

**REPORT ON PEOPLE'S RIGHTS
ANDHRA PRADESH 1985**

**ANDHRA PRADESH
CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE
(APCLC)**



Dedicated to the memory of
Dr. RAMANADHAM, Vice-President APCLC
Killed by Police on 3-9-85 at Warangal.

Introduction

The attempt made in August 1984 to topple the lawfully elected government of N. T. Rama Rao in Andhra Pradesh was universally condemned by democratic minded people. The entire nation barring the Cong (I) stood by N. T. R. for the one full month of his struggle against the dismissal, until the new governor appointed in place of Mr. Ram Lal invited him to form a government once again. Later, N. T. R. got the Assembly dissolved and his party was re-elected to power in March 1985. Once again, with the sole exception of the Cong (I) all the other major parties in the State joined hands with N. T. R. The people of the State, who had enthusiastically joined the processions and dharnas during August-September 1984, and had sacrificed 25 lives in police firing, voted N. T. R. back to power with equal generosity. The Press, including those papers which normally fight shy of taking political sides, quite openly campaigned against N. T. R.'s dismissal, and equally unambiguously hailed his re-election as a victory for democracy.

The end of 1985 is a suitable vantage point for evaluating the subsequent record of the State in the matter of democratic rights. And the picture one sees is rather dismal.

The very election which brought N.T.R. back to power in March 85 was accompanied by violence and arson against the rural poor by landlords allied to Telugu Desam Party (TDP). The massacre of harijans at Karamchedu (on 17 July) was linked to electoral conflict in March as one of the causal factors. And there were further such incidents in January 86.

The general public, who had braved police lathis and bullets to restore N. T. R. to power were now faced with an increasingly lawless police force; there were 16 recorded cases of persons being killed in police custody, 8 in police firings upon unarmed people, and innumerable allegations of rape in police custody - of which only 4 have been investigated either by the Press or by civil liberties organisations. This lawlessness is sought to be given formal legal sanction by a Police Bill that delegates extensive magisterial powers to urban police officers.

In the Telangana districts and the tribal area of coastal Andhra, the police atrocities reached murderous dimensions. The routine torture and 'encounter' killings (there were 35 victims in 1985) as well as the destruction of property (about 300 houses were pulled down by the police in Karimnagar district alone) were abetted by the extensive employment of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act under which about 250 persons have been arrested till now.

The Press, which had hailed N. T. R.'s restoration to power as a victory for democracy was faced with a Press Bill modelled on the justly notorious Bihar Press Bill. In addition there were frequent instances of harrasment and assault of journalists by the police, and abuse of journalists by TDP leders.

We give below a description of instances of assault on different sections of the common people by the organs of the State or other powerful persons like landlords; the reports are based primarily on APCLC's investigations supplemented by Press reports. The overall picture that emerges is one of an increasingly authoritarian regime, intolerant of dissent and criticism, and only too willing to employ both public and private violence to attain its political ends; a regime that does not hesitate to have intellectuals, journalists and civil rights activists assaulted, murdered or jailed; a regime that openly rewards policemen for killing **alleged 'extremists'** in 'encounters'; and a regime whose supporters feel no compunction in using violence to settle scores with harijans and labourers.

This trend is sought to be institutionalised by the three pieces of legislation we have mentioned earlier. Two of them have already been placed before the State Assembly in the form of Bills, and the third has been borrowed from the Centre. These are (i) A P. Urban Areas Police Bill, (ii) I. P. C. and Cr. P. C. (A. P. Amendment) Bill, 1985 (Press Bill for short) and (iii) Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (prevention) Act. We discuss the details of these pieces of legislation at the end. Taken together these laws will legitimise and make 'lawful' all the assaults on civil liberties and democratic rights that are already taking place. Practically all the powers that are given by these pieces of legislation are already being 'enjoyed' illegally by the State and its organs. Journalists who write uncomfortable things are being assaulted both by the police and TDP toughs, without the need for any Press Bill. Civil Liberties activists are being murdered and jailed by the police even without any newly defined 'disruptive activity.' The Police are already setting the terms of civic and democratic activity without being given any magisterial powers. And even without the provisions of the Terrorist Act, bails are being rendered impossible by threatening, beating and arresting the sureties (the guarantors for the bail), threatening and assaulting lawyers who appear for CPI-ML cadre, or simply rearresting persons released on bail at the very gates of the jail.

Deaths in Police custody

As reported earlier, 16 persons were killed in police custody in the year 1985. (The number for 1984 was 24). Since the police and the government usually react to accusations of custodial violence with the argument that stringent measures are required to tackle heinous crime, it is necessary to see who are the persons killed in custodial violence, and what crimes they are accused of. The youngest of the victims was a 10 month old child of Bhogaram (near Hyderabad) who was trampled to death during a police raid. Two other victims were accused of creating nuisance under the influence of drink. Another, a 70 year old dhobi of Nellore district, was picked up under the Civil Rights Act for allegedly refusing to wash the clothes of some harijan families. Yet another 75 year old itinerant vendor of beads and bangles (one of a tribal group from Maharashtra) was detained on suspicion of vagrancy.

There were four who were accused of theft. One of them was a 16 year old harijan lad of East Godavari district, who was accused of having stolen bananas; when the Court later auctioned the stolen fruit they fetched exactly 6 rupees. Another (a member of the Erukala tribe, which the British regarded as a 'criminal tribe') was not himself accused of theft, but was alleged to have a relative who was a habitual thief and whose whereabouts were not known to the police. One other was suspected of having stolen a bicycle. In his case the police have not even given the usual story that the victim died of ill-health or committed suicide. They simply did away with the dead body and claimed that the victim had run away from lockup.

There are two other such cases of people 'disappearing' after being taken into custody (but we have not counted them as cases of death in custody because of uncertainty as to what happened) Sukhjeevan and Benjamin, RYL activists, were arrested in November 85 and are missing since that time.

Two other of the victims were accused of rioting, one of murder, one (a doctor, an ENT specialist) of abduction, and the remaining three were not charged with any crime but were picked up because they were 'extremists'; one of them was a teen-aged student, one a (Iambada) tribal peasant, and one a youth of an artisan family.

It will be noted that there are none of the serious crimes like dacoity, robbery or rape in this list. There is one case of murder but that too was a young man, a tailor by caste and profession, who was suspected of having murdered his own younger sister 'to escape the obligation of paying dowry for her marriage'; this fantastic suspicion was firmly refuted by all the people of their village (a suburban village of Hyderabad), but the police nevertheless tortured the boy for 25 days and killed him.

It is not, needless to say, our contention that persons accused of dacoity, rape or other serious crimes can be tortured and killed by the police. We have given the above

analysis only to point out that even this specious argument is irrelevant. The same is true of the 24 lock-up deaths of 1984, of which only one was accused of murder, one of dacoity, while all the rest were picked up in connection with theft, rioting, inebriation, vagrancy or the vague charge of 'extremism'.

Death in Police Firing

There was no major incident of mass firing in 1985, But there were 7 incidents of policemen firing upon groups of people or individuals, killing a total of eight persons. (This is in addition to the 'encounter' killings of alleged naxalites, about which we speak later). Of these, three were instances where a police officer deliberately aimed at and killed a person. One was APCLC's Vice-President Dr. A. Ramanadham of Warangal, to whose clinic the police came in a procession and shot him dead. Another was a Cong-I leader Mr. Yadagiri who was murdered by an Asst. Commissioner of Police of Hyderabad, allegedly out of personal enmity. In the third case, a peasant who had gone to the police station (at Laksettipet, Adilabad district) to give a complaint and refused to leave when he was told that the SI was away, was shot dead by the sentry who is said to have been mentally unbalanced.

There were three other instances where the police fired upon unarmed masses and killed one person. In one case (Himayatsagar, a suburban village of Hyderabad) the people had gathered to protest against the illegal detention of their man; in the second case (Rudraram, Medak district) they had gathered to settle the problem of a 'sorceror' in the village amicably; and in the third case (Marikal, Mahbubnagar district) they were observing a rasta roko demanding the location of the Revenue Mandal headquarters at their village. Finally, there was a very peculiar case at Mutyampet in Nizamabad district, where armed police entered the village in disguise and the villagers took them to be thieves and attacked them. In the confusion the police killed two persons with their arms and two others received serious injuries from their fellow uillagers and died later.

'Encounters'

35 naxalite activists and their sympathisers, including one tribal girl, were killed in 'encounters' during 1985, in 18 separate incidents. APCLC has investigated 10 of these incidents, accounting for 22 deaths. In all these cases there is either reasonable proof or atleast strong suspicion that there was no 'encounter' at all, but only deliberate killing.

At Venkatrapet in Karimnagar district on the night of 10th-11th April, five persons who were sleeping in the fields were woken up, their hands were tied behind the back, and they were shot dead with sten guns. A sixth person, who was at the spot but escaped the murderous attack, met and told Pressmen the story. The police reacted by sending summons to the reporters to give evidence against their informant.

On 6th May 85, at Bommireddypalli in Karimnagar district, a peasant and a political activist sleeping in his house were picked up, tied to a tree behind the peasant's house and shot dead.

On 26 May 85, at Warangal town, two persons were picked up by the police from the house of their advocate, taken in a jeep to the village of Narsapur more than 50 kms away and shot dead there.

The story of most of the 'encounters' is more or less the same.

Before proceeding to assaults of other types we have to consider one question: what is the action taken by the government against the police officers involved in these killings? To take killings in custody first, they are invariably the result of torture to extract information. This has been clearly recognised as a criminal offence by sec. 330 of I.P.C. And hence any death that results from such torture is culpable homicide amounting to murder, as defined in sec. 302 of I.P.C. In the case of killing in police firing or in 'encounters' the police usually claim that they have acted in self-defence. Now the right to self-defence is not something that can be unilaterally claimed, but an exception under sec. 100 I.P.C. That is to say, the concerned police officer should be charged with murder, and he should convince the Court that he has acted in self-defence and hence the case comes under the relevant exception.

What really happens is that in the case of killings in 'encounters' the government actually rewards the police officers. The Home Minister has personally toured the districts where these killings have taken place and given substantial monetary rewards to the police officers involved.

Whether it is 'encounter' killings or any other killing by policemen, the District Collector (who is also the District Magistrate) gets an enquiry conducted under sec. 176 Cr.P.C. by a Sub-Divisional Magistrate (who is a Revenue Divisional Officer) or joint Collector or sub-Collector. This enquiry is merely a glorified inquest; but even this is never allowed to proceed properly by the police. They arrest some witnesses and threaten or bribe the rest. The victim's relatives are also threatened or implicated in false cases. The Magistrate's office is surrounded by policemen in plain clothes, and though the Magistrate knows about it, he is as help'less as the citizens deposing before him. In the exceptional case where a conscientious enquiry is conducted, the police will go to any extent (with the full backing of the State government) to defeat the report. The most notorious such case happened in Warangal where the District Magistrate wrote a highly unfavourable report on the killing at Narsapur referred to above. The District Magistrate was immediately transferred from Warangal, and when the Supreme Court (on a petition filed by APCLC) directed that the report should be placed before it the government replied that the enquiry had been improperly done and a fresh enquiry had been ordered.

In cases where the victim is not political activist, the government may not go to such lengths, but even under intense public pressure it has never given a greater punishment to the police officer than a temporary suspension or transfer.

Assaults on Dalits

Conflicts between the rural landlords and dalits (harijans or other poor people) over wages, land or socio-political authority, frequently leading to assault on the dalits by the landlords, is such a common phenomenon that any attempt to enumerate their number can only result in an understatement. APCLC has counted 18 such instances - of assault, arson, murder and rape of dalits by landlords - in 1985. 11 of the incidents in which a total of 71 were hurt and 30 houses were burnt, took place in Feb-March 1985, in connection with the Assembly elections which brought N. T. R. back to power. All the incidents were assaults by pro-TDP landlords.

Of the remaining seven incidents, five involved assaults by landlords on harijans in connection with wage or land disputes. The other two were much more serious, resulting in murder and rape. One took place in Adilabad district, where some relatives of the Cong (I) MLA of Adilabad, Mr. Ramachandra Reddy, murdered one youth of the dhobi caste because he refused to procure a prostitute for them, and later murdered another youth of the barber caste who was witness to the first murder and campaigned vocally against it. In spite of wide protest by the District Dhobi's Association, no arrest has been made till now.

The other incident is the most widely reported, the Karamchedu massacre in which six harijan men were killed and three girls were raped. This prosperous village is stronghold of the TDP. NTR's eldest son-in-law (an MLA and President of the party's youth wing) hails from this village. In spite of the prosperity of the village the labourers were in some cases paid less than the minimum wage, forced to do unpaid labour, and socially oppressed. Some fuel was added by the fact that in the March elections some (though not all) of the harijans voted for the Cong (I). Finally, on 17 July, a large mob of youth of the landlord families raided the harijan houses with lethal arms and murdered 6 men and raped three girls.

Rape in Police Custody

Four instances of rape in police custody have been reported in the Press during 1985, and investigated by APCLC. However, unlike deaths in police custody which are mostly admitted (though with a fabricated version of suicide, etc.) by the police, if only because there is a dead body to account for, rapes in police custody are usually never admitted. The victims' families are also very reluctant to publicise the issue. For this reason we do

not believe that the number of actual incidents is only four. Indeed, there have been persistent allegations of rape of tribal women in East Godavari district where a large number of armed police camps have been set up. But none of the allegations has been verified.

The first of the four victims was Sathamma of Samudralingapuram in Karimnagar District. Her 'crime' was that her husband was alleged to be an 'extremist'. A petition concerning the incident was sent to the Supreme Court by Stree Shakti Sanghatana, a women's organisation of Hyderabad. The police not only denied the allegation but arrested Sathamma, threatened her and made her retract in a written statement. They then filed a complaint of 'outraging the modesty of a women' (sec. 509 I.P.C.) against the women's organisation.

Of the other three cases, one of the assailants was a home guard, one a constable and one a Circle Inspector of Police. The victims were two unmarried girls (Padma and Safia Bano), and one married woman (Mangamma). Safia Bano was travelling alone at night (this was in Hyderabad city) in an autorickshaw when an Asst. Commissioner of Police saw her and became 'suspicious'. He handed her over to two constables to be taken to the Police station and interrogated. This was a highly improper thing to do since sec 41 of Cr.P.C. which allows a police officer to arrest a person upon suspicion without a warrant. has been repeatedly interpreted by the Courts to mean that the suspicion must have definite grounds and cannot be fanciful. And moreover, even on genuine suspicion, the Supreme Court has ruled that a woman should never be arrested at night by male constables. In the event, what happened was that the constables took her to a secluded place and assaulted her. Similarly, Mangamma, who was to be questioned in connection with the murder of her brother-in-law, was taken for questioning not to the police station but to the house of the CI (of Achampet), where that officer assaulted her criminally.

Unlike in Sathama's case, in these three cases the delinquent police officers have been suspended and arrested on a rape charge, but the victims are reportedly being threatened by the police to withdraw their complaint. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1983 (usually called the Rape Law amendment) makes it possible to convict these officers provided the victims do not 'turn hostile, in Court. One way of guarding against this possibility is to atleast get a statement (under sec. 164 Cr. P. C.) of the victim recorded with a judicial Magistrate before the assailant is released on bail and gets a chance to intimidate the victim. But this is never done in the case of custodial rape - no doubt because the offender is himself part of the prosecuting machinery, a paradox that will vitiate even the most 'stringent' rape laws as far as custodial rape is concerned

Repression on Rural Poor

We have already described the 'encounter' killings of naxalite cadre and their sympathisers. In addition, the rural poor of the Telangana districts and the tribal belt of coastal Andhra Pradesh continue to be subjected to brutal repression. From East

Godavari district there have been repeated allegation of rape of tribal woman by the police. The Press has also carried reports of policeman burning down tribal hamlets in East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts, in areas where the tribals are believed to harbour naxalite sympathies; this method of ridding the tribals of the disease of 'extremism' was widely employed by the police in Srikakulam during the early seventies.

In the Telangana districts the police have indulged in widespread assaults on the rural poor. People are regularly picked up, kept for long periods in illegal detention, tortured severely and implicated in false cases. Villages are raided, people are gathered en masse and beaten mercilessly. Democratic functioning of any sort has become completely impossible for organisation of the agricultural poor. Candidates set up for the Assembly elections by the CPI-ML were harrassed at every step. Their Campaign meetings were followed by raids on the village and beating of people. The Campaigning cadre were arrested. In Warangal the candidate himself was arrested. Conferences of Agrrcultural Labourers unions were forcibly prevented at Rajahmundry, Khammam and Aler. People campaigning for the conferences were arrested in large numbers, beaten up severely, and implicated in serious cases. Permission to hold public meetings, originally granted by a Court or the police, were cancelled in the last moment and prohibitory orders were promulgated and the gathering assaulted.

Perhaps the worst feature this year was the widespread destruction of houses and property in Karimnagar. Instances of police driving cattle into fields, breaking pots, smashing furniture and despoiling foodgrains have been common in Karimnagr district for the last three to four years. This year there was in addition widespread destruction of houses of poor peasant activists. The police force the neighbours to climb on to the roof and pull down the thatching of the tiles, which are then destroyed so as to be useless for rebuilding the roof. Perhaps about 300 houses have been destroyed thus till now.

Assault on civil rights activists:

1985 was a year in which the police mounted a large-scale attack (with the full backing of the State government) on the civil liberties movement, especially APCLC. Added to this official assault was the attack of the RSS elements.

Two APCLC activists were murdered (one by RSS and one by the police), two were assaulted (again one by RSS and one by the police), one was tortured in lock-up by the police, and ten were arrested (some of them more than once) and charged with criminal offences like carying explosives, distributing firearms, sedition, waging war against the State, criminal conspiracy to commit murder, harbouring criminals, etc. An activist of OPDR D. Venkateswara Rao was also charged with waging war against the State. That all these 'criminals' are civil liberties activists, that two of them are doctors, four are University teachers, and four are lawyers, and that six of the ten were actually arrested at the office or residence of police officers where they had gone to submit a representation, should indicate quite clearly the nature of the police State prevalent in Andhra Pradesh.

Gopi Rajanna, advocate of Jagtial was murdered on 12-1-85 by RSS elements. Nobody has been arrested till now. Dr. A. Ramanadham, pediatrician of Warangal and Vice-President of APCLC was murdered on 3-9-85 by the police. A funeral procession of policemen broke into his clinic and shot him dead at point-blank range. Though the procession was led by the S. P. and D. I. G. of Warangal and included every police officer of the district, they have claimed that they do not know who the assailants are, and have not arrested anybody till now. K. Seetarama Rao, University teacher of Warangal, was assaulted at his house by plainclothes policemen armed with sticks and axes and sustained fractures on both hands and both legs. Mallikarjuna Rao, Advocate of Karimnagar, was given the roller treatment in lock-up and charged with 'harbouring a criminal' (who happens to be his client).

Dr. Bhanu Prasad, medical practitioner of Bhadrachalam, activist of APCLA and AP Rationalist Assn; was repeatedly arrested and threatened by the police.

In addition to these direct assaults, the police of Karimnagar and Warangal districts have time and again picked up and detained APCLC activists (lawyers and college teachers) and openly threatened them to resign or face the consequences. They have distributed leaflets (signed, for example, 'Karimnagar District police Force') abusing APCLC activists and making defamatory personal allegations.

This is perhaps also the place to mention the assault on intellectuals in general. Ch. Venu, Research Scholar at Tirupati and Varavara Rao, working editor of Srjana and Secretary of Revolutionary Writers Association, were repeatedly arrested in 1985, Varavara Rao under the Terrorist Act. Hemelata, editor of Srjana, was arrested on 18 April and charged with sedition for publishing articles on the issues of rape in police custody, police interference in elections, proscription of the PUDR-PUCL report 'Who are the Guilty?', etc. Prof. Mohanty, proceeding to a tribals' meeting at Indravelli along with four other intellectuals, was arrested on 21 April 85 by Adilabad police and charged with inciting the people against the police. Later in the year, the offices of Prajasahiti (literary periodical), Udyogakranti (employees' periodical) and the house of Nammu, Secretary of Praja Rachayitala Samakhya, were raided.

Katti Padma Rao, lecturer in Sanskrit, dalit leader, and secretary of A. P. Rationalist Association, who has been leading a struggle for justice to the victims of Karamchedu, was twice arrested, once under the National Security Act.

Black Laws :

The Press Bill The Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code (A. P. Amendment Bill), placed before the State Assembly and temporarily deferred because of a public

outcry against it, is a replica of the Bihar Press Bill; **with one significant addition** The Bill seeks to add sec. 292-A to IPC, making 'grossly indecent or scurrilous writings or writings intended for blackmail' as well as (this is the addition) writings 'which tend to promote ill-will or hatred towards the State or Central government or any class or category of public servants' a cognisable and non-bailable offence. Not only writing but printing, exhibiting, distributing, selling, hiring out, conveying, profiting from, are also crimes under the same section. And not only journalistic writings proper but any written or printed document or even a picture is covered by this section. The word 'scurrilous' is defined as anything that is 'injurious to morality or is calculated to injure any person'. That is to say, practically any critical writing against a person is 'scurrilous'. Secondly whether a writing is 'intended' for blackmail has no objective test. Finally, any writing critical of the government or a class of public servants will necessarily create 'ill-will'. It is difficult to think of a more comprehensive Bill to muzzle all written criticism of persons in power or authority.

Even while this Press Bill was being hotly debated by the public, the editor of an allegedly 'scurrilous' periodical, Mr. Pingali Dasaratharam, was murdered brutally at Vijayawada on 21 October 85. He had earlier been attacked twice by TDP cadre; at that party's conference the cadre had, with the full knowledge of the leadership, distributed a pamphlet saying that Dasaratharam should be hung. There is a widespread feeling that his killing was engineered by TDP leaders, though the police have implicated his business rivals.

The Police Bill : The A. P. (Urban Areas) Police Bill is an extension of the Hyderabad City Police Act of the erstwhile Nizam's government of Hyderabad, to the other urban areas of the State. The Bill gives extensive powers to the police in maintaining 'order'. The power to take over any building, the power to order any citizen to leave a place, the power to enter and maintain 'order' in any public place (which includes a closed meeting hall also), the power to prohibit any person from making a speech, action, sign or gesture, the power to expel a twice convicted person from the urban area are all given to the police. In addition, new to this Bill over the Hyderabad Act is the power given to the Police Commissioner to declare a State of Emergency in any part of the urban area and deport persons from the area. Finally, while the Hyderabad Act makes the abuse of power by a policeman an offence punishable with six months imprisonment, this Bill deletes that provision and instead gives immunity to the policemen from prosecution for any crime committed in the 'bona-fide discharge of their duties.

The Terrorist Act : This is the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, enacted ostensibly with Punjab in view. The Act allows trials to be held in secret, identity and evidence of witnesses to be kept secret from the accused, and so on. Bails are to be given only if the Court feels that the accused is probably not guilty and will not commit another crime while he is on bail. Appeal against conviction lies only with the Supreme

Court. Many of the sentences have also been made more stringent.

The A.P. government has been making extensive use of this Act from October 85. Anybody who is apprehended (not only naxalite cadre, but peasants, labourers, trade unionists, civil liberties activists, writers,) is charged with being in possession of explosives or arms, which is a very easy charge to fabricate and is sufficient to bring the 'offence' under the Terrorist Act. This is being done in a shamelessly systematic manner. The general secretary of APCLC is among those arrested on trumped charges under the Terrorist Act. The only mitigating factor is that, the charges being so obviously ridiculous the Courts are being more liberal in giving bails than one would expect from the text of the Act. However, the full impact of the draconian Act will be apparent only after the 250 persons arrested under the Terrorist Act till now (and the many more who are being daily arrested) are brought to trial.

ANNEXURE

APCLC's Fact Finding Committees, 1985.

1. Samudralingapuram, Karimnagar dt. The house of Sathamma, whose husband was suspected of 'extremist' affiliations, was raided by Gambhirraopet police on 13-1-85. Sathamma was beaten and raped.
2. Warangal. The police took into custody a youth by name Sarangapani on the evening of 21-1-85, and deliberately killed him at the outskirts of the town.
3. Pambatla, Karimnagar dt. The police killed K. Gangaram, a naxalite activist, in an encounter on 21-1-85. It is believed an SI climbed on to the roof of a house, removed some tiles and shot Gangaram dead.
4. Beerang, Moogavada, Cherala, Chittoor dt. Landlords attacked the houses of harijans (during January and February) and committed criminal assault, and arson with explosives. The reasons were conflict over wages, waste land and the product of tamarind crop on waste land.
5. Hyderabad and Warangal. 6000 'paid secretaries' of the Cooperative banks of the state were on strike from 10th December to late February 85, demanding an increase in their miserable wage of Rs. 400 p.m. (consolidated). The agitators were repeatedly lathi charged and arrested.
6. Himayatsagar, Ranga Reddy dt. On the evening of 10-2-85, the police chased a Waddera tribal who had abused the SI. They chased him out of the village and opened fire from behind. The bullet missed him but hit a group of Waddera labourers returning from work, and instantly killed Venkateshu and severely injured Malleshu.
7. Nagarjunasagar, Guntur dt. The SI and some local politician friends of his had a 'wet' party on the night of 4-3-85 and afterwards asked an 18 year old girl Sulochana to sleep with them. When the girl refused the SI took her into custody tore off her clothes and beat her till she bled. He charged her with soliciting and got her fined Rs. 500.
8. Nizamabad. On 5-3-85, people of a suburban village of the town, Arsapalli, who had gathered in protest at the spot where an RTC bus had rammed into three bullock

carts, were mercilessly lathi-charged. The municipal councillor of the area was arrested and beaten black and blue with leather belts in lock-up.

9. Laksettipet, Adilabad dt. On 17-3-85, Maram Yellaiah, a peasant of neighbouring Gurrevu, went to the police station to lodge a complaint against the employees of the local hospital who were demanding bribes. The sentry told him the SI was away, and he should leave. Yellaiah refused to go away and stayed in the compound. This enraged the sentry who shot him dead at point-blank range.
10. Alampalli. Ranga Reddy dt. On 7-3-85 there was a conflict between a landlord Pratap Reddy and harijans. The landlord's son beat the harijans with cycle chains. He then gave a complaint to the police against the harijans, upon which the police intervened, fired three rounds, mercilessly beat up the harijans and arrested 60 of them for rioting and assault.
11. Veerabhadram, Khamman dt. On 28-3-85 the police killed a naxalite activist by name Arsapalli Venkateswara Rao in an 'encounter'. He was actually chased out of a hut where he was sleeping and shot dead.
12. Khamman. Meenakshi, a telephone operator, whose husband had extra-marital relations, killed her on 28-3-85 with the help of his father. It was passed off as a death due to electric shock.
13. Nakrekal, Nalgonda dt. A group of itinerant tribal vendors of beads and bangles etc. from Maharashtra were taken into custody as vagrants for 'interrogation' in connection with a theft. 75 year old Parvath Hoath died in the course of the 'interrogation' (16-4-85).
14. Veldurti, Medak dt. On the night of 16-4-85 an elderly man by name Pamu Hanu-mantu died in the police lockup of Veldurti. He had been arrested 8 days before that in connection with an incident of rioting and held in illegal custody, without the medical attention required by his poor health.
15. Hyderabad. On the evening of 27-4-85, a municipal watchman by name Narsing Rao had a drink at an illicit liquor shop in his neighbourhood and indulged in brawling with the shop-keeper. The shop keeper and his friends assaulted him and handed him over to Santoshnagar police station, where he was further tortured. He died three days later at Osmania General Hospital.
16. Ghanpur Tanda, Nizamabad dt. On the morning of 7-4-85 Kishan, a lambada (tribal) peasant, allegedly an 'extremist' sympathiser, was picked up from his house by the police. Right in front of his house his head was smashed with a stone and his ribs broken with rifles. He died on the spot.

17. Rudraram, Medak dt. Some persons in the village were alleged to be 'sorcerers'. On the night of 25-4-85, some of the villagers took these sorcerers to a place outside the village and argued that they must give up sorcery. Suddenly a group of policemen pounced upon them and brutally lathi-charged them. The SI then asked for Namdev, a 50 year old peasant; as Namdev stepped forward in reply he was shot dead point blank.
18. Vijayawada. Investigation into the reasons for the insolvency of 'Krishi', an organisation established by the A.P. Physically handicapped persons financial cooperative. It was found that the Special Officer of the organisation had misappropriated a lot of funds.
19. Hyderabad. Investigation into the working conditions of 150 temporary workers in the Telephone department, who are paid daily wages of about Rs. 20, with no allowances, no paid holidays, no over-time payment and no security of tenure.
20. Baswapur, Nizamabad dt. On 1-5-85 a group of naxalite cadre who had gathered outside the village were apprehended by the police. Reddy malli Babu was 'interrogated' and killed, and Rajanarsu was chased and shot dead.
21. Venkatrapet, Karimnagar dt. On the night of 10-11 April 85, five naxalite activists sleeping on the outskirts of the village were woken up, their hands were tied behind the back, and they were gunned down with stenguns. A sixth person who was there escaped and later revealed the facts to the Press.
22. Bommireddypalli, Karimnagar dt. On the night of 6-5-85. a 30 year old peasant and a naxalite activist who was sleeping in the peasant's house, were arrested, tied to a tree behind the house and shot dead.
23. Lodvelli Adilabad dt. On the night of 13-5-85, at about 9-30 p.m; a group of policemen armed with sten guns raided a hut in which some naxalite cadre were sitting and deliberately fired at them and killed two.
24. Chinanakkalpet, Karimnagar dt. Two naxalite activists were sleeping in a house in the village on the night of 25-5-85. The police raided the house and fired at them, killing one. The other person escaped from a rear door and later revealed the facts to a Press reporter.
25. Narsapur, Warangal dt. A naxalite activist and a young man were staying at their advocate's house in Warangal on the night of 26-5-85. They were picked up by the police from there, taken in a jeep 54 kms to the village of Narsapur, and shot dead outside the village.

26. Jagtial, Karimnagar dt. A naxalite activist staying in a house at the outskirts of the town was picked up on 28-5-85, taken to a spot outside the town and shot dead. The police were not even sure whom they had killed. They gave a wrong name first and then declared that he was an 'unknown naxalite'.
27. Chirala, Prakasam dt. A Professional thief who had an agreement with the police to give them a share of his booty had defaulted on the agreement and absconded. On 26-4-85 the police picked up a relative of his, Angadi Prabhakar Rao as well as the the mother of Prabhakar Rao, beat him till he bled, and tortured him severely in lock-up. He died on the night of 27th.
28. Moinabad, Ranga Reddy dt Ramdas Gnaneswar was suspected of having murdered his own 16 year old sister Vinoda to avoid paying her dowry. He and his father were arrested on 6th April and tortured severely. The father was released on 26th but Gnaneswar continued to suffer torture in lock-up and died on 1-5-85.
29. Visakhapatnam. Md. Razack was arrested in connection with a theft case, on 28-4-85. He was beaten severely at the Harbour police station and he died in custody on 5-5-85.
30. Yellanur, Anantapur dt. Kamal Peeran, 65 year old Upa Sarpanch (belonging to Cong-I) of Yellanur, and his son Nabi Rasool were arrested for assault on 23-5-85, and beaten with rifles and stamped upon with boots. Peeran died that night.
31. Vijayanagaram. Dr. Rammohan Gupta, ENT specialist, was arrested on 8-6-85 in connection with the abduction of his own niece. He was tortured to death that very night.
32. Kamareddy, Nizamabad dt. Amarender Reddy, a teen-aged student who was asking shopkeepers of the town to close down on 15-5-85 in protest against faked encounter killings, was picked up on the street, beaten with rifles till he bled, and then further tortured to death in the lockup that night.
33. Marikal, Mahbubnagar dt. The people of this village were peacefully conducting a Rasta Roko to demand the location of the Mandal headquarters at their village, on 4-6-1985. The police came and straight away fired without warning killing 16 year old Shankar and injring fiue others.
34. Mangalphad, Nizamabad dt. On 22-6-85 the Mandal Revenue Officer of Bodhan ignored a Court injunction and tried to destroy the bund of the (dry) village tank whose bed was in dispute. The harijans who protested were lathicharged and fired upon, injuring 50 including a pregnant woman.

35. Hyderabad. Piece-rate and casual workers of an electronics industrial unit, on strike since 17-5-85' were brutally lathicharged on 21-5-85. On 13-6-85 their leader R. Prasad was taken into custody and tortured by 'mounting him on rollers' and sitting on his body and thrashing him.
36. Hyderabad. A tribal suburb of Hyderabad was raided on 22-7-85 on the complaint that the residents had indulged in rioting on the previous day's Bonalu festival, and many of the tribals were beaten unconscious.
37. Hyderabad Jaihind, an employee of the Telephones department. was accused of obstructing a Bonala festival procession. He was arrested on the spot (the day was 4-7-85) and beaten and stamped upon with extreme brutality. He was hospitalised for three weeks.
38. Karamchedu, Prakasam Dt. As a sequel to long-standing conflicts over wages, crop-share and social oppression, a large mod of youth from landlord families assulted the harijans with axes, spears, and sticks, on the morning of 17-7-85. Six men were murdered and three girls raped.
39. Adilapuram, Mahbubnagar dt. 400 harijans from three villages occupied 200 acres of surplus land held illegally by a family of ex-Makhtedars. During the last week of June the village was raided, the harijans were beaten brutally and 63 of them (including 8 women) were arrested on criminal charges.
40. Ramayampet, Medak dt. Widespread atrocities (illegal arrests, torture) against organised sections of the rural poor of 5 villages agitating against the extortionate and oppressive practices of the rich and influential persons.
41. Isnapur, Medak dt. Workers of a S.M.C, a fibre mill owned by the Birlas earning about Rs. 250-500 p.m., went on strike. On 16-7-85, the police raided their sheds, pulled out 250 workers, beat them black and blue with rifle butts and stickes, and threw all their cooked food onto the ground.
42. Hyderabad. Nageswara Rao, an electrical worker, was arrested on 12-5-85, allegedly on suspicion of theft of a bicycle. It appears the police have killed him and disposed of the body, for they claim that he escaped from the lockup, but till the end of the year his family has not heard of him. On a Habeas Corpus petition filed by his people the High Court has ordered an enquiry to be conducted.
43. Adilabad. Two landlords, relatives of the Cong-I MLA of Adilabad got drunk on the evening of 13-6-85 and asked a dhobi, Devanna, to procure a prostitute for them. When that girl refused to go, they got enraged with Devanna for his failure, killed

him and threw his body in a well. Lakshmana, a barber whose brothers have a saloon in Adilabad town, and who suspected the truth about Devanna's death campaigned vigorously against the killing. He was also found dead in a very shallow ditch on 18-7-85. The police have passed off both deaths as suicide.

44. Alganipadu, Nellore dt. The dhobis of the village had refused to serve some of the harijans because they were not receiving prompt payment. The harijans gave a complaint to the SI (Vidavalur) who tried to take a bribe from the dhobis to 'settle' the issue. The dhobis refused, and then their 70 year old leader Veeraraghavaiah was taken to the police station on 30-7-85 and beaten. He died as a consequence.
45. Jammikunta, Karimnagar dt. 16 year old Padma, returning to the bus stand at Jammikunta on the night of 6-8-85 after seeing a night show, was harassed by some youth on the way. An old man came to her rescue and handed her over to two home-guards to be given protection. One of the home guards (Prakash Reddy) took her aside and raped her.
46. Hyderabad. Safia Bano was travelling alone in an auto-rickshaw on the night of 31-8-85 when the ACP of Chatrinaka division saw her, became 'suspicious' and handed her over to two constables to be taken to the police station and interrogated. They took her to a secluded spot and raped her.
47. Muthyampet, Nizamabad dt. Five armed plain clothesmen and four informants entered the village on the night of 24-7-85. The people thought they were thieves and attacked them. In the melee the police killed two and two of the informants died.
48. Burugupakala, Visakhapatnam dt. On the night of 3-9-85 the police surrounded a hut in which five naxalite activists (two of them tribals including one girl) were taking rest. They arrested them, tortured them severely, killed them, and proclaimed that there was an 'encounter'.
49. Warangal. On the morning of 3-9-85, a procession of policemen, led by the SP and DIG of Warangal; and including every police officer of the District, went past the clinic of Dr. A. Ramanadham, Pediatrician and Vice-President of APCLC. A section of the procession broke into his clinic destroyed it, and shot Dr. Ramanadham dead.
50. Wankidi, Adilabad dt. The Deputy Range Officer (Forest Dept) of Wankidi, Mr. Ramaswamy, a habitual alcoholic, was friendly with a teacher by name Babu. On 9-8-85, seeing that the teacher had just collected his salary, the DRO invited him to a drink (at the teacher's expense) at the Forest Rest House. That night, in a drunken fit, he beat the teacher to force him to hand over the rest of the salary, and killed him.

51. Yeleswaram, East Godavari dt. On 26-8-85, 16 year old harijan youth Shankaraiah was apprehended by a banana orchard owner while stealing some bananas. He was beaten till he bled from his sexual organ and handed over to the police. The police beat him further and he died before the next morning.
52. Kushaiguda, Rangareddy Dt. The Sarpanch of Bhogaram gave a police complaint against 12 persons in connection with a dispute over the collection of funds for the Bonalu festival. On the night of 17-8-85 the police raided their houses. In the house of Ramulu they jumped over the wall and trampled a 10 month old child to death.
53. Gudivada, Krishna dt. Raja Chowdary, a middle class youth, got drunk in a bar on the evening of 14-8-85 and allegedly dashed against a girl in the street. Two policemen coming that way took him to the police station and discovered that he had about Rs. 5000 or more with him. They tried to take the money and drive him away but when he refused to be thus robbed they beat him, and he died before the next morning.
54. Turakapalem, Guntur dt. Three brothers of this muslim village were wanted in connection with a criminal case. On the night of 13-10-85 the police came and caught them and started thrashing them in the village. Their relatives interfered and objected to the beating. In the confusion the accused escaped. Next day the police descended upon the village in two vans and a lorry and mercilessly thrashed the the entire village.
55. Siddipet, Medak dt. 108 acres of poor quality land on the outskirts of the town were given to harijans 60 years ago by the Nizam of Hyderabad. They worked hard to make it cultivable, but never obtained pattas for the land. Recently the government of A.P took over the land for the 'location of industries', and got the harijans evicted and arrested.
56. Hyderabad. Widespread Industrial pollution on the outskirts of the city.
57. Achampet, Mahbubnagar dt. Mangamma and her husband were called to the house of the CI of Achampet on 15-12-85 to be interogated in connection with her brother-in-law's death. Her husband was sent away after a while but Mangamma was detained and brutally raped by the CI.
58. Hyderabad. Mehboob-ki-Mehndi is a notorious 'red light' area of the city. Each family in the 'business' normally used to give Rs. 25 per day to the police. But recently the women have started demanding legalisation of the business and licensing. This has led to repeated raids, arrests and beating of the women by the police, as well as extortion of money and other valuables from the men who visit them.

The following 'encounter' killings that took place after mid-1985 could not be investigated by APCLC because of the organised harrassment APCLC was subjected to by the State machinery.

Date	Place	Incident
1. 10-6-85	Dharur Karimnagar dt.	Ramulu, naxalite activist, killed in 'encounter'.
2. 2-9-85	Kammaripet Karimnagar dt,	Ramaswamy, naxalite acti- vist, killed in 'encounter'.
3. 12-9-85	Bodalanka E. Godavari dt.	Gorle Pullaiah, a tribal, killed in 'encounter'.
4. 5-10-85	Kondapur Karimnagar dt.	Madhava Reddy, Lakshman and Gangaram, naxalite activists, killed in 'encounter'.
5. 6-10-85	Dumala Karimnagar dt.	Swamy, naxalite activist, killed in 'encounter'.
6. 7-12-85	Malkapuram Karimnagar dt.	S. Prabhakar and two other naxalite activists killed in 'encounter'.
7. 16-12-85	Nalfela Warangal dt.	Moganti Babu, naxalite acti- vist, killed in 'encounter'.
8. 26-12-85	Rebbadevipalli Karimnagar dt,	Two naxalite activists killed in 'encounter'.

For copies :

M. Kodanda Ram Reddy

H.No. 2-2-1144/11/3A/A

New Nallakunta,

Hyderabad - AP - 500 044.
