

डि आफिस :

कैम्प 9, दल्ली-राजहरा

जिला दुर्ग (न. प्र.)

४९१-२२८

पत्रांक.....

Sent by ordinary post to
40 addresses on 22/2/91

छत्तीसगढ़

मुक्ति मोर्चा

दिनांक..22.2.91.....

Chattishgarh:

STATE TERROR ON PEACEFUL WORKERS' STRUGGLE

In its attempt to break a peaceful workers' movement the police lathicharged a group of workers leaving 12 of them seriously injured. 10 of the 12 were women. On 22.2.91 when the workers of the Chattishgarh Distilleries were going to join the morning shift, they were refused entry by the management on the pretext that they had joined a Chattishgarh Mukti Morcha rally on the previous day (20.2.91) demanding release of their leader Gen. Shankar Guha Niyogi. When the workers insisted to join their duties, police intervened and lathicharged them mercilessly.

It was on 4.2.91 that Sri Shankar Guha Niyogi was taken into custody in the BJP Govt.'s attempt to crush a four month old workers movement in Bhilai. The workers of 104 industries in Bhilai are agitating under the leadership of Chattishgarh Mukti Morcha for departmentalisation of the contractual workers, minimum wages, bonus and other facilities. To crush the movement the industrialists adopted various tactics. More than 700 workers were retrenched. 6 leaders have been stabbed. False cases were lodged against prominent Morcha leaders. More than 800 workers have been jailed for varying periods of time. The industrialist-administration nexus persuaded even the Asstt. Registrar of Co-op societies to supersede 3 workers' Co-op in Dalli Rajhara because the workers of these societies are Morcha members and Dalli Rajhara workers are providing

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कैम्प १, दिल्ली-राजहरा

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material help to the Bhilai workers.

According to the then-district collector Niyogi had been arrested for continuously not attending the hearings of 13 old cases in the sub-divisional court of Balod. When bail orders were obtained in 7 of them and preparations were going on to move the High Court, 2 new cases sprang up in Rajnandgaon district court and 6 new cases in Balod.

The democratic forces view Niyogi's arrest as a step on the part of the industrialist-administration nexus to crush the Bhilai movement. In the last fortnight the major town of Chattishgarh have seen endless protest rallies, protest meetings, dharnas, hunger-strikes decriing Niyogi's arrest and demanding his unconditional release.

Chattishgarh Mukti Morcha urges all the democratic forces all over the country to stand by the struggling workers of Bhilai.

Hirawan Singh Thakur

Vice President

A DIARY OF THE MAJOR EVENTS (4.2.91 to 22.2.91)

- 4.2.91 - Niyogi's arrest.
- 5.2.91 - Niyogi produced at Balod Court.
Industrial strikes at Rajnandgaon B.N.C.Mills and Balli Rajhara group of mines.
Protest rally from Teresara to Rajnandgaon.
- 6.2.91.- Niyogi produced at Balod, bail obtained in one case
- 7.2.91 - Hearings started for 2 old cases in Rajnandgaon district court.
Durg Jail superintendent pleads for prolonged detention.
- 9.2.91 - 3000 strong women's rally at Balli Rajhara. Demands unconditional release.
- 10.2.91- Bail petitions turned down for 12 cases at Balod and 2 cases at Rajnandgaon.
5000 strong women's rally and 4000 strong men's rally at Bhilai.

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हेड आफिस :

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- 11.2.91- Massive public meeting at Dalli Rajhara.
13.2.91- Protest rallies at Bhilai, Teresara, Urla.
14.2.91- Protest rallies at Dalli Rajhara.
15.2.91- Women workers struck work at Dalli Rajhara.
3500 peasants rally at Kusunkassa demanding Niyogi's
release and fulfilment of Bhilai workers' demands.
Tereh-rallies from all workers' bastis of Dalli.
16.2.91- Total Rajhara Bandh. Work stoppage at manual mines
and Dalli Mechanized mines.
800 peasants presented memorandum to block office at
Bundi.
Protest rallies at Rajmandgaon, Teresara, Bhilai and
Urla.
18.2.91- Bail petitions filed at Durg for 12 cases. Bail granted
for 7, turned down 5.
Protest rally at Pithora in Raipur district.
20.2.91- Relay hunger strike of 100 women in front of Durg
District Collectrate.
6000 workers demonstrate in front of Tehsil office
of Dalli Rajhara.
Dharnas at Lohara block office and Baled sub-divi-
sional office.
21.2.91- Relay hunger strike and dharnas continue.
Police lathicharge in front of Chattishgarh Distilleries,
12 injured.
22.2.91- Industrial strike at Dalli Rajhara in protest of the
yesterday's lathicharge.