

To
The Chief Minister,
Govt. of Telangana
Hyderabad.

(Through the Resident Commissioner, Telangana Bhawan, and New Delhi)

Sir,

The drive by the TRS Govt. of Telangana to forcibly seize podu land of adivasis in Telangana in the name of forest protection, is extremely worrying and highly condemnable. The state of Telangana came into being on the shoulders of a people's movement widely supported by democrats all over the country. However even in the act of its birth, Polavaram was conceded as a national project and despite the demand of the movement for Telangana and despite the opposition put up by the people of the affected areas, areas of forest were given away for submergence. Now, since June 2016, the Govt. of Telangana has itself launched an attack on the adivasis of Telangana. In the name of protection of forests land is being seized from the residents of the forests who have protected it and survived in it for generations. Podu land being cultivated by adivasis is being forcibly seized by your police and officials acting on the orders of your Govt. Over 200 acres of standing crop have been destroyed in Khammam and Warangal alone and over a 100 people arrested other than those beaten and assaulted as the adivasis are naturally putting up a resistance. Huts were torched, false cases registered. In Namadapadu of Kothapet Village pattas were given for 1100 acres of land 20 years back and now forest officials are trying to occupy this land.

All over the country, adivasis are being driven to displacement in order to empty the forests so that these resource and mineral rich areas can be handed over to corporate. Everywhere the forest is being snatched from its rightful owners in the name of 'saving' it only to be sold off to imperialists. Where the people of these forests are resisting displacement they are facing the might of state. This is also happening in your state, for the establishment of which the ordinary people sacrificed so much in struggle.

We call on your Govt. to stop the offensive against tribal of Telangana, and to return the seized lands. We condemn the Telangana Govt.'s attack on the tribal and their lands.

Yours etc