

'ENCOUNTER' KILLINGS
IN
ANDHRA PRADESH



EXCERPTS FROM REPORTS
OF
A. P. CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

Assault on the peasant movement of Andhra Pradesh by the Telugu Desam Government

There has been a sudden spurt in the assault on the peasant movement of Andhra Pradesh by the Government of N. T. Rama Rao. Ever since he came to power in 1983 he has been giving a 'free hand' to the police to crush the peasant movement. In this, ofcourse, he is only continuing the Congress policy, but with redoubled vigour. It began with illegal arrests, torture, destruction of houses and property, and now it has taken the form of 'encounter' killings. There is also the talk that N. T. Rama Rao's Government will not only use Rajiv Gandhi's Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985, but will enact its own Terrorist Act to crush the rural poor fighting for their basic needs.

Eighteen revolutionary activists, sympathisers and peasants have been killed in 'encounters' this year. Investigation by independent journalists and by A. P. Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC) have revealed that all the 'encounters' are fake. We enclose here excerpts from the reports of APCLC. Some of the victims were awoken from sleep and killed, some were arrested and then killed, and some were chased and killed. Needless to say, there has not been a single casualty on the side of the police.

For the peasant movement in Andhra Pradesh, these killings are not new. The then Congress Home Minister (at present President of the PCC (I), Vengala Rao, started these fake 'encounter' killings to suppress the mass movement of the oppressed tribals of Srikakulam. In the conflict between the exploited tribals and the exploiting moneylenders, traders, and landlords from the plains, the State openly proclaimed itself on the side of the exploiters. The killings were continued in

the Emergency period. A total of 450 revolutionary activists, peasants and students were killed in this period. After the lifting of the Emergency, there was a respite for the first three years. The killings started again after Mrs. Gandhi came back to power in 1980, and there have been killings every year since then, with the only exception of 1984. The reason for this exception is perhaps the split and the crisis in the Telugu Desam, which kept the rulers busy with their own troubles. This year, after N. T. R.'s return to power, there has been a sudden spurt of killings.

The State resorts to such murders whenever the mass movement increases in its spread and popularity. In recent years the peasant movement has gained strength among the tribals and in the plains in large parts of the state. From the Gonds of Adilabad to the Koyas and Kondareddys of Khammam, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts, the forests are now alive with tribal peasants struggling for land. In Karimnagar, Warangal, and Nizamabad the organised strength of the poor peasantry has become a nightmare for the landlords and the Excise contractors. The landlords have been the traditional exploiters of the people in these districts. They are themselves the leaders and organisers of the bourgeois parties, and they have enacted land-ceiling laws which they could easily evade. In a district like Warangal, barely a fraction of one percent of the land has been distributed to the landless, a fact that speaks volumes against the State's claims to have implemented land reforms. In addition to their traditional methods of oppression the landlords have gained control of the Co-operative credit and Marketing Societies, and of the Panchayat Raj setup and are using this authority to buttress their feudal power. They pay the labourers less than the legally prescribed minimum wages but use modern technology to obtain good yields and run a prosperous agriculture. Through their mouthpieces like the B. J. P., Telugu Desam and Congress (I), they keep up an incessant clamour about 'extremists' and egg on the Government and the police to torture and kill the peasant activists.

Added to these old exploiters are the new exploiters, the excise contractors. The rise to dominance of these ruthless exploiters is a little-known aspect of Centre-State relations. The State Governments, in the name of greater fiscal powers to them-

selves, are raising revenue by all manner of methods. One of them is to rob the poor labourer who drinks a glass of arrack at the end of his day's labour. Devising means of increasing Excise revenue has become a major concern of the State Government. This has resulted in the rise of powerful groups of Excise Contractors. These contractors buy arrack at the rate of 6 Rs. per litre, and sell it to the labourers at the rate of about 40 Rs. The remainder is shared between the government (Excise rental) and the contractor (profit). Both of them are thus amassing crores of rupees on the sweat and blood of the poor.

It is for fighting these exploiters that the tribals, the poor peasants and the agricultural labourers are being described as 'extremists'. The most inhuman violence has been unleashed on the people. Their houses have been destroyed, the women have been abused, insulted and raped, and the youth have been tortured and killed in lockup; private armies of the landlords, acting under the labels of R.S.S., B.J.P. and A.B.V.P. are allowed a free rein to assault and attack the rural poor and progressive intellectuals with impunity. In places like Jagtial, when a peasant activist is arrested by the police, it is the A.B.V.P. youth who are first called in to torture them in lockup, and then the police finish the job. And now it is 'encounters'.

To enable its assault the State Government has proclaimed that it is going to use Rajiv Gandhi's Terrorist Act, and further supplement it with its own Act. The unique feature of this supplementary Act is that it is going to designate literary and cultural organisations sympathetic to the revolutionary movement, as well as civil liberties organisations, as 'front organisations' and will restrict their movements and activities. This is in addition to the Central Act's description of literary, cultural activity questioning the 'sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country' as Disruptive activity, punishable with death or imprisonment for life.

The recent 'encounter's are therefore only a stage in the unceasing efforts of the the ruling classes to preserve their property and power. The government therefore does not want any fact to be made about it. The State Home Minister, Vasanth Dageswara Rao, has described the killings as a 'routine affair' with a candour that only a lumpen-politician can exhibit;

and he is quite openly rewarding the policemen who have participated in the killings. The rumour is that reward is Rs. 20,000 per killing. Thus these are not only political murders but mercenary killings as well.

The Government says they are not, and that they are true encounters'. If that is so, we would like to pose a few questions: how is it that in not even one instance has there been a casualty, or even a serious injury, on the side of the police? why is it that in all the cases the police themselves have acted as cremators instead of giving the bodies to the kith and kin of the deceased? Why is it that the postmortem examination in such unseemly hurry, at the very spot of killing, and not in a properly equipped hospital? Why is it that when a Magisterial enquiry takes place, the village is filled with policemen and the witness are arrested, threatened and intimidated? And why is it that in the one case where a proper enquiry was conducted, the District Magistrate was transferred within a week of submitting his report?

The State has no answer to these questions other than to describe those who pose them as terrorists or Disruptive elements. We are undaunted nevertheless, and invite all democrats to join us in condemning this State terrorism.

List of 'Encounter' Victims

No.	Date	Place	Victims
1.	21-1-85	Pembatla Jagtial tq. Karimnagar Dt.	Khairi Gangaram
2.	28-3-85	Veerabhadram Bhadrachalam tq. Khamam Dt.	Arsapalli Venkateswara Rao (alias Chandranna)
3.	10 / 11-4-85	Venktraoppet / Kondapur Vemulawada tq. Karimnagar Dt.	Gotte Raghūpathi Pani Sathaiah Banda Gangaiah Vuppala Lakshmirajam, Tadu Rajaiah
4.	1-5-85	Baswapur Domakonda tq. Nizamabad Dt.	Rajanarsu Reddymalli Babu
5.	6/7-5-85	Bommireddypalli Sultanabad tq. Karimnagar Dt.	Siddaiah Panuganti Rajalingu
6.	13-5-85	Lodvefli Sirpur tq. Adilabad Dt	Puli Madhunaiah Ankoli Ramesh
7.	26-5-85	Chinanakkalpet Jagtial tq. Karimnagar Dt.	Gundla Narayana
8.	27/28-5-85	Narsapur Mulug tq Warangal Dt	Pingili Bhupati Reddy Kavatam Saraiah
9.	28-5-85	Jagtial Karimnagar Dt.	Govinda Reddy
10.	10-6-85	Darrur Jagtial tq. Karimnagar Dt.	M. Ramulu

Excerpts from APCLC Reports on the 'Encounters'

Fact Finding committees appointed by APCLC went to the places of the 'Encounters' and after interviewing various sections of people and officials submitted detailed reports. These reports explained the 'encounter' killings in the backdrop of political, economic and social aspects. Here we reproduce some excerpts from the reports.

1. KARIMNAGAR (JAGTIAL) :

The First Encounter incident in 1985, in which Khairi Gangaram was killed, occurred at Pambatla Village, Jagtial Taluka, Karimnagar District. Pambatla Village is about 10 Kms from Jagtial.

On 21-1-85 Khairi Gangaram went to Pambatla village & stayed in a small house along with three others. The house is in Pochampalli, a hamlet of Pambatla. Around 11-00 A. M. the police arrived in the village. On seeing the Police the three people escaped. Police then surrounded the house and asked Gangaram to come out. They promised him that they would not harm him. Gangaram refused to come out for fear of being killed. In the mean time the policemen climbed over the roof, removed the tiles, and shot Gangaram to death. However some people believe that Gangaram might have committed suicide before the police fired. The police claimed that there was an 'encounter' in which S. I. Jaganmohan Reddy was injured. The S. I. had an injury on his temple, but the people of the area believe that he got injured while climbing on to the roof to shoot down Gangaram. It must be added here that for the police of Karimnagar destroying houses by removing the roof is a very common practice. Over the last one year they have destroyed the roofs of atleast 100 houses in various villages of the district.

The dead body was sent for postmortem the following day around noon. In the evening the dead was cremated by the police at Rechapalli, Gangaram's native place.

2. KHAMMAM (VEERABHADRAM) :

On the 28th of march, 1985 an activist by name A. Venkateswar Rao (alias Chandranna) was killed in an alleged 'encounter' at Veerabhadram in Khammam District

Veerabhadram is a small tribal hamlet consisting of about 30 to 40 Koya house-holds. It is located about 20 Kms to the North of Bhadrachalam. This area between the Godavari river and the Madhya Pradesh border is a region that is getting rapidly deforested. The tribal lands are all being occupied by non-tribals. Though no non-tribal is supposed to acquire land in tribal areas all the best land is in the hands of non-tribal land-owners who are using the rich soil to cultivate commercial crops like tobacco.

Arsapalli Venkateswara Rao alias Chandranna was working in this area, organising the tribals. One of the gains they achieved under his leadership was that the retail price of arrack, which was Rs. 2-00 per 100 ml was brought down to Rs. 1-10 last year and Rs. 1-20 this year. It was in connection with this struggle that Chandranna wanted to discuss some matters with the excise contractor, Mr. Pande. They fixed an appointment at Veerabhadram on 28th March. Chandranna came to the Village on 27th and sent word to fix the appointment. On 8th at noon, he came again to the village. He stayed in the house of a tribal by name Matta Lakshmaiah and sent Lakshmaiah to find out whether the contractor had come. Lakshmaiah went to the contractor's gumastha, Mr. Venkateswar Rao, and came back with the message that the contractor would come, and Chandranna should wait.

However, it was not the contractor who came but the police, led by Venkat Reddy, C. I. of Bhadrachalam. The people of Veerabhadram, who remember Chandranna with a lot of affection, believe that it was the excise contractor who tipped off the police.

The Police came in plain clothes, with the arms in their hands covered by a cloth. Two policemen came to Lakshmaiah's house, where Chandranna was taking rest. Lakshmaiah's house consists of two separate one-room huts, one big and one small.

Neither of them has a door or even a proper wall. They are more like small sheds than even huts. Chandranna, who was not well, was resting in the smaller of the two huts. On the previous day and the day before that he was seen taking analgin tablets by the people of Kasinageram and Kannaigudem.

Seeing the police come, Chandranna immediately got up and started running. Lakshmaiah and his frail and sickly wife Chinnakka, ran in the other direction. According to Chinnakka, Chandranna was dressed in a lungi and had a small hand bag with him. She did not see any weapon with him. The two policemen who chased Chandranna fired at him from behind and missed. But another police party coming from the front fired at him and hit him. According to the doctor who performed the post-mortem, he had two bullet injuries, one on the left forehead and the other in the chest. The people of Veerabhadram are emphatic that there was no exchange of fire between Chandranna and the police.

3. KARIMNAGAR (VENKATRAOPET) :

This 'encounter' is without doubt the most shameful that has taken place in recent times. Even if the Government has given orders to the police that 'extremists' are to be killed without compunction, (which we believe to be the case) this killing is still inexplicable because two of the five victims, Tadu Rajaiah and Vuppala Lakshmirajam, were ordinary peasants of Venkatraopet and not 'extremists'.

According to Lakshmi, mother of Lakshmirajam, the young-man had, for the last three years, been making hectic efforts to go to the gulf countries. Theirs is a landless family of the Tenuga Caste that makes its living by working as share-croppers; they cultivate about one and a half acre of land on share. Lakshmirajam had borrowed about 12,000 rupees from various persons and had spent the last three years going around a broker in Bombay, trying to get a chance to go to the Gulf Countries. Lakshmi said that he had come back from Bombay exactly 4 days prior to his killing; she herself had written to him to come home to help in harvesting the crop. On the fateful night of 10th April, he went to the fields to keep vigil over the harvested crop. Incidentally, Lakshmirajam was the eldest of seven

brothers and sisters. He was married but had no children. All his three children had died.

Tadu Rajaiah's case is similar. According to his father Tadu Kasaiah, Rajaiah had also borrowed Rs. 25,000 to go to the Gulf Countries and had been spending the last three years in Bombay in that effort. He had come back to the village only one month prior to his death. His father has about 2 1/2 acres of land. On the night of 10th April, Rajaiah also went to the fields to keep watch over the standing crop.

It was in the fields that they must have met Gotte Raghupati Sathaiah and Gangaiah. Since the C. P. I. (M. L.) has been working in this area for nearly a decade, and the poor peasantry has achieved many gains due to their organisation, Lakshmirajam and Rajaiah must have gone to talk to them. After discussing the affairs of the village for a while, all of them fell asleep.

What happened afterwards is best revealed by 'an eyewitness account of the encounter' that appeared in the papers a few days ago. According to that account, there was one more person in addition to the five killed. They were all fast asleep when the police came and woke them by thrusting rifles into the chest and thighs. There were 15 policemen including Francis, S. I. of Vernulavada and Veeraswamy, S. I. of Konaraopet. They were pulled up by the hair and made to stand in a row. Their hands were tied behind the back with their own towels. Then they were made to sit in a row facing Kondapur village, and after the two S.I.s had a consultation, they were all deliberately gunned down. The person who gave this account to the press says that while the police were trying to arrange the bodies as if it was a real encounter, he slipped away and escaped. Lakshmirajam also attempted to escape but he was chased and killed.

This is corroborated by many facts, Firstly, according to Dr Ananta Rao of Sirisilla who performed the post-mortem, as well as Mr Pallam Narasiah, Sarpanch of Venkatrapet, who was called by the police to identify the dead bodies, all the bodies had bullet wounds only in the front, and that too mostly from the waist upwards (chest, abdomen, shoulders, etc).

Secondly, no Policeman was injured in the 'encounter' as claimed by the Police. S.I. Francis and C I Shariff, who are supposed to have been injured, merely had scratches on the forearm and the neck (respectively) which the doctor could not identify as having been made by bomb or bullets. Thirdly, the police did not allow anybody to come near the place of 'encounter' throughout the 11th. When Lakshmirajam's mother Lakshmi went near the place, identified her son by his lungis and chappals, and tried to go close to the body, the police who had completely encircled the area, drove her back saying 'it is not your son, it is somebody else'. The police themselves cremated all the five bodies at one spot in an open place down the ridge. One can still see the ashes of the bodies at that spot.

It appears that there were two other persons, Bairigoni Lingayya and Nalika Ramulu, who were near the spot and witnessed the incident. They are both farm-servants who were keeping watch over the motor that had been fitted to a well and was watering the fields. Of them Lingayya is an old man who can see and hear little. But Nalika Ramulu is a young man who knows all that happened that night. THE POLICE HAVE BEEN KEEPING HIM IN THEIR CUSTODY SINCE THE DAY OF THE KILLINGS. HE IS BEING SHIFTED BETWEEN VEMULAVADA AND SIRISILLA POLICE STATIONS BUT IS NOT BEING ALLOWED TO GO OUT OF THE SIGHT OF THE POLICE. Their intention, obviously, is that no journalist or member of the public should meet him, and that if and when an enquiry is held, THE ONLY WITNESS SHOULD TELL THEIR VERSION OF THE STORY. The continued (and illegal) detention of Nalika Ramulu in Police custody is the final proof that it was not an 'encounter' but deliberate and cold-blooded murder that took place on the night of 10th April at Venkatraopet.

A couple of days after this 'encounter' the police gathered at one place the people of Venkatraopet, Kondapur and other neighbouring villages, and beat them en masse so that they would not reveal anything to anyone.

4. BASWAPUR (NIZAMABAD) :

Baswapur is a village on the 7th National Highway. It is in Domakonda taluka of Nizamabad District, situated about 25 kms

(towards Hyderabad) from Kamareddy town. The village proper is on the right side of the highway but its boundary extends far to the left of the highway. It is in the fields on the left beyond the metre-gauge railway line from Hyderabad to Nizamabad that the encounter took place. The police version is that on the afternoon of 1st May a party of policemen stumbled upon a group of five naxalites, who immediately fired upon them. The police returned the fire. In this exchange the two Naxalites died and a constable by name Sakru Singh was injured.

The truth about the Baswapur incident is as follows: The Naxalites have a certain amount of influence among the people of the village. Under their leadership the people had fought and increased the wages for picking beedi-leaf from 11 paise per bundle (of 100 leaves) to 20 paise. They had also (unsuccessfully) agitated for reduction of the price of toddy from 1 Rupee per bottle to 0.50 paise. This had angered Mr. Balagoud, leader of the village, toddy-tappers society, and beedi-leaf contractor, Mr. Malla Reddy, who is Sarpanch of the village as well as a landlord holding more than 50 acres of land. It is believed by the people of Baswapur that it was upon the information given by these two persons that the police came to know of the whereabouts of the activists.

At about 2 p.m. of 1st May, the five activists were at a place beyond the railway line. Four of them were resting under a mango tree and the fifth, Reddymalli Babu, had gone to a well to fetch water. A police party (Anti-Naxalite Squad) spied them and approached Babu. The policemen were dressed like peasants, but had weapons with them. A shepherd who was nearby saw them and shouted to the activists, alerting them about the police. Babu tried to run and the police shot at him. He ran upto the mango tree and fell down. The other four started running. The police chased and fired at them. They turned back and returned the fire. One of the activists, Rajanarsu, fell down. A constable, Sakru Singh, was injured on the shoulder. The police then gave up the case and leaving one police man in charge of the injured activists. The others escorted the injured policeman to hospital. (This incidentally, is the only 'encounter' in which a policeman was atleast injured he is, however, safe and well).

All this was seen by two peasants who have their fields near the spot. One is Maddi Siddaramulu and the other Pundarikam. Pundarikam saw the whole incident and Siddaramulu saw the later half. The policeman left in charge of Babu beckoned to these two peasants and asked them to bring water. Siddaramulu brought water. He saw that Babu was injured in the back and his hands were tied with a towel behind the back. BUT HE WAS FULLY CONSCIOUS, DRANK THE WATER, AND ANSWERED THE POLICEMAN'S QUESTIONS. Siddaramulu was then asked to go away, but Pundarikam was detained under the mango tree, till the next evening, when the post-mortem and the cremation were done. THE POST-MORTEM WAS PERFORMED ON THE SPOT AND NOT IN A PROPERLY EQUIPPED HOSPITAL. Also, the POLICE DID NOT HAND OVER THE DEAD BODIES TO THE RELATIVES, BUT THEY THEMSELVES CREMATED THEM. The half-burnt bones of the dead men can be seen there even now.

It is not clear whether Rajanarsu died instantly or was later killed by the police. But Babu, who was alive when the EYE-WITNESS SAW HIM, EITHER DIED LATER DUE TO LACK OF PROPER MEDICAL AID, OR WAS DELIBERATELY KILLED BY THE POLICE AFTER INTERROGATING HIM.

5. BOMMIREDDYPALLI (KARIMNAGAR) :

This village is situated about 36 kms. from Karimnagar town, very close to the Karimnagar-Lakshettipet road. It is in Sultanabad Taluq, under Dharmaram police station limits.

The police version of the incident is that on the evening of 6th May they came to know that a Naxalite by name Siddiah was taking shelter in the house of one Panuganti Raja lingu. When the police raided the house, Siddiah and Rajalingu ran away and also, fired back at the police. The police fired in self-defence and killed both of them. The police did not even claim that any one of them was injured.

The APCLC team spoke to Rajalingu's wife and mother, some people of the village and to the S. I. of Dharmaram (who however, refused to say anything to the team). Rajalingu was

a peasant with three acres of land. He was 30 years old. He leaves behind a young wife, a four year old child, and debts worth Rs. 30,000/- He was not known as a prominent sympathiser of the Naxalites. But one day somebody stole the belt of the motor engine attached to the well in his fields. He came to know that somebody from a village by name Pathipaka Narsingapuram had stolen it. He informed this to the naxalites and they recovered it. Siddaiah came to Bommireddypalli on 6th evening to hand over the recovered belt to Rajalingu. Rajalingu asked him to have food at his place.

According to Rajalingu's wife Chandramma, the two men had dinner and Siddaiah went out to sleep somewhere else. She slept in front of the house and her husband in the yard by the side of the house. During the night the police came and picked up her husband and took him away. She told the team that she thought 'they would keep him till they find Siddaiah'. The next thing she knew was in the morning when the police came to her at 8 a. m. and told her that her husband had died. Though she insisted that she did not know what happened during the night; she also repeatedly said that 'they tied them to a tree and killed them'. She pointed to a tamarind tree behind the house as the tree to which they had been tied and killed. When she saw her husband's body the next morning it was lying, on the stomach and the back had the appearance of having been tied to a tree. Her husband's body was handed over to her, but **SIDDAIAH WAS CREMATED BY THE POLICE THEMSELVES.**

6. LODVELLI (ADILABAD)

The village is under panchikalpet police station limits, about 15 kms. from Kagaznagar.

The police version is that on 13th May they came to know that some extremists, were meeting at Lodvelli, the police went there and as they approached them the extremists fired at them; the police returned fire in self-defence. The number of victims was first given as 2, then as 3, and then again corrected as 2, the police have not claimed that any policeman was injured.

It so happens that quite a few villagers witnessed the incident. The police are keeping a heavy guard at the village to prevent any body from entering the village to investigate. But

APCLC met some villagers outside the village and gathered the facts.

At about 7-30 p. m. of 13th, a group of six activists came to the village. 2 hours later, another 3 activists, including Puli Maduniah, came. There is a hut consisting of two rooms at the outskirts of the village near a dried up rivulet. Maduniah and Ankoli Ramesh were sitting in one room. One other person was sitting in the other room. The remaining activists were standing outside the hut, talking to some villagers. There is a beedi-leaf KALLAM (collection centre) near the hut, in the bed of the rivulet and there were some people there.

The police came dressed as villagers to the spot. They shone their torch light and the activists standing outside the hut, taking them to be villagers, asked them to put off the light. The police then identified themselves and said 'we will shoot if you move'. The persons standing outside the hut ran along the rivulet. The police fired into the hut injuring Maduniah and Ramesh. Then they chased those who had run away but could not catch them. Then they came back to the hut. The third person sitting in the other room of the hut suddenly dashed out to save his life. The police fired at him as he ran past them. (They seem to have thought they got him too and therefore counted the number as three) They then again fired into the hut to ensure that Maduniah and Ramesh really died.

The press release given by the police mentioned that in addition to arms they also recovered Rs. 75,000 in cash from the dead naxalites. BUT IT IS LEARNT FROM THE VILLAGERS WHO SAW THEM COUNT THE MONEY THAT THE CASH WITH THEM WAS ABOVE Rs. 2,50,000/-. THE POLICE HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHAT WAS HAPPENED TO THE REMAINING Rs. 1,75,000/-.

7. CHINNANAKKALAPET (KARIMNAGAR)

Gundla Narayana, the victim, and Thumma Lakshminarayana were sleeping in a house at Chinnanakkalapet on the night of 25th - 26th May. At about 1-30 p. m., a large contingent of policemen came and surrounded the house, one policeman came through the front door and fired straight at the sleeping

persons. They ran and went out of the back door of the house. By this time Narayana was already injured.

As they ran out from behind the house, another group of policemen chased them and fired at them. Narayana, apparently tired because of his wound, fell down. Lakshminarayana ran away. He turned back to see a constable taking deliberate aim at the wounded Narayana and killing him. Lakshminarayana was also chased until he crossed the Godavari river and saved himself.

The police, as usual, conducted the post-mortem at the spot of killing, and handed over the body to the relatives of the dead man.

(The village of Chinnanakkalpet is under Dharmapuri P. S. limits in the taluk of Jagtial, very close to the Godavari river.)

8. NARSAPUR (WARANGAL) *

This village is in Mulug taluka, situated about 7 Kms to the west of Mulug town and 54 Kms. from Warangal town. About 1 Km. beyond the village is a low semi-circular ridge with a lot of shrubs and a dried up rivulet in front of it.

The police version is that on May 26th evening they came to know that extremists were holding a meeting near the ridge, and went there. The extremists fired upon them and they returned fire. Two of the extremists, Bhupati Reddy and Saraiah, died and the other three ran away. No policeman was injured.

The fact finding committee spoke to Mr. Prabhakar Reddy, advocate of the deceased, to the father and brothers of Bhupati Reddy, to people of Narasapur and to Dr. Ram Reddy of Mulug who performed the post-mortem. The true facts are as follows.

Saraiah, native of Chelwai, was not an underground cadre. He was regularly attending court in the cases in which he was accused. On the morning of 26th May he came to Warangal town and met his advocate Mr. Prabhakar Reddy. They asked Saraiah to stay at home, gave him the keys to the house, and went to Hyderabad at 12 noon by the Konark Express. From that time till 10 p. m. in the night Saraiah was alone at home.

Bhupati Reddy came to Warangal that night. He met his younger brother Raghupati Reddy and Mahender Reddy at the Bus Stand and told them that he was going to his advocate's house. He reached the house at 10 p. m. He and Saraiah cooked food but they did not eat it. At about 10-30 p. m. the police came and arrested them. The neighbours saw the police searching the backyard of the house with a torch light. The police took them in a jeep to Narsapur and shot them dead near the ridge. In the evening of 28th May they got the post-mortem performed, and themselves cremated the bodies without handing them over to the relatives. The police had no reason for killing Saraiah other than he should not reveal Bhupati Reddy's killing to the public.

9. JAGTIAL (KARIMNAGAR)

Jagtial is a taluka headquarters town. The taluka has long been notorious for the worst kind of feudal exploitation. It was in Jagtial that the Naxalite movement burst out in 1978. Immediately the taluka was declared a 'disturbed area' and it continues to be such.

The Police version in this incident is very garbled. They first said that upon coming to know that a suspicious person was staying in a house on the outskirts of the town the police went there. When they asked the person to come out, he came out and ran away. (According to one version he tried to escape on a motor cycle). The police chased him. He turned back and fired at the police and ran. In 'self - defence' the police fired at him and killed him. Then identified him as one Pavan Kumar of the C. P. Reddy group of CPI (ML), and said that they discovered in his possession a weapon allegedly stolen by this group from a police officer at Gattubuthkur last year. But later they realised that he is not that person and have kept quite. Now a magisterial enquiry has been ordered into the death of an 'unknown person'.

APCLC has learnt from people of Nizamabad who saw the dead man's photograph that he is one Govinda Reddy, native of Chitradurga district, Karnataka, and that until recently he was working as a manager at Hotel Mayuri in Nizamabad. According to police who saw the 'encounter', Govinda Reddy was in a

house at the outskirts of Jagtial. He sent a boy to fetch him cigarettes. The police saw the boy purchasing cigarettes at the old bus stand in the town. They became suspicious and beat the boy and found that somebody was staying in the house. They went to the house, arrested Govinda Reddy, and took him out and killed him. The police apparently did not even know who the victim was. They first killed him and then tried to guess who he was.



For Copies :

K. BALAGOPAL,
6-8-190, Raghanna Darwaza,
Hanumakonda - 506 001.

O R

M. KODANDA RAM REDDY,
2-2-1144/11/3A/A, New Nallakunta,
Hyderabad - 500 044.

Contributory Price : One Rupee

All these killings have taken place at the behest of the Government, and the Home Minister Mr. Vasanta Nageswara Rao has been going around giving cash awards to the police officers who have participated in these killings. He has also made statements that these killings are 'routine'. At Karimnagar alone, awards were presented to 25 policemen by the Home Minister at a function held on 3rd June. Thus, the Government is providing material incentive to the policemen to commit these 'encounters'.
