them to newly-created jobs."

The writer says that the offensive against the State employees was planned in Delhi. "Final touches to the plan were given by the Prime Minister herself during her recent visit to Calcutta."

He adds, "Indira Gandhi has so far failed to secure any significant points against the C P I (M) notwithstanding that thousands have been put behind prison bars, and tortured in police custody, that police and para-military forces are having a field-day each day, that political resistance parties backed by the organs of State power have passed into open offensive in many areas of CPI (M) influence as in Alladipur in Burdwan or in Jadavpur-Tollygunge in Calcutta."

This offensive now is developing into kidnapping and murderous attacks against top trade union leaders and raids on their houses. Only a few days back the house of K. G. Bose, himself a victimised postal employee, and President of the National Federation of P & T Employees which has a membership of three lakhs was raided by Congress-hired goondas and his sister-in-law narrowly escaped a fatal attack. Last year, his wife was stabbed but also escaped death. The significant point is that the raid was organised when Com. K. G. Bose was discussing its possibility with the Police Commissioner of Calcutta and the latter was assuring him full protection. Com. Bose had a similar experience last time.

On 25th January 1972, Haridas Malakar, leader of the Jay Engineering Workers' Union, with a membership of 5500 member of the CITU General Council and the likely candidate of the CPI(M) from the constituency was kidnapped from his residence by armed gangsters in broad daylight and was taken to the Golf Ground, the usual site for the murders of the victims. A strike of thousands of workers compelled the police to intervene and save his life, and he escaped with stab wounds.

The use of gangsters armed by the police is the new weapon of the Congress. The identity of these gangsters is sometimes concealed by describing them as Chhatra Parishad Yuba Congress-student and youth wings of the Congress respectively. Often young Congress students mixed with gangsters perpetrate these murders and atrocities.

These murders are not the affair of local Congressmen only. They are decided by the policy-making body of the Home Dept. in New Delhi and executed through Gangster bands. A year or so back, the Ganasakti, the daily organ of the W. Bengal Committee of CPI(M) exposed that a high intelligence officer of the Govt. of India advised the local police to physically eliminate CPI(M) cadres and pass on the responsibility to the "extremist" groups. In fact, there are the so-called counter-insurgency tactics taught by the American experts to the intelligence branch people—tactics which the USA employs in Vietnam which produces My Lai massacres. The Congress leaders are sowing deep anti-Communist hatred in their ranks so that these heinous deeds pass unchallenged. It is also clear that the CIA agents in Congress, in the bureaucracy and police officials are also joining this campaign of extermination.

This is thus no ordinary repression, no passing phase. It betokens to a new situation introducing well-known totalitarian methods of extermination in which the American imperialists have developed great expertise. It is not without significance that certain important circles in New Delhi have been saying,

that the only way out for the Congress in West Bengal was the Indonesian way.

This spells extreme danger to the Indian people and their freedom and democracy. All democratic rights will be extinguished if the ruling classes are allowed to adopt these semi-fascist methods to finish a left-opposition. The present silence of democratic parties and trade union organisations only encourages the totalitarian onslaught against the people.

The CITU appeals to all democratic parties, trade union, kisan, student and mass organisations and individuals to raise their voice in time to defeat this monstrous attack against democracy and rally for the defence of the trade union and democratic movement in W. Bengal. It calls upon all those to raise their voice in time to ensure free and fair elections in W. Bengal and prevent a fraud against the Constitution and democracy.

All democratic and working class organisations should send their protests to the Prime Minister and demand :

(1) Immediate end to the terror, punishment of the guilty police officers and armed rowdies often posing as Chhatra Parishad ; (2) Release of all arrested persons, trade union, kisan, student and party leaders and withdrawal of warrants and cases ; (3) Complete freedom for the trade union movement ; (4) Immediate repatriation of hundreds of prisoners sent to jails in other States ; (5) Lifting of emergency and creating conditions to ensure free and fair elections.

The CITU is confident that with the popular forces standing united, the offensive of the ruling classes against democracy can be frustrated and the way opened for the working class and the people of W. Bengal to exercise their franchise in the manner they want.

27. 1. 72

—B. T. Ranadive
President CITU.

**Memorandum submitted to Sri A. L. Dias, Governor of
West Bengal by Centre of Indian Trade Unions,
West Bengal Committee in protest against repression
in West Bengal and in defence of Trade
Union and Democratic rights, in a mass
deputation on 8th January, 1972 at
Raj Bhavan, Calcutta.**

It has been brought to your notice repeatedly with concrete facts and evidences that the people of West Bengal are made to live in an atmosphere of terror unprecedented since independence. While this terror is motivated to crush all democratic forces in the State in the interest of the Ruling Congress at the Centre, the Police, C. R. P and the armed gangsters organised by Congress (R) (with the help of police and administration) are carrying on relentless attacks, killing, murdering and torturing the people especially the workers and leaders of the democratic movement. When nothing could subdue the conscious people of the State, important leaders and cadres of the mass movements are detained without trial in the name of Prevention of Violent Activities Act (PVA) and Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA).

These attacks are perpetrated at a time when unemployment problem in the state is most acute, the number of registered unemployed has exceeded 8,00,000 and more than 500 factories; tea gardens, offices and coal mines are closed affecting about 1,28,000 workers ; when the economic condition of the people

is most acute due to heavy taxation and abnormal rise in prices. As the militant class conscious workers of the State refuse to bear the burden of the economic crisis which the ruling class is trying to impose upon them and they are effectively carrying on the struggle in defence of their rights—for employment, wage rise and better living conditions, these attacks are perpetrated by the ruling class to dislodge them from their struggle and to suppress them.

The Members of Parliament, leaders of political parties, trade unions and other democratic organisations through letters, representations and deputations have been carrying on ceaseless efforts to bear upon you and the administration that the life and liberty of the people are at stake and all semblance of democracy is attempted to be destroyed with brute force of repression perpetrated by the Police, C.R.P and the armed gangsters of Congress (R). The Chief Secretary, Home Secretary of West Bengal, the Inspector General of Police and the Police Commissioners of Calcutta, the Superintendents of Police and the District Magistrates at the district level ; the Sub-Divisional Officers down to the Officers-in-Charge of Police Stations-at all levels of the administration persistent representations were and continue to be given demanding to stop this terror and repression, to stop the persecution and suffering of the innocent citizens at the hands of Police, C.R.P and Congress (R) gangsters. But nothings seems to be adequate to move the Government to see to reason and to restore peace and democracy.

At all times when we approached you, you maintained that the Government would be impartial. But in reality there is no change in the situation and the same Police, C.R.P and the armed gangsters of Congress (R) carry on the attacks in the same manner day in and day out. If the State administration of West Bengal is bent upon to act as an instrument of oppression to subserve the political interests of Congress (R) and the top officials of the Government are directly in-

volved in this conspiracy against the people or are afraid to take an impartial stand, what course is left before the people to protect their rights and to ensure their safety and security? If all democratic rights are denied and all avenues are closed or prove abortive to secure justice, what is left before the people to protect their very existence? This is a basic question confronting the entire people of West Bengal to-day.

These attacks started since the fall of Second United Front Government in March, 1970. Intensity of the attacks and seriousness of the situation will be understood from the following facts :

During the Second President's Rule in West Bengal i. e. from 17. 3. 1970 to 31. 3. 1971 two hundred thirty eight persons connected with trade union and democratic movements were murdered and killed by the Police, CRP and Naxalites and anti-social gangsters organised by Congress (R) (with the help of Police and administration) ;

During the tenure of Congress-Muslim League Coalition Government in West Bengal i. e. from 1. 4. 1971 to 29. 6. 1971, the number of such murders and killing is 109 ; and, during the present tenure of President's Rule (from 30.6.1971 to 15.11.1971) One hundred seventeen persons connected with trade union and democratic movement were murdered and killed by the Police, CRP and the armed gangsters organised by Congress (R).

And these murders and killings are continuing with unashamed encouragement from the administration.

On 24th November, 1971 Sri Manick Chakraborty, a worker of Bengal Potteries (Co-operative), Beliaghata, Calcutta and an active trade union worker of C. I. T. U. affiliated union was kidnapped by Congress (R) gangsters. This was done for murdering Sri Manick Chakraborty. The matter was immediately brought to the notice of the officer-in charge of Entally Police Station, Calcutta and also of the Police Commissioner,

Calcutta, the Inspector General of Police and the Home Secretary of West Bengal. All of them were requested to take prompt action in order to save the life of Sri Chakraborty. But nothing was done. And the next day the dead body of Sri Manick Chakraborty was found in a ditch. This is a concrete example of how murders are being committed by Congress (R) gangsters with the help of Police and administration.

In Mia Bagan Bustee at Beliaghata, Calcutta a young girl Sreemati Sipra Saha was killed by Police at point blank range on 6. 11. 1971. No enquiry was held in this regard inspite of persistant demands.

On 31st December, 1971 Sri Sunil Sen, a trade union leader of Dum Dum and a member of the Working Committee, CITU West Bengal Committee was murdered near his house at Baguihati (Dum Dum). The murderers carried away the body of Sri Sunil Sen and it was found on 5th January, 1972 in a marshy land.

On 27th September, 1971 Sri Khokan Chakraborty was arrested by Police in Jadavpur area, Calcutta and was murdered by Police while he was under police custody. Police denied the incident and both the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary of West Bengal repeated the same explanation given by the Officer-in-Charge, Jadavpur Police Station but they are silent after the demand was made for an open enquiry on this murder.

It will take volumes to describe the murders taking place everyday. The Congress (R) gangsters are carrying on these attacks in a planned manner ; the planning of the attacks are made in Police Stations under the direction of Police Officers. The gangsters move in CRP and police vehicles, often use the rifles of Police and CRP. In many places like Jadavpur and Barrackpore Sub-Division it has been noticed that the armed Congress (R) gangsters put on uniforms of Police and CRP while carrying on the attacks. When the common people come

forward to resist the attacks, Police and CRP provide cover to the gangsters to escape and then attack the people, assaulting mercilessly and arresting indiscriminately. After arrest, they are involved in various fabricated charges. This is the method of attack.

Leading workers of Trade Union movements are first falsely implicated in murder charges. But when the Court release them for want of supporting evidence, they are detained under the P. V. A Act or MISA.

Rupak Roy and Ujjal Das—both front ranking members of Heavy Engineering Corporation Employees' Union, Durgapur were arrested under murder charge (Durgapur P.S. Case No. 53 of 18-2-1971) and forwarded to the Court on the allegation that their "Complicity transpired" during investigation. The Court ordered for holding Test Identification Parade. Immediately thereafter the same police came before the Court and prayed for their discharge for lack of evidence. The Court accordingly ordered their release. But before the release order could be executed, Rupak Roy and Ujjal Das were detained under the P.V.A.Act. There are several such cases.

The Political prisoners in detention are being treated in the worst possible manner. They are given sub-human food. Almost all the detenues have developed worst type of stomach troubles. There is no provision for treatment in the prisons. Blankets used by the criminals having infections of venereal and other dangerous diseases are given to the political prisoners for use. As a result a big section of political prisoners have developed serious type of skin disease. But there is no medicine in jail hospitals for treatment. Political prisoners are kept with dangerous criminals and criminals suffering from dangerous disease like V. D., Scyphilis etc. A good number of the detenues are teen-agers and naturally in such circumstances they are prone to diseases. Sri Bapi Guha a boy of 16 was arrested under ailing condition and died in prison without any treatment.

Not content with such barbarous treatment meted out to the detenués in prisons, Prison Authorities in a planned manner are carrying on murder of political prisoners. So far 47 persons have been murdered in various prisons of West Bengal. Many of them were beaten to death with batons. Such barbaric murder of political prisoners was seen rarely even under the British Rule in India.

And now unable to stand to public protest against the inhuman treatment towards the political prisoners, the Government following the foot-steps of British Imperialism is transferring them outside the State to work out the policy of torturing them more mercilessly and to crack their morale in remote seclusion where they will not be able to see their parents or near ones—a facility admissible even behind the bars. The transfer of prisoners is being done most secretly. It is reported that about 1300 political prisoners have already been transferred to Tamil Nadu where they will face intolerable difficulties due to language and altogether different food habits. And the most surprising thing is this that the parents and near relations of the prisoners are denied any information in this regard.

Police has been given unlimited power. No enquiry is held when Police and CRP murder or kill any person. The power given to police virtually give them complete freedom of action to kill and murder people.

This is the state of affairs in West Bengal under your regime. It is impossible to conceive of such repression in a democratic country. We want to know from the Government what explanation it has to offer, more particularly from you, as head of the administration under President's Rule in West Bengal considering the fact that you repeat every time that the administration will follow a non-partisan attitude.

One of the main prong of the attack is directed against the organised trade unions. The modus operandi of the attacks on trade unions is like this : the Congress (R) gangsters under the leadership of Chhatra arisad and Youth Congress attack the

areas around the factories where the workers are most organised. With the help of Police and CRP these gangsters occupy the whole area and then intensify the attacks on the workers of the factories. They force the workers to become members of Congress (R) sponsored Unions and forcibly collect subscription from them. Those who refuse to pay subscription are severely assaulted and then handed over to police. Police arrest them immediately. Trade union leaders and active union cadres are prevented from reporting to their duties. The miscreants enter into the factories with rifles, pipe-guns and hand-granades and force the workers to obey their orders under threat of murder. When workers unitedly resist the attacks, Police and CRP come to the help of the gangsters and resort to indiscriminate firing, assault and arrest.

The working class in industrial belt of Sonarpur, Mahestolla and the entire Barrackpore Sub-Division area like Khardah, Titagarh, Dum Dum, Dakshindari etc. (24-Parganas District), Jadavpur-Tollygunj Area, North Calcutta, Beliaghata, Manicktolla in Calcutta, Raniganj Coal-field area, Durgapur and Asansol industrial belt, Burdwan town, various places of Howrah and Hooghly districts are affected by these attacks.

The Congress (R) gangsters attacked the union office of Jessop Mazdoor Union and burnt it. They also attacked the office of Jay Engineering Workers' Union. In Sonarpur P. S. none of the union offices can function due to terror. In South Beliaghata, trade union-activities of all the factories have been forcibly stopped by the gangsters. In Manicktolla, the armed gangsters carried on series of attacks on Bengal Chemical Shramik Union. In Barrackpore Industrial Belt trade union functioning has been forcibly stopped. The gangsters who have created this terror are all anti-social elements and well-known to the officials of local police stations. But instead of taking action against them, Police and CRP are instructed to give them full help and support and they jointly move with Police and CRP.

One of the worst affected area is Jadavpur-Tollygunj area.
The following facts will reveal the position :

Trade Union Workers Murdered :

1. Dulal Das of Chopra Motor Workers' Union.
2. Sreenath Pradhan of Chaliha Rolling Mills Workers' Union.
3. Chhater Singh of Jay Engineering Workers' Union.
4. Lakhan Gharami of Fire Brigade.
5. Pradeep Mukherjee of Metal Box Workers' Union.

Trade Union Workers attacked with intent to murder :

1. Prantosh Dey, Vice-President, Chaliha Rolling Mills Workers' Union.
2. Nanigopal Mukherjee of E. E. C. Union.
3. Shibnath Dutta, Secretary, Paints and Lacquers Workers' Union.
4. Madhusudhan Mitra of Chopra Motors Workers' Union.
5. Bipul Paul of Jay Engineering Workers' Union.
6. Paresh Paul of Jay Engineering Workers' Union.

Trade Union Workers arrested and still in detention :

1. Tapan Chakraborty of Chopra Motor Workers' Union.
2. Biswanath Das of Paints and Lacquers Workers' Union.
3. Ranjit Bose of Swastic Industries Workers' Union.
4. Dilip Roy of Chaliha Rolling Mills Workers' Union.

Besides, 24 active trade union workers were assaulted and arrested and subsequently released.

Union Offices attacked by the Police, CRP and Congress (R) gangsters :

1. Tollygunj Rickshaw Workers' Union.
2. Chaliha Rolling Mills Workers' Union.
3. Dassani Engineers Workers' Union.

4. Standard Laboratories Workers' Union.
5. Paints and Laquers Workers' Union.
6. Jay Engineering Workers' Union.
7. Bengal Lamp Employees' Union.

Union Offices functioning forcibly stopped :

1. Tollygunj Rickshaw Workers' Union.
2. Standard Laboratories Workers' Union.
3. Chaliha Rolling Mills Workers' Union.
4. Garia Rickshaw Workers' Union.
5. Gopal Hosiery Workers' Union.
6. Philtronic Workers' Union.
7. Cine Technician and Workers' Union.

The workers of Calcutta State Transport Employees' Union are confronted with a major attack and the following facts will reveal the position :

Workers Murdered :

1. Mahadev Dutta of Howrah Depot.
2. Jogen Roy of Paikpara Depot.
3. Moti Das of Belghoria Depot.
4. Ganesh Gain of Belghoria Depot.
5. Alok Ghosh of Mechanical Workshop.

Workers assaulted and injured :

1. Madhu Bose of Howrah Depot.
2. Bhola Paul of Howrah Depot.
3. Paritosh Das of Howrah Depot.
4. Mangal Guha of Belghoria Depot.
5. Nripen Saha of Workshop.
6. Gosai Seal of Lake Depot.
7. Rabi Aich of Lake Depot.
8. Khokan Guha of Canteen.
9. Bisnu Ghosh of Paikpara Depot.
10. Tarak Chandra Biswas of Paikpara Depot.

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------|
| 11. | Paresh Chatterjee | of Paikpara Depot. |
| 12. | Gour Saha | of do |
| 13. | Kanai Ganguly | of do |
| 14. | Monoranjan Ghosh | of do |
| 15. | Haridas Naha | of do |

Workers in detention :

1. Subodh Bhadra of Lake Depot.
2. Anil Guha of Belghoria Depot.
3. Mongal Guha of do
4. Nitai Saha of do
5. Pradip Dutta of Taratolla Depot.

No. of workers forcibly evicted from their houses : about 200.

No. of workers against whom police cases instituted : 50.

In 24-Parganas, particularly in Barrackpore Industrial Belt the gangsters with the help of Police and C.R.P. have let loose a terror unprecedented in India since independence. The following facts will speak for themselves :

Trade Union Workers murdered :

1. Ash Mohammed of Khardah.
2. Ananta Dutta, Vice-President, Gramophone Employees' Union.
3. Sunil Sen, Secretary of a number of unions of Dum Dum, and member, Working Committee of CITU West Bengal State Committee.

Trade Union Offices looted and captured by Congress (R) gangsters :

1. Bengal Kagajkal Sramik Union, Kankinara. (of Titagarh Paper Mill)
2. Bengal Enamel Mazdoor Union, Palta.

3. Titagarh Branch Office of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union.
4. All Trade Union Offices at Khardah and Dum Dum.
5. Bird & Co. Mazdoor Union, Dakshindari.
6. Eastern Paper Mills Workers' Union, Dakshindari.
7. Hindusthan Sheet & Metal Employees' Union, Dakshindari.
8. Dum Dum Weaving Factory Workers' Union, Dakshindari Branch.

Leading Trade Union Workers of the factories in the following places not allowed to join their duties or to enter into factories :

Dakshindari	—	Number of factories.
Dum Dum	—	In almost all factories.
Baranagore	—	Number of factories.
Khardah	—	Indian Oxygen. Calcutta Silk. Dalmia Iron & Steel.

Alambazar Jute Mill.

Jhirani Glass Factory.

Titagarh Paper Mill at Kankinara and Titagarh.

R. I. C. at Baranagore.

Kalyani Spinning Mill at Habra
(under Barasat Sub-Divn.).

House of leading Trade Union Leaders raided and looted :

1. Ajoy Mukherjee, Leader of State Government Employees' Co-ordination Committee, who was recently dismissed by the Government along with other leaders of the Co-ordination Committee.
2. Sadhan Chakraborty, Ex-MLA of Khardah.
3. Gopal Bhattacharjee, Ex-MLA of Panihati.

In Mahestolla P. S., 24-Parganas functioning of the following unions has been affected and the leading workers are not allowed to report to their duties :

1. Bata Shoe Factory—Batanagar.

2. E. C. E. Mazdoor Union.
3. S. F. Products Factory Workers' Union.
4. Andaman Timbers Workers' Union.
5. Indian Chain Workers' Union.
6. Spring Sales Workers' Union.
7. R. Sen Group of Industries Workers' Union.

In South Beliaghata, Calcutta the position is equally alarming. The following facts will speak for itself.

The Trade Union workers murdered :

1. Hari Chatterjee, Asst. Secretary, Bengal Potteries Mazdoor, Union.
2. Manik Chakraborty, Bengal Pottery (Co-operative).
3. Manmohan Biswas of National Rubber.
4. Kesto Das of National Rubber.
5. Sultan Munshi, a worker of National Tannery & Secretary, National Tannery Workers' Union.

Trade Union Workers kept under detention under P.V.A Act :

1. Narayan Ghosh of National Rubber.
2. Ashoke Khatick of Olympia Rubber.
3. Ratan Sarkar of Olympia Rubber.

Trade Union Workers attacked with intent to murder :

1. Rabi Dey of Canton Carpentry Works.
2. Jogen Chowdhury of Bengal Pottery.
3. Tushar Bakshi of Bengal Pottery.

Trade Union Offices attacked and forcibly occupied and workers forcib'y restrained from reporting to their duties in the factories :

1. Bengal Potteries Ltd.
2. Sura Jute Mill, Branch Office of Bengal. Chatkal Mazdoor Union.

3. Canton Carpentry Works.
4. National Rubber Manufacturers Ltd.
5. Haryana Rubber Works.
6. Metal Reforms (M. R. C.).
7. Ganesh Commercial.
8. Central Rubber Works.

In Howrah the Union Office of NISCO Workers' Union was looted and 12 leading workers including Sri Asoke Joshi, Vice-President of the Union were severely assaulted by the Congress (R) gangsters. Police instead of taking action against the gangsters, arrested Sri Biman Dhar, General Secretary of the Union under MISA. The armed gangsters in presence of Police have set-up camp near the gate of the factory and do not allow the leading trade union workers to report to their duties.

A number of Trade Union workers were murdered in Howrah. Some of the names are given here :

Trade Union Workers murdered in Howrah :

1. Jibananda Pandit of Gogal Bhai Jute Mill.
2. Ram Chandra Rai of Ambica Jute Mill.
3. Ajoy Ghosh of Nischinda Workers' Trade Union.
4. Balai Guha of Bharat Blade.
5. Manick Ganguly of G. K. W.
6. Ramadhar Jadav of Ashok Glass.
7. Asit Dalal of Belur.
8. Madhu Pandit of Shalimar.
9. Sukhdeo Pakarashi of Binani Metals.
10. Partha Pratim Dasgupta of Shankey.
11. Niranjana Dalui, T. U. Organiser.
12. Chanchal Biswas, T. U. Worker.
13. Baidyanath Bag of Hind Motor.
14. Md. Safi, T. U. Worker.
15. Basanta Dutta of Bamungachi.
16. Madan Satra of Kadamtolla.

17. Shankar Mondal of Belur.

In Hind Motor Works Automobile manufacturing factory of the Birlas at Konnagore, Hooghly, Police arrested on 31.12.'71. the following nine leading union Workers under MISA :

1. Nikhilesh Guha, Committee Member.
2. Aloke Chakraborty, Committee Member.
3. Shakti Mukherjee, Active Worker.
4. Kartick Banerjee, Committee Member.
5. Sudhir Das, Dept. Committee Member.
6. Sitanath Dey, Treasurer.
7. Parimal Bhattacharjee, Asst. Secretary.
8. Asoke Chakraborty, Committee Member.
9. Chunilal Banerjee, Committee Member.

In protest against their arrest, the entire 14,000 workers of the factory stopped work on 31.12.1971 and resorted to protest strike on 1st January, 1972.

CITU affiliated Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union is the biggest and most organised union in Jute industry. Out of a total strength of 230,000 Jute Workers in 65 Jute Mills of West Bengal, the membership of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union as on 31.12.1970 was 106063. In this background attacks perpetrated against the Jute workers and activists of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union is to be taken cognizance of. Union organisers in Jute industry—Bibek Panja of Budge Budge, Ramchandra Rai of Ambica Jute Mill at Belur, and Ash Mohammed of Khardah Jute Mill were murdered. In Barrackpore Industrial belt where more than one lakh Jute workers live, in 15 Jute mills leading union workers are being constantly harassed and attacked by police and the gangsters. In Soorah Jute Mill in Calcutta two workers were killed and in Union North Jute Mill at Beliaghata, union activists are forcibly stopped from reporting to their duties. In Birlapur, workers of Birla Jute Mills, are the target of constant attacks. In

Dakshindari worker bustees were set on fire by the gangsters on 13th October, 1971 when one old woman and a three years child were burnt to death. Fire Brigade came to put out the fire. But armed gangsters did not allow Fire Brigade men to put out the fire. Police standing near the place did not intervene. The intensity of the attack is increasing now when Jute workers are getting organised for a sustained and united strike struggle to realise their longstanding demand for wage rise. It is clear that the purpose of these attacks is to frustrate the impending struggle of the Jute workers.

In Durgapur, Shri Jiban Roy and Shri Basudev Chatterjee both Joint Secretaries of Hindusthan Steel Employees' Union and Shri Amar Bhattacharjee, Asst. Secretary of A. V. B. Employees' Union are detained under MISA. At present 55 leading Trade Union workers of various factories in Durgapur are detained under PVA Act and MISA. During the historic strike struggle of Durgapur workers in August, 1970 in protest against arrest of union leaders and deployment of CISF forces inside Durgapur Steel Project, when 25,000 Police and CRP were employed to suppress the struggle, of 60,000 workers, 1110 false cases were instituted against leading trade union workers and the harassment of the workers due to these cases still continue. And now the number of such cases will be 2,000. In Graphite (India) Ltd. 90 Police Cases were instituted against 27 workers and all of them were victimised. In ACC-Vickers-Babcock Ltd. more than 50 leading Trade Union workers were involved in false cases and all of them were victimised by the management. CRP forces are deployed in the township of AVB workers in Durgapur. The workers are treated in a manner as if they are living in a concentration camp. Shri Atin Mukherjee, Asst. Sub-Inspector of Police posted in workers' township along with two hundred CRP forces is torturing the workers, even women are not spared. Workers and their families are denied freedom to move within the township. CRP forces are

posted even inside the factories. This repression on AVB workers is being carried on since August 1970. Shri S. S. Dhavan, the-then Governor of West Bengal informed the General Secretary of CITU, West Bengal Committee in his letter dated 8th February, 1971 that the incidents of repression in AVB Township and the complicity of the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police of Burdwan were referred to the Home Secretary of West Bengal for enquiry. But upto now the fate of this enquiry is not known. A number of letters were written to Home Secretary and to Sri Sidhartha Sankar Ray, Minister without portfolio, Government of India, but they are also silent on this enquiry. This has also been brought to your notice by Shri Md. Ismail, M.P., President, CITU, West Bengal Committee.

In Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapur (a Public Sector undertaking), Sri Shamadas Banerjee and Sri Chandra Sekhar Chatterjee—both front ranking workers of CITU affiliated union, were suspended on 25th December, 1971 for participation in a demonstration organised by the union in support of Bangladesh. Sri Manick Chandra Dutta, a trade union worker of CITU affiliated union and a worker of Ophthalmic Glass Plant, Durgapur (a Public Sector undertaking) detained under PVA Act since March 1971, was served with termination notice (dated 27.12.1971) without assigning any reason.

In Sen-Raleigh Cycle Factory at Asansol where 3500 workers are heroically carrying on their struggle against closure of the factory since last nine months, the Government instead of forcing the employer to reopen the factory are arresting the leaders of the fighting workers under PVA Act and MISA. 22 workers of Sen-Raleigh, Asansol have been arrested since August, 1971.

The names of some of the trade union workers murdered in the industrial areas of Burdwan are given here :

1. Paritosh Seal of Hindusthan Cables Shramik Union, Rupnarayanpur.

2. B. N. Prosad of Durgapur Steel Plant.
3. Manindra Banerjee of Durgapur Steel Plant.
4. Sunil Shaktikari of —do—
5. Sunil Achariya, of —do—
6. Ramgopal Pal of M.A.M.C., Durgapur.
7. Rathi Bhattacharjee of M.A.M.C, Durgapur.
8. Sukhomoy Dutta of —do—
9. Gopal Sinha Roy of —do—
10. Biswanath Ghosh of Durgapur Project Ltd.

In Chittaranjan, false cases have been instituted against 223 persons out of which 123 persons are workers of the Chittaranjan Locomotive factory. (Public Sector undertaking).

In Asansol-Burnpur area six leading Trade Union workers were detained under the PVA Act.

The colliery workers of Raniganj coal belt are victims of the fiercest attacks carried on by the colliery owners with the help of Congress (R) gangsters and police. Over 1000 leading trade union workers of the collieries are in detention. One T. N. Sukla, an expelled Member of Socialist Party who has now joined Congress (R) is the main organiser of the attacks now being carried on in this area. The hooligans are forcing the coal-mine workers to become members of Congress (R) union and those who refuse are not allowed to join their work. The Dhawras (i. e. quarter of colliery workers) are being looted and hundreds of workers have been evicted from their houses.

In Farakka Barrage Project the following unions officials were detained under M I S A :

1. Asutosh Neogy, Joint Secretary,
Engineers' Association.
2. Sukhomoy Bose, General Secretary,
Staff Association.
3. Anup Kumar Mitra, Vice-President,
Staff Association.

4. Mihir Chatterjee, General Secretary,
Farakka Barrage Project Workers' Union.

Criminal cases were instituted against all of them. When the criminal cases were dismissed they were detained under MISA. The reasons ascribed for detaining them under MISA relates to some alleged incidents reported to have happened one or two years back. Immediately after arrest of these important union functionaries at Farakka their union offices were occupied by the hooligans of Youth Congress who put up their own union name plate. Thereafter, the gangsters have started terrorising the workers to force them to become members of the INTUC Union. This is one of the cases how Police, CRP and administrative power is being used to suppress trade union movement and force upon the workers the government supported union. This is being done when more than a thousand workers are awaiting retrenchment. Hooligans' main object is to frustrate any movement against retrenchment.

The police officers refuse to take diary (FIR) of any incident of attack. When workers or union leaders go to police stations to report incidents, they are either arrested on false charges or assaulted and thrown out. Kanu Dutta, a resident of Durgapur Project Coke Oven Colony at Durgapur was murdered in April 1971. His elder brother Sri Ajoy Dutta went to the police station to report the murder of Kanu Dutta. Police immediately arrested Sri Ajoy Dutta.

One worker of Ichapore Rifle Factory while travelling in a public bus was forcibly brought down by armed gangsters and murdered. In protest against this murder when the workers along with the Works Manager of the Rifle Factory (a class I Govt. Servant) came to the Police Station, the Police Officials not only refused to record the protest but also resorted to lathi charge forcing them to leave the police station.

Since July, 1971 only 100 yards from Raj Bhavan Calcutta where you live, the anti-social elements with the help of police have virtually occupied Great Eastern Hotel and have forcibly driven out 35 leading workers including Executive Committee members of CITU affiliated Great Eastern Hotel Employees' and Workers Union. They are still not allowed to enter into the hotel and to report to their duties. About 40 representations were given by the union to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central), Calcutta, Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary of West Bengal in this regard. But no action was taken. Md. Ismail, M. P., President of CITU, West Bengal Committee met you personally and narrated the position. But even now the workers are not being allowed to report to their duties and the anti-social elements are still in the hotel. The whole purpose of these attacks is to force the workers to join Congress (R) sponsored union. The workers who refuse to join Congress (R) union are assaulted. So far 12 workers have been severely beaten by the hooligans.

Even under the National Emergency following the war declared by Pakistan against India, the attacks were continued by the Police, CRP and Congress (R) gangsters with unabated fury. We cite here some of the incidents :

On 3rd December, 1971 : The Congress (R) gangsters with the help of police attacked the workers of Shri Amritnagar Colliery, Raniganj and forcibly evicted about 1000 workers from their houses (i.e. dhawras). Police instead of protecting the workers arrested 95 innocent workers on 8th December, 1971. Shri Rabin Chatterjee, General Secretary of Colliery Mazdoor Sabha, Raniganj along with Sri Bamapada Mukherjee, Ex-MLA from Burnpur met the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police of Burdwan, but without any result.

On 10th December, 1971 : The Congress (R) gangsters attacked the Santhal Workers of Babudanga Village, Jote

Janki Colliery and Topsi Colliery of Raniganj Coal Field area with the help of police.

On 11th December, 1971 : Police arrested 5 Trade Union leaders of Sen-Raleigh workers who are continuing their struggle against closure of the factory since last 9 months.

On 12th December, 1971 : Congress (R) gangsters attacked the Branch Office of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union at Titagarh and destroyed the office records. Police on the same day arrested three workers of the Union instead of taking any action against the miscreants.

On 16th December, 1971 : The armed gangsters along with Police and CRP attacked the workers of Jay Engineering Works in Usha quarters, Poddarnagar and Katjunagar Colony ; they broke open union office and brutally assaulted the wife and daughter of Madan Mohanta, a worker of Jay Engineering Works.

On 19th December, 1971 : Congress (R) gangsters along with CRP and Police attacked the people of Rajendra Prosad Colony in Tollygunj-Jadavpur area of Calcutta.

Congress (R) gangsters attacked the people of the area covered by Gray Street, Bagbazar Street, Jatindramohan Avenue and Chitpore Road of Calcutta. The attacks was prolonged for a number of hours. The Police Vans bearing No. WBS 9132, WBS 2333, WBJ 9196, WBH 490 and WBS 9196 (Jeep) with police contingents were all along present in the area when the marauders carried on the attacks. But Police did not give any protection to the people attacked by the gangsters.

On 20th December, 1971 : The Congress (R) gangsters attacked Sri Haridas Malakar, General Secretary of Jay Engineering

Workers' Union. He narrowly escaped the bomb thrown at him. The gangsters also attacked Sri Ramen Sen, Councillor of Calcutta Corporation from Jadavpur Area. In protest against this attack the Mayor of Calcutta said :

"It has come to my knowledge that the residence of Sri Ramen Sen, a Councillor, Corporation of Calcutta, has been damaged by some miscreants who came with the intention of physical assault which might be resulted in an extreme end. I condemn this sort of action launched against a people's representative. I also condemn the action of those miscreants who even dared to assault the wife of Sri Ramen Sen in his absence."

Sd/- S. S. GUPTA,
22.12.'71.

On 17th, 18th and 19th December, 1971 the Congress (R) gangsters carried on house to house attacks in Jadavpur-Tollygunj-Bijoygarh-Netaji Nagar Colony area and also in Mia Bagan Bustee almost like witch hunting. The women were attacked in large scale.

These apart, the Congress (R) gangsters carried series of attacks in the night taking advantage of blackout during the war with Pakistan in Tollygunj, Jadavpur, Noapara, Khardah, Dum Dum, Cossipur, Dakshindari, Beliaghata, Batanagar, Durgapur and Raniganj Coal Field area. And the attacks still continue.

In Haldia Port (Midnapore District) S. E. Railway retrenched 527 workers of Haldia Link Railway on 28. 12. 1971 taking advantage of the National Emergency and it is learnt that West Bengal Government gave green signal to execute this retrenchment scheme.

The attack is not confined on the workers only. It is equally directed against the members of workers families.

On December 25, 1971 at about 5 P.M. more than dozen police personnel in plain clothes entered into K.S. Roy T.B. Hos-

pital compound where some young boys were playing games. One Bablu was also there along with his friends. Suddenly police personnel rushed to Bablu without any incident or provocation and fired at him. Bablu out of fear and to save his life started running and when he came near the pond within the hospital compound, a bullet fired by the police hit him and he fell into the pond. Police made no attempt to remove Bablu's body. What is strange is that when Shri Prasanta Sanyal, Ex-Mayor of Calcutta reported the incident to the Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas on 25 December, 1971, the S.P. said that no such incident was reported to him. The next day when Bablu's body was removed by police and the matter was again reported to the S.P., he remained silent.

Sreemati Madhabi Mazumder, aged about 45, mother of a few children, residing at 233 A, Netaji Subhas Ch. Bose Road, Calcutta-40, was going for shopping on 17th December, 1971. On the way she was caught by Shri R.K. Mohanty, C. I. and Officer-in-Charge of Jadavpur Police Station, Calcutta by the neck. Shri Mohanty abused her most filthily and kicked her in the buttock with his boots.

On 18th December, 1971 the Police Officer, Shri R. K. Mohanty while on a chase assaulted another woman Smt. Jashomati Bhattacharjee of 60-K, Subhas Colony, Calcutta-40 with the butt of the revolver. There are hundreds of such cases in various places.

Smt. Asima Poddar, a young girl of Beliaghata was arrested by police. In the police lock-up of Beliaghata Police Station she was stripped-off her clothes, molested and brutally tortured.

In the whole process of this repression thousands of workers have been uprooted from their dwelling places and hundreds of them have been forcibly prevented from reporting to their duties. A good number of union offices have been burnt and occupied by Congress (R) gangsters. The whole purpose of the attack is to suppress trade union and democratic

movement by creating a reign of terror. It is a deliberate attempt to gag the voice of the workers and the people and to deny them their basic democratic rights. This can not continue for long and people are no more ready to bear this repression.

We, therefore, demand of you as the Chief Executive of the State Administration under President's Rule in West Bengal that :

1. The repression and attacks on trade union and democratic movement should stop immediately.

2. The Government should immediately stop supporting the armed gangsters. Police and CRP should be directed not to interfere in trade union and democratic movement and not to help the gangsters. The gangsters and anti-social elements creating terror should be brought to book.

3. All repressive measures including PVA Act and MISA should be withdrawn. CRP forces should be immediately withdrawn from West Bengal.

4. The Government should be impartial and public enquiry should be held on the conduct of police and Government Officials involved in encouraging and aiding and abetting the gangsters in carrying on the attacks and all guilty officers should be punished.

5. The political prisoners sent out of West Bengal should be immediately brought back and pending their release they should be given the status of Class I prisoners and given human treatment.

6. Unlimited powers given to police under President's Rule in West Bengal should be curbed and public enquiries should be held on all murders committed by police including murders committed in police lock-ups and in prisons and all guilty officers should be punished.

7. All persons connected with trade union and democratic movement arrested under PVA Act, MISA and in various cases should be immediately released.

8. All closed factories, offices, coal-mines and establishments should be immediately reopened with full compliment. If the employers refuse to reopen the closed units they should be taken over by the Government with full guarantee to workers' rights and entitlements.

9. The derogatory clauses of Industrial (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 1971 which curtails the basic rights of the workers in so far as it empowers the Government to suspend Industrial Disputes Act, Industrial Employment (Standing order) Act and the Minimum Wages Act in industrial undertakings taken over by the Government, should be repealed and right of the workers should be restored.

10. Either employment or unemployment benefit should be provided to all who are unemployed.

11. Full trade union and democratic rights should be guaranteed.

12. National Emergency should be immediately withdrawn.

Sd/- MD. ISMAIL
President,

Sd/- MONORANJAN ROY
General Secretary.

**CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS,
WEST BENGAL COMMITTEE.**

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