

Facts about 'Salwa Judum'

An all-India team of PUCL, PUDR, APDR and IAPL investigated the alleged violations of human rights and its impact on peoples' lives in the course of the Salwa Judum in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh between November 28 and December 1. The 14-member team met local people in camps as well as in their villages, people arrested during the operation, leaders of Salwa Judum, police and civil administration officials (the collector and sub-divisional magistrate).

The following are the main findings of the team.

- (1) The Salwa Judum is far from the spontaneous uprising of tribals against Maoists that it is claimed to be. It is an organised, state-managed enterprise that has precedents in the Jan Jagaran Abhiyans that have occurred earlier under the leadership of Mahendra Karma. The collector himself has been at 75 per cent of the Salwa Judum meetings and security forces have been backing the Judum's meetings. The main cadre of Salwa Judum are special police officers who are being paid and armed by the state, at a rate that is standard in counter-insurgency operations across the country.
- (2) The Salwa Judum has led to the forcible displacement of people throughout Dantewada, Geedam and Bijapur areas, under police and administrative supervision. According to official estimates, approximately 15,000 people from 420 villages are living as refugees in temporary camps. People have left behind their cattle and most of their household goods. The entire area is being cleared of inhabitants even as new roads are being built and more police and paramilitary stations are being set up. The region is being turned into one large cantonment. In many places, regular economic activities like weekly 'haats' have stopped.
- (3) We observed a pattern in the dislocation: when Salwa Judum meetings are called, people from neighbouring villages are asked to be present. The meetings are accompanied by heavy security forces. Villages which refuse to participate face repeated attacks by the

combined forces of Salwa Judum, the district force and the Naga battalion. In addition, there are separate raids by the Naga battalion. These raids result in looting, arson and killings in many instances. In some villages, the raids continue till the entire village is cleared, while in other cases, only old people, women and children are left. Many villagers are coming to camps to avoid these attacks in the first place.

(4) Once in camps, people have no choice but to support the Salwa Judum. Some of them are forced to work as informers against members of their own and neighbouring villages and participate in attacks against them.

Individual families are sometimes being split between Judum supporters and those who wish to remain in their village. We also came across instances where young people were taken away from the village by the Salwa Judum and their families are unaware of their whereabouts.

(5) It is frightening to note the collapse of civil administration in many parts of Dantewada district. Salwa Judum members man check points on roads, search people's belongings and control the flow of traffic and buses. They enforce an economic blockade on villages that resist coming to camps.

(6) FIRs registering the looting, burning, beatings/torture by Salwa Judum mobs and the security forces are not recorded. We were told of specific instances where security forces threw dead bodies inside or near villages. These killings

(Continued on p 5436)

Errata

In the editorial 'Burdens of Culture' (November 26, 2005), (i) the interview of the actor Khushboo appeared in a news weekly and not on television as mentioned, (ii) the reference to the Dravidar Kazaghham tarring Hindi signage during the anti-Hindi protests of 1965 should have read as the Dravida Munnetra Kazaghham, and (iii) it was individual citizens, not the police, who filed petitions in the courts against the actor.

Subscription

Inland

	(Rs)			
	Six months	One year	Two years	Three years
Institutions	-	1250	2300	3300
Individuals	500	935	1750	2500

Concessional Rates

Teachers/Researchers	-	685	-	1800
Students	-	450	-	-

Concessional rates are available only in India. To avail of concessional rates, certificate from relevant institution is essential. Remittance by money order/bank draft preferred. Please add Rs 35 to outstation cheques towards bank collection charges.

Nepal and Bhutan

Institutions	-	1500	-	4150
Individuals	-	1250	-	3500

Foreign

	(US \$)					
	Air Mail			Surface Mail		
	Institutions					
	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	1yr	2yrs	3yrs
Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh	80	150	200	65	120	175
Other countries	150	275	375	90	170	240
	Individuals					
Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh	50	90	125	30	50	75
Other countries	100	175	240	65	120	170

All remittances to:

Economic and Political Weekly

Economic and Political Weekly

Hitkari House, 284 Shahid Bhagatsingh Road, Mumbai 400 001

Phones: 2269 6072/73 Fax: (022) 2269 6072
epw@vsnl.com edit@epw.org.in

Editor (December 1969-January 2004) : Krishna Raj

Editor : C Rammanohar Reddy

Deputy Editor : Bernard D'Mello

Assistant Editors : Anuradha Kumar,
Vimala Subramanian, Sheba Tejani
Mukesh Gupta (EPW On-line)
Bharati Bhargava (Delhi)

Editorial Staff : Prabha Pillai

Editorial Consultant : Gautam Navlakha (Delhi)

Circulation : Gauraang Pradhan (Manager),
B S Sharma
circulation@epw.org.in

Advertisement Manager : Kamal G Fanibanda
adv@epw.org.in

General Manager
and Publisher : K Vijayakumar

EPW Research Foundation

C 212, Akurli Industrial Estate, Kandivali (East)
Mumbai 400 101, Phones: 2887 3038/3041
Fax: (022) 2887 3038.
epwrf@vsnl.com

Director : S L Shetty

(Continued from p 5350)

are not reported, and therefore hard to corroborate. Some reports suggest that 96 people from 34 villages have been killed. However, the only killings that are officially recorded are those by Maoists. In the period since Salwa Judum started, it is true that the killings by Maoists have gone up substantially and the official figure today stands at 70. Rather than being a "peace mission" as is claimed, the Salwa Judum has created a situation where violence has escalated. (7) The Salwa Judum is strongly supported by certain sections of Bastar society. This section comprises some non-*adivasi* immigrant settlers from other parts of India, *sarpanches* and traditional leaders (whose power has

been threatened by the Maoists), powerful local politicians like Karma, and his network of supporters. Both the local Congress and the BJP are supporting the Salwa Judum together. (8) Militarisation: We have heard from several high ranking officials that there is an undeclared war on in Bastar, and we fear that the worst is yet to come. There is a heavy presence of the paramilitary like the CRPF and the Naga battalion. This creates a situation where forces from other states are behaving like an occupation army. We ourselves saw a number of cattle and people being herded by the Naga battalion after a raid. They slaughtered one cow on the main road in full view of all present.

In addition, people are being encouraged to carry arms. Village

defence committees are being created, special police officers are being trained and armed, and the entire society is becoming more militaristic.

The human rights groups demand: (i) An end to militarisation of society in Bastar/Dantewada, which is pitting *adivasis* against each other as part of an anti-Naxal operation, using people as a shield; (ii) a judicial enquiry into all killings committed by the Salwa Judum/security forces combine, which have gone unrecorded; and (iii) that the CPI (Maoist) provide details of all persons killed by them.

PUCL
(Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand),
PUDR, APDR AND IAPL
Raipur

Notes to Contributors

Here are some guidelines for authors who wish to make submissions to the journal.

Special Articles

EPW welcomes original research papers in any of the social sciences.

- ★ **Articles must be no more than 8,000 words, including notes, references and tables. Longer articles will not be processed.**
- ★ **Contributions should be sent in a hard copy format accompanied by a floppy/CD version. A soft copy can also be sent by email. Hard and soft copy versions of articles are essential for processing.**
- ★ **Special articles should be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150-200 words.**
- ★ Papers should not have been simultaneously submitted for publication to another journal or newspaper. If the paper has appeared earlier in a different version, we would appreciate a copy of this along with the submitted paper.
- ★ Graphs and charts prepared in MS Office (Word/Excel) or equivalent software are preferable to material prepared in jpeg or other formats.
- ★ Every effort is taken to complete early processing of the papers we receive. Since we receive more than 35 articles every week and adequate time has to be provided for internal reading and external refereeing. **It can take up to four months for a final decision on whether the paper is accepted for publication.**
- ★ **Articles accepted for publication can**

take up to six to eight months from the date of acceptance to appear in the *EPW*. Every effort will, however, be made to ensure early publication. Papers with immediate relevance for policy would be considered for early publication. Please note that this is a matter of editorial judgment.

Commentaries

EPW invites short contributions to the 'Commentary' section on topical social, economic and political developments. These should ideally be between 1,000 and 2,500 words and exclusive to the *EPW*. Short contributions may be sent by email.

Book Reviews

EPW sends out books for review. It does not normally accept unsolicited reviews. However, all reviews that are received are read with interest and where a book has not been sent out for review, the unsolicited review is on occasion considered for publication.

Letters

Readers of *EPW* are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (300-400 words) on published articles to the Letters column. All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address.

Discussion

EPW encourages researchers to comment on Special Articles. Submissions should be 1,000 to 2,000 words.

General Guidelines

- ★ **Writers are requested to provide full details for correspondence: postal**

address, day-time phone numbers and email address.

(The email address of writers in the Special Article, Commentary and Discussion sections will be published at the end of the article.)

- ★ Authors are requested to prepare their soft copy versions in text formats. PDF versions are not accepted by the *EPW*. Authors are encouraged to use UK English spellings (Writers using MS Word or similar software could change the appropriate settings in the Language menu of the application).
- ★ Contributors are requested to send articles that are complete in all respects, including references, as this facilitates quicker processing.
- ★ When there are major developments in the field of study after the first submission, authors can send a revised version. ***EPW* requests writers not to send revised versions based on stylistic changes/additions, deletions of references, minor changes, etc, as this poses challenges in processing.**
- ★ All submissions will be acknowledged immediately on receipt with a reference number. Quoting the reference number in inquiries will help.
- ★ *EPW* posts all published articles on its web site and may reproduce them on CDs.

Address for communication:
Economic and Political Weekly,
Hitkari House,
284 Shahid Bhagatsingh Road,
Mumbai 400 001, India.
Email: edit@epw.org.in,
epw.mumbai@gmail.com