

PEOPLE'S UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

PUBLICATIONS

People's Union for Civil Liberties & Democratic Rights
(1977-80)

1977

DISSENTING VOICES

p.p.32

..let them make children beg
but why call that education?
Let them kill the poor
but why call that democracy?

These are the voices of poets from some of the languages of India. The anthology shows that the poetic conscience of India is not silent at the time of crisis.

1978

ALIGARH RIOTS

p.p.12

A fact-finding team report on the riots in Aligarh on 5th Oct. '78. The team felt that communal disturbances were caused by a series of tension-ridden events which were allowed to develop from June onwards. It reached the climax on 5th October when Hindu communalists ran berserk against poor Muslims.

/ DISTURBED AREAS - JAGITYALA & SIRSILLA

p.p.12

A fact-finding team report on the measures used against the peasant movement in parts of Telangana area of Andhra Pradesh. Since August 1978 - arrest of around 800 peasants, institution of scores of criminal cases, firing on peasants by police and landlords, setting up of police camps in villages and culminating in the notification of the two taluks of Karimnagar district as disturbed areas.

1979

REPRESSION IN SINGHBHUM

p.p.40

The report of an investigation into the frequent instances of police firing on Adivasis in Chaibasa and oppression of landless labourers in Baharagora areas of Singhbhum in Bihar. Large scale arrests, beatings and molestations of women were reported through the latter part of 1978 and into 1979.

FARIDABAD INCIDENTS.

p.p.11

A fact-finding report into the police firing on 17 October 1979 in Faridabad wherein one of the worst orgies of violence, the Haryana police ran berserk and killed innocent people. The team which toured the area found that when a strike call was given by various trade unions, the provocation came from the police when the SI opened fire on an unarmed demonstration.

SIX PARLIAMENTS AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

p.p.21

Caste and communal violence, extraordinary laws and regulations, inhuman tortures, increasing police firings, slow judicial process and abominable jail conditions are some of the forms of attack on democratic rights. Six parliaments have come and gone, five prime ministers have changed, promises were made and assurances given. But the attack on people's rights continues. This report, essentially based on government data brings out the continuity of the assault.

1980

✓ ASSAM UNREST

p.p.23

A fact-finding team report on the agitation in Assam and reports of violence, arson, intimidation and killings. The team interviewed leaders from major political, social & student organizations, journalists, teachers and also representatives of linguistic and tribal minorities in Assam.

✓ BILASPUR INCIDENTS

p.p.8

A fact-finding team report on the burning of Harijan huts in Bilaspur allegedly by Jat landlords. The team feels that the Haryana police is covering up the incidents and is spreading the rumour that Harijans set fire to the huts themselves to cash in on the political atmosphere in the country.

✓ REPORT OF BEGGING IN DELHI

p.p.13

A study on the working of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, as adopted & extended to the Union Territory of Delhi. The report has an annexure on cases from Beggars' Court, kingsway camp.

RAPE SOCIETY AND STATE

p.p.12

"... Rape to hazaron saal se hota raha hai, aur aurat to bhogne ki cheez hai" a senior cabinet minister has

remarked. The attitude towards women embedded in our ancient culture has not undergone any basic change. The report comments upon the role of the state in this context and also the protest movements against rape.

REPORT ON THE ATTACK OF LITERARY WRITERS IN KERALA p.p.22

A report on the spate of arrest of literary writers, cultural activists and labourers many of whom were tortured from May 21 to July 31. The report concludes that govts. in all states pay scant attention to democratic values and the right to dissent.

Peoples' Union for Democratic Rights (1981 onwards)

1981

REPRESSION ON MINERS MOVEMENT p.p.34

A report of a fact-finding team on the arrests of leaders of the Chhattisgarh Mines Shramik Sangh (CMSS) on 11 February and subsequent police actions in the Dalli Rajhara Area.

ADIVASIS OF ADILABAD p.p.7

A fact-finding report into a police firing on a Girijan Rytu Coolie Sangham meeting at Indervalli, which left 60 dead and 100 injured. The fact that Gonds have been continuously alienated from their land and forest produce has been the main reason for tensions. Efforts by the tribals to organise themselves found stiff resistance from the state.

MODINAGAR MURDERS p.p.13

A fact-finding team report on the murder of Mr Jaya Prakash, a trade union leader on 29th June 1981. The team feels that these incidents point to a general increase in murders with money power and political power colluding and using the police to browbeat and terrorise trade union workers.

WHO BURNT BASANTI DEVI?

An investigation into the alleged torture of a Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) woman worker by the West Delhi police (Shakurpur) on the evening of June 30th 1981.

JHUGGI DWELLERS OF NEW SEEMAPURI p.p.8

A report on the demolition of 499 jhuggis in New Seemapuri on 25 August 1981.

CONVENTION PAPERS: Science Culture & Democratic Rights.

The papers submitted for the 1st Annual Convention of PUDR include, an analysis into the relevance, the need and the larger political context of PUDR, an attempt to draw a connection between science and democratic values by Prabir Mitra and a paper on Cultural Coercion and Creative Obligations by Sarveshwar Dayal Saxena.

AGRARIAN UNREST IN PATNA

p.p.26

A fact-finding team report into repression in Patna district, Bihar. It includes a Socio-economic background into the area and an analysis of the mass based democratic movement of poor peasants and agricultural labourers. The report concludes that the State Government and its police, with the active support of landlords and with explicit or implicit co-operation of all major political parties was attempting to suppress the movement.

1982

ISSUES BEYOND DELHI UNIVERSITY

p.p.2

A report condemning the premeditated attack on a Delhi University lecturer, who had protested against the College authorities.

UNDECLARED CIVIL WAR

p.p.42

A report on the Forest Bill which was soon to be enacted. The Government States its objectives to protect the fast depleting forests in the country. But the bill has far-reaching implications for our economy, environment, democratic polity and for the people who inhabit these forests. The report presents a critique of the forest policy and appeals to all democratic sections to oppose the bill and demand its withdrawal.

ENQUIRY INTO THE POLICE FIRING AT BHARWELI MINES p.p.28

A joint fact-finding team with the People's Union for Civil Liberties (Madhya Pradesh), and the committee for the Protection of Democratic Rights (Nagpur) visited Bharweli and Balaghat, where 3 workers working in the mine of the Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. (MOIL) were killed in a police firing, several others were injured and 15 leading activists were put in prison. The fact-finding team viewed the police firing as a continuation of the systematic harassment faced by the workers in their attempt to organise into an independent union.

CLAMPING DOWN ON WORKING CLASS RIGHTS

p.p.4.

A report on the Hospitals and other Institutions (Settlement of Disputes) Bill 1982, explaining it in the light of the already existing National Security Act (NSA) and the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA). The report includes a summary of the chapters of the bill and its consequences.

THE OTHER FACE OF ASIAD '82.

p.p.32.

The fact-finding report provides a documentary glimpse into the untold and sordid story that lies behind Asiad '82. The report contains extracts from the writ petition filed by PUDR in the Supreme Court and also sections from the historic judgement of Justice Bhagwati and Justice Bahrul Islam which has implications on the locus standi of petitioners, employment of children, migrant labour and civil and political rights.

1983

ONE YEAR OF A STRUGGLE

p.p.4

A report on the completion of one year of the strike by over 2.5 lakh textile workers of Bombay. By sheer magnitude and number this strike is the longest and most tenacious in the history of the trade union movement in India.

CONVENTION PAPERS : LEGAL SYSTEM, JUDICIARY AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

p.p.

Papers for the 2nd annual convention of PUDR consist of:

- (a) Taking suffering seriously : a paper by Upendra Baxi on social action litigation by the Supreme Court.
- (b) A paper on locus standi and public interest litigation by Govinda Mukhoty.
- (c) Costs of (IN) Justice.
- (d) A synopsis of Criminal Law and Democratic Rights.
- (e) A paper on the State Legal System and Social Movement by Arun Bose.

JUSTICE LIMITED

p.p.13

A report dealing with the question whether Public Interest Litigation which focuses on problem of implementing the basic right of the people and holds a promise for democratic rights movement can fulfil this promise in a system consisting of outdated colonial laws and operating in a Society insensitive to the needs of the people and a government which treats each demand as a law and order problem. The report contains a brief description of the Public Interest Litigation Cases taken up by PUDR.

ENDLESS WAR

p.p. 14

A report on the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers (Amendment) Act 1972, popularly known as the Disturbed Areas Act. This act has a unique character in that the armed forces reign supreme over the civil powers. The report feels that the democratic public can no longer remain silent spectators, and must take a firm stand, because neither legal safeguards nor judicial intervention can replace individual consciences and collective wisdom.

ASSAM IS NOT FOR BURNING

p.p. 2

The report deals with the widespread violence unleashed in the wake of the decision to hold elections, special acts and regulations, freedom of press, government employees, police atrocities and the deployment of paramilitary forces.

POLICE REPRESSION IN JAHANABAD

p.p. 10

A joint report with Association for Protection of Democratic Rights, Calcutta. Police, State administration and landlords with its own armed forces had started a series of onslaughts on mass movements organised by the local peasants in Jahanabad. In this context an investigation was undertaken. The report analyses that the administration had totally failed to implement the minimum wages, land reforms etc. and that the police here no longer remained a neutral force, but have strong connections with anti-social elements and are becoming politically motivated, which is unhealthy and a dangerous development.

ANONYMOUS STRUGGLES

p.p. 24

This report focuses on the democratic rights of unorganised labour in India, who constitute the single largest group of workers outside agriculture. It states that their anonymous struggles require more attention from the democratic sections of society.

FEWR RIGHTS, MORE BULLETS

p.p.12

A report on the Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment) Bill passed by the Lok Sabha on 3 May, 1983. The CISF has the responsibility to protect industrial undertakings owned by centre and if so requested - those owned by the states. The amendment is of a serious nature affecting both the personnel of the CISF and workers in the Public Sector. The report says that the government while shielding the sources and extent of corruption in the public sector and turning a blind eye to the dismal failure of the CISF to protect public property, is seeking simultaneously to curb unrest within the CISF and thereby make it a more coercive force for the repression of workers.

SAHARJORI - ABANDONED MINERS OF SANTHAL PARGANAS

p p 34

A mine was opened at Saharjori in Santhal Parganas district of Bihar by over 1000 miners who wanted the Government to take it over. The mine was bulldozed and the miners are being harassed. A fact-finding team was sent to investigate how and why the miners opened the mine in that backward area, the way it was done, and the response of the Government to the miners' demand for take-over.

JEHANABAD: PEASANT MOVEMENT AND POLICE REPRESSION.

p p 14

Police repression on the incipient peasant movement in Jehanabad block of Gaya District in Bihar has been attracting much attention. On 18 May 1983 Newspapers reported the incident of a severe lathicharge at a conference of peasants. People's Union for civil liberties (Bihar) and People's Union for Democratic Rights sent a fact-finding team. The report clearly points out the close co-ordination with which the landlords, civil and police administration are operating against the organised peasant movement of Jehanabad.

AND QUIET FLOWS THE GANGA

p p 18

"Bihar, Oasis of Peace" says Jagannath' reads a newspaper hadline. This documentary report on political killings in rural Bihar is a grim catalogue of death in a series of 48 incidents in which 185 people have been killed over a period of 182 weeks from January 1980 to June 1983. It also attempts to bring out the context of social contradictions which have reached this explosive level.

UNIVERSITY SECURITY FORCE : UGC'S NEW SOLUTIONS.

p p 2

The report examines the wider implications of the decision of setting up a University Security Force.

CONVENTION PAPERS : MINES, MECHANISATION AND PEOPLE.

IIrd Annual Convention Paper.

- (a) Economic background of a social conflict.
This paper critically examines the need and impact of the growing trend towards mechanisation in mines.
- (b) Mines, Mechanisation and people : a paper by Shanker Guha Niyogi. This paper relates the issue with the direct experience of trade unions confronted with the problem of mechanisation.
- (c) Environmental Impact on Mining.
- (d) The Woman, the Machine and the Trade Union.
- (e) Meghatuburu : Mechanisation in the Making of a Struggle.
- (f) A comedy of Errors : Mechanisation and Planning in Iron Ore.
- (g) Rapporteur's report on the IIIrd Annual Convention

1984

NTR'S ONE YEAR

p.p. 32

This joint report with Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC) presents a record of democratic rights and the tale of repression in Andhra Pradesh, this fine by a non-Congress government.

10 people were killed in police firings, 3 in police "encounters", 6 by landlords, 310 villagers affected by police raids, and 55 brought under ESMA and NSA - all these are N.T. Ramarao's achievements in one year of government. The report attempts to show that immediate attention from all democratic sections is necessary to counter the birth and growth of this culture of repression.

INSIDE THE FAMILY

pp 18

It is easy to document the exploitation and oppression of women outside the home, but the most severe oppression lies within the four walls of the home itself. This report, while highlights the condition of women inside the family, and their democratic rights, concludes that the structure of the family, and the social norms and values that are built around it, are completely against the democratic principles our republic stands for. Hence, the democratic rights movement, to be true to its own principles, must seriously take up the question of the rights of women within the family.

KUMAON HILLS

b p 18

A fact-finding report on reported incidents of repression both by the police and goondas, on the people involved in an anti-liquor agitation in the Kumaon district of Uttar Pradesh. The team found that the state had responded to it with ambiguity and indifference and at times was in direct collusion with the liquor traders.

ARE YOU A TERRORIST?

p.p.4. H

This leaflet deals with the Terrorists Affected Areas (Special Courts) Ordinance 1984, and other previous undemocratic Black Laws introduced in Independent India. It explains the definition of "terrorist" and shows how innocent people, fighting for their rights, can be termed as terrorists.

WHO ARE THE GUILTY?

b p 58

A report of a joint enquiry into the causes and impact of the riots in Delhi from 31st October to 10th November 1984. The fact finding team of PUCI and PUDR has come to the conclusion that the attacks on members of the Sikh community far from being a spontaneous expression of "madness" and popular grief and anger as made out by authorities were the outcome of a well organised plan marked by acts of both deliberate commission and omissions by important politicians of Congress (I) at the top and the authorities in administration.

REPRESSION ON FOREST DWELLERS IN GADCHIROLI DISTRICT.

b p 7

A joint-fact finding report with CPDR (Bombay) and CPDR (Chandrapore - Gadchiroli) on police terror and torture faced by forest dwellers fighting for implementation of fundamental rights to fair wages and land.

1985

MASSACRE IN BIHAR:

b p 17

An enquiry into the killings of 10 people in a Harijan basti in Kaithibigha, Bihar. There were different versions and therefore, in an effort to obtain a more accurate picture a team visited the village. The discrepancies in the official versions of the killing and that the version recounted to the team was different, makes one doubt about the veracity of the official version. It was therefore demanded that a judicial enquiry be instituted and that all police officers found guilty should be punished. The Bhumihars who helped them should also be punished.

BLACK LAWS AND THE PEOPLE:

p.p. p.p. 18

The report of a fact-finding team of the serious and widespread violation of the fundamental rights of people through the use and misuse of the laws enacted in Punjab. It concludes that the laws, by blocking all channels of legitimate dissent, are throttling those very forces of democratic opinion which can best combat communalism and restore normalcy.

BASTAR AN INVESTIGATION INTO AN ENCOUNTER

p.p. 14

The report of a joint fact-finding team with PUCL (Madhya Pradesh) and CPDR (Nagpur) into the killing of Ganapati, a political activist, in an alleged encounter. The report outlines various issues in Bastar connected with Forest, Development and the Tendu leaf struggle which is the immediate context of the killing.

1977

रक्तबीज

पृष्ठ 32

उन्हें बच्चों से भीख मँगवाने दो
लेकिन इसे कहते हो तालीम क्यों?
उन्हें गरीबों की हत्या करने दो
लेकिन उसे कहते हो लोकतन्त्र क्यों?

देश की विभिन्न भाषाओं में लिखी शोषण और तानाशाही का विरोध करने वाली कविताओं में से कुछ कविताएँ हैं। इसका उद्देश्य रचनाकार में उस आस्था को जगाना है जो अन्याय का हमेशा सामना करती है और करती रहेगी।

1979

छः लोकसभारं और जनवादी अधिकार

पृष्ठ 30

साम्प्रदायिक दंगे, जातियों में फसाद, खतरनाक कानून-कायदे पुलिस के बहसियाने अत्याचार, पुलिस की गोलाबारी, सुस्त कानूनी व्यवस्था, और जेलों में घिनौनी व्यवस्था हमारे जनवादी अधिकारों पर हमले हैं। पिछले 32 सालों में छः लोकसभारं आई और गई, पांच प्रधानमंत्री आए और गए, वादे किये गए और आश्वासन दिये गए। लेकिन आम जनता के अधिकारों पर हमलों का सिलसिला चलता रहा। सरकारी रिपोर्टों पर आधारित यह पुस्तिका दिखाती है कि ये हमले लगातार बढ़ते ही गए हैं।

1981

पटना का किसान संघर्ष और पुलिस दमन

पृष्ठ 25

बिहार के पटना जिले में पुलिस दमन पर जांच दल की रपट। जांच दल इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचा कि गरीब किसान और खेतिहर मजदूर के जन आंदोलन, जिसकी मांगें संविधान में दिए गए अधिकारों तथा सरकार द्वारा घोषित कानूनों को लागू कराना थी, जमींदारों के सक्रिय समर्थन से, तथा

....2/...

मुख्य राजनैतिक दलों के प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष सहयोग से राज्य सरकार तथा पुलिस उसका दमन करने को आमादा है ।

1982

बन की लड़ाई

पृष्ठ : 42

भारतीय जंगल अधिनियम, जो जल्दी ही एक कानून बनने वाला था, की आलोचना पेश करती हुई एक रपट । सरकार नए कानून का उद्देश्य तेजी से कट रहे जंगलों के विनाश को रोकना बताती है । लेकिन, इस कानून का हमारे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था, पर्यावरण, जनवादी मूल्यों तथा जंगल में और उसके इर्द-गिर्द रहने वाले गरीब लोगों पर गम्भीर प्रभाव पड़ेगा । यह रपट देश के जनवादी व्यक्तियों, संस्थाओं और संगठनों से अपील करती है कि वे इस अधिनियम को वापस लेने की सरकार से मांग करें ।

नया कानून क्या है?

पृष्ठ : 4.

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा कानून § 86A और 'एसमा' को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार द्वारा लाए जा रहे अस्पतालों एवं अन्य संस्थानों से सम्बन्धित विधेयक पर एक रपट । यह रपट इस विधेयक का सारांश देते हुए इसके परिणामों के बारे में बताती है ।

एशियाड 82 का दूसरा चेहरा

पृष्ठ : 22

एशियाड 82 को लेकर लिखी गई यह पुस्तिका उन मजदूरों की याद दिलाती है जो विशाल स्टेडियम और पांच सितारा होटल बनाकर अपने पीछे अमानवीय तकलीफों का एक कटु इतिहास छोड़ गए हैं । इस पुस्तिका में शामिल हैं - पी.यू.डी.आर. द्वारा सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दर्ज याचिका के कुछ अंश तथा सुप्रीम कोर्ट का ऐतिहासिक फैसला जिसका बच्चों की मजदूरी न्यूनतम मजदूरी तथा नागरिक व राजनैतिक अधिकारों पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ता है ।

1983

एक अनकही कहानी

पृष्ठ: 30

एक हजार खान मजदूरों ने बिहार के संथाल परगना जिले में सहारजोड़ी में एक कोयला खदान खोली। वे चाहते थे कि सरकार इस खदान को अपने हाथ में ले ले। लेकिन 29 महीने के बाद सरकार ने खान पर बुलडोजर चलवा दिया और 200 से अधिक मजदूरों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। यह पुस्तिका एक जांच दल की रपट है जो इस मामले में जांच करने गया था कि किन परिस्थितियों ने लोगों को खान खोदने के लिए विवश कर दिया, खान किस तरह चलाया गया और सरकार का उसके प्रति क्या रवैया रहा।

जहानाबाद : किसान संघर्ष और पुलिस दमन

पृष्ठ: 12

बिहार के गया जिले के जहानाबाद खण्ड में कुछ समय से आरंभ हुए किसान आंदोलनों पर हो रहे पुलिस अत्याचार पर एक जांच दल की रपट। जांच दल इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा है कि किसानों और मजदूरों के आंदोलन के विरोध में जमींदार, पुलिस और प्रशासनिक अधिकारी एक जुट होकर काम कर रहे हैं। किसानों की एक सभा पर 13 मई को हुआ भीषण लाठी चार्ज इस संदर्भ में समझा जा सकता है।

1984

चारदीवारी के अन्दर

पृष्ठ: 15

हमारे देश में, स्त्रियों पर घर के बाहर होने वाले अत्याचारों के बारे में पता करना आसान है, लेकिन घर के अन्दर होने वाली ज्यादतियों के बारे में पता करना और लिखना बहुत मुश्किल। औरतों की घर के भीतर की स्थिति तथा उनके जनवादी अधिकारों के बारे में बताते हुए यह रपट इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंची है कि हमारे देश में परिवार का ढांचा और हमारे समाज के रीति-रिवाज उन लोकतांत्रिक सिद्धांतों के बिल्कुल खिलाफ हैं जिन्हें हमने चुना है। इसलिए लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों के लिए लड़ने वालों को चाहिए कि अगर वे अपने सिद्धांतों के पक्के हैं तो वे घर के भीतर स्त्रियों के अधिकारों के मामले को ज्यादा गम्भीरता से उठाएं।

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उत्तर प्रदेश के कुमाऊं जिलों में शराब विरोधी आन्दोलन में भाग लेने वाले लोगों पर पुलिस और गुण्डों द्वारा दमन पर एक जांच दल की रपट । जांच दल इस फैसले पर पहुंचा कि नशाबंदी की कसमें खाने वाली राज्य सरकार खुले आम शराब के ठेकेदारों के साथ खड़ी है और छिपे तौर पर ठेकेदारों की मदद कर रही है ।

हमारे अधिकारों पर एक और हमला ! पृष्ठ 4

यह रपट आतंकवादी इलाकों पर विशेष कोर्ट सक्ट तथा अन्य काले कानूनों के परिणामों को लेकर लिखी गई है । आतंकवादी और राजद्रोही की परिभाषा को समझाती हुई यह रपट बताती है कि अपने अधिकारों के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे बेगुनाह लोगों को आतंकवादी करार दिया जा सकता है ।

दिल्ली : बेघरों की बेदखली पृष्ठ 4

पार्लियामेंट में बिना बहस पास हुए ये उन चार कानूनों के बारे में एक रपट है, जो गैरकानूनी जगहों में रहने वाले शहरी गरीबों के हक छीन लेते हैं । दिखाने के लिए ये कानून ज़मीन के दलालों के खिलाफ बनाए गए हैं लेकिन रपट दिखाती है कि असल माने में ये कानून शहरी गरीबों और बेघरों को गहरी चोट पहुंचाएंगे ।

राजनांदगांव गोलीकांड पृष्ठ 13

राजनांदगांव कपड़ा मिल के मज़दूरों और उनके परिवारों पर हुए अमानवीय एवं बर्बर अत्याचार पर एक लोकतांत्रिक संगठनों के संयुक्त जांच दल की रपट । दल इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचा है कि जिला प्रशासन, मिल मैनेजमेंट और डेटक के स्थानीय पदाधिकारियों के गठबन्धन ने श्रमिक विरोधी और लोकतंत्र विरोधी कार्यवाही की है ।

दोषी कौन ? पृष्ठ: 48

31 अक्टूबर से 10 नवम्बर तक दिल्ली में हुए उपद्रवों के कारणों और प्रभाव पर पी.यू.डी.आर. और पी.यू.सी.एल. के संयुक्त जांच दल की रपट ।

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