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Deal a death blow to brigandage of US imperialists

Resist Execution of Saddam Hussein

As anticipated, Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal (SCIT), constituted and conducted by the puppet regime of Iraq at the behest of the US imperialists who along with their British imperialist allies illegally and criminally occupied the country under fraudulent pretext trampling underfoot the barest precepts of bourgeois democracy, flouting all international laws and norms, and even overriding UN, carried out genocidal attacks on innocent Iraqi citizens using all kinds of lethal weapons has served most tyrannical death sentence on Saddam Hussein, elected President of independent sovereign Iraq after namesake of a trial that proved to be a total travesty of even rudiments of bourgeois judicial process. Immediately the democratic conscience of the world has burst forth in angry protest and rejected outright the set-up verdict. The toiling people of all countries including the imperialist heartlands of US and UK are seething in rage, simmering in discontent, denouncing this act of Bush-Blair duo as most diabolic display of international gangsterism. The eminent jurists have reproached the Tribunal proceedings and order as total farce. Everyone in the world sans the handful of lackeys of US imperialism has been seeing in this verdict how in the days to come the humanity is slated to be savagely assailed by the imperialist butchers, unbridled in absence of the mighty socialist camp. The sign is highly ominous, fraught with gravest of danger.

Backdrop of the farcical trial

It may be recalled that the US imperialists aggressed Iraq in March, 2003, on a fraudulent plea that it was producing and possessing weapons of mass destruction and Saddam was having links with fundamentalists and terrorists, a falsehood exposed in all investigations by the UN inspection teams even before the first gun was fired. Bush shamelessly admits today that all reports were wrong, but with heightened hypocrisy justifies the crime in the name of 'democratizing Iraq'. The real import of this so-called export of democracy on fleets of bombers and gunboats was laid bare before the discerning world. To cover up the crime of barbarous transgression of the sovereignty of a country, Bush-Blair combine aided by their stooges on the soil after 9-months of strenuous search took Saddam to custody and from then on was hell-bent on eliminating him at the earliest. Bush and his puppet Governing Council of Iraq first wanted Saddam's execution after a mockery of trial in Iraq but under the pressure of world public outrage, intended to either shift the trial to US or get it conducted by the so-called Governing Council. France, Germany and Russia having contradiction and conflict with US imperialism centering on geo-political interests, objected to the US scheme of Saddam's trial and summary execution. So the US imperialists and their British cohorts modified their plan in order to hoodwink the world populace and

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SUCI demands immediate annulment of illegal diabolic death sentence of Saddam Hussein masterminded by US imperialists

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 6 November, 2006 severely condemned the most tyrannical death sentence awarded to Saddam Hussein, President of independent sovereign Iraq following a mock trial staged by the puppet government glaringly at the behest of the US imperialists, the international gendarme. The US imperialist brigands who have illegally invaded and occupied Iraq flouting all international norms, subverted its freedom and sovereignty, mercilessly killed hundreds of thousand of innocent Iraqi civilians using all kinds of lethal weapons to fulfil their sinister design of capturing its oil fields and grab its other economic resources, do not have any propriety to try and convict its head of the state, asserted Comrade Mukherjee. This judgment of the trial court constituted and conducted by the US imperialists is tantamount to a declaration of murder of Saddam Hussein, observed Comrade Mukherjee, it being their last ditch attempt to suppress and stave off the freedom struggle being conducted by brave Iraqi people that the US imperialists are unable to control even by undertaking most brutal and savage repressive measures.

Demanding immediate annulment of this fascist death sentence served on Saddam Hussein and his valiant colleagues, Comrade Mukherjee called upon the freedom-loving people of the world to come forward to stall this planned diabolic murder masterminded by the US imperialist rulers and thereby strengthen the just struggle of the Iraqi freedom fighters to drive out the US imperialist occupiers from Iraqi soil.

SUCI demands immediate lowering of petrol-diesel prices

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 9 November, 2006 demanded immediate lowering of petrol-diesel prices following fall in international oil prices to around \$58 per barrel as the Congress-led CPI(M)-CPI backed UPA government had, while undertaking repeated bouts of domestic tariff escalation, held that spiralling global oil price had been the compelling factor and the domestic oil behemoths ought to be saved from incurring loss on this count, whereas the fact was that proportionate decline in the quantum of the swelling profits of the oil companies was being cunningly posed as loss and secondly impact of spurt in international oil price in the domestic price fixing mechanism could well be nullified through cut in the substantial tax imposed. However, Comrade Mukherjee emphatically stated that the government, after the current fall in the global tariff, does not have any further leeway to justify continuation of the existing price structure and deny people the legitimate relief.

Comrade Mukherjee, therefore, called upon the people of the country to create effective pressure of movement to force the government to bring down the fuel prices.

Mockery of a trial to elicit a pre-meditated verdict

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opted for giving it a cover of an apparent judicial trial and thereby eliciting a doctored verdict.

Bush-Blair should be tried for war crime

At that time we said that it was Bush-Blair duo, not Saddam, who had violated all international laws and flouted even the UN to launch a war of aggression on Iraq, plunged the country into death and destruction of unprecedented magnitude, let loose unbound savagery and unleashed a reign of terror, mercilessly killed millions of innocent people, looted the country of its oil resources, plundered the country of all its wealth and established there a colonial rule. For that all these unpardonable crimes against humanity, it is they who should be tried as war criminals. We also demanded that Saddam should be immediately released and reinstated and the US-UK occupation forces should quit Iraq at once.

We also showed that in spite of all lies and slanders from the US imperialists and their bootlickers, people of the world were aware that Iraq even under Saddam did not encourage fundamentalism, not a very common instance among the Middle East countries. Though a capitalist state, Iraq was known to be a country where broadly secular principles were adorned and followed. Communal or racial issues were not found to be dominating or impacting the socio-political arena. In keeping with this secular tradition, the brave Iraqi people stood united as a nation in their valiant resistance against the most bestial imperialist attack on their motherland. Genocidal killing of millions by incessant aerial bombing including indiscriminate use of lethal weapons studded with radioactive and other destructive material by the invading army could not decimate the true patriotic fervour or fighting spirit of the Iraqi people determined to liberate their motherland from the illegal occupation. Culprit Bush-Blair could realize that unless a cleavage could be created among the Iraqi people, they could not be brought under subjugation. So the imperialist kingpins hatched a conspiracy to divide the Iraqis on religious and ethnic grounds by fanning up Shia-Sunni and Kurd mentalities, trying to pit one against the other. The design was palpable:

reduce Iraq, once one of the most powerful countries in the Arab world, to a disintegrated, disunited, mutually hostile weak entity, dependent on imperialist favour and charity, vulnerable to unhindered imperialist exploitation and plunder. To precipitate disaffection among the different communities, the US imperialists and their lackeys began to highlight the Sunni origin of Saddam and propagated that Saddam was guilty of killing people of Shia and Kurd communities out of communal vengeance and hence deserved ultimate punishment. So they unleashed a barrage of propaganda against Saddam after his arrest and began to prepare ground for his eventual termination so as to break the moral of the fighting Iraqis and throw a spanner in their struggling unity. But the Iraqis did not fall prey to this machination. Millions came out in the streets to demand release of Saddam forthwith. Undaunted, with little or no help from outside, these freedom fighters carried out their freedom struggle with exemplary grit solely on the strength of their moral backbone and patriotic fervour, drawing all sustenance from their own people.

Iraq symbolized anti-imperialist people's struggle

Our Party, as genuine vanguard of the Indian working class and committed to the cause of world proletarian revolution, drew attention of all of the world to a very fundamental question. Had the vibrant socialist camp been in existence, could the US imperialists be so unbridled in pursuing such international gangsterism with impunity? Could they brag so openly that any country daring to oppose their brigandish policies or hegemonistic design is an 'enemy' country and hence prone to the worst form of retaliatory or even pre-emptive action including military aggression by them? History says they could not. Taking advantage of the absence of the socialist camp and set back in the international communist movement, the imperialist frenzy and fury has reached its nadir, horrifying the whole world with murderous intent. We also stressed at that time that it was the bounden duty of the freedom-loving people of all countries to regard this fight of Iraqi people as their own struggle, demand for release of Saddam as a

part of that struggle and bear pressure upon their respective governments to stand by the struggling Iraqi people and build up a well-knit worldwide fierce anti-imperialist struggle to thwart this escalating brigandage and barbarity of the US imperialists and their accomplices. This murderous edict against Saddam has once again shown how correct we were in emphasizing imperativeness of building up people's resistance against increasing imperialist onslaught on mankind. Otherwise, we cautioned, the imperialist chieftain and its associates, undeterred in absence of the mighty socialist camp that once provided the bulwark of peace would take the whole world into ransom, looting and marauding with a gusto, threatening freedom and sovereignty of any country refusing to abide by their dictatorial fiats and serve their demonic imperialist interest and indulging in all sorts of despotic action.

Formation of the illegal Tribunal

The turn of events has been exactly on that line. As we mentioned earlier, summary execution of Saddam was a foregone conclusion. Only in view of the crystallizing world public opinion against their sinister ploy, the US imperialists had to wait a bit long to set up a fabricated right ambience to accomplish their mission. In accordance with that scheme, Saddam and his seven co-defendants were charged of having killed over 148 people from the mainly Shia village of Dujail following a failed assassination attempt on him in 1982. To pretend that it is the Iraqi people who only were conducting the trial, the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal was constituted under a statute promulgated by the so-called Iraqi Transitional Assembly.

To remind our readers, an election of the Assembly and a 'constitutional referendum' were held last year at gunpoint in polling centers with newly built concrete barriers topped with concertina wire, amidst overnight curfew, raids through the cities by the US and puppet forces, sealing of borders, ban on inter-provincial travels and even ban on civil vehicular movement in select places. Pliant media was pressed into action to impress upon that the elections were

being held on racial and communal lines with sharp Shia-Sunni polarization and Kurds having their own pockets of influence. Candidates were selected after careful screening by the US rulers and not named publicly ahead of elections. Such a fiasco it was that top-level US officials were declaring the results before the events. Even after such rigged manipulated election process to 'graduate Iraq to democracy' as per US imperialist model, evidence of broad secular mind of the Iraqis was expressly manifest in the draft constitution worked out by the Shia, Sunni and Kurd negotiators together where it was highlighted that 'social justice' is the basis of Iraqi society'. But the guileful Pentagon rulers used their hirelings and ancillaries to work for overhauling the draft at will replacing 'social justice' by 'reforming the Iraqis' so that the elements of secularism that the framers of the constitution, rising above all ethnic or religious considerations intended to have as founding principles were removed and attempts to fragment Iraqi society on ethnic-religious line were not viewed as unconstitutional. After all such censoring and editing as suited to their imperialist interest, the Bush-Blair wanted the whole world to be so gullible as to accept that people of occupied Iraq under the vicious grip of the invading powers had wittingly adopted this mutilated constitution in their 'journey towards democracy'.

This is the constitution, and the law framed thereunder, that the Tribunal was constituted with funding from the US-led Regime Crimes Liaison Office. The panel of judges was specially trained in the US for conducting the proceedings. They had no power to summon non-Iraqi witnesses whom the defence would want to be present. On the contrary, the Tribunal allowed appointment of foreign "advisors" to assist the judges and the prosecutors and it remained no secret such was purported to induct US nominees for influencing the court proceedings. The New York-based Human Rights Watch said: "Almost the only source of non-Iraqi advisors and assistance has thus far been the U.S. Embassy's Regime Crimes Liaison Office. Realizing that the legitimacy of the Tribunal was being called into question, the US imperialists made

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A parody of bourgeois judiciary

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efforts to draw experts from other United Nations member-states but failed.

Also notice has to be taken of the fact that Saddam had been under US custody for the past two years. Under international law he had to be produced before a court of law at the earliest possible time. Even the Nuremberg tribunals for trying members of Adolph Hitler's Nazi regime and its slaughter of 6 million Jews in the World War II holocaust were formed and conducted as per the prevailing procedure of international court with independent judges and juries. Bush-Blair duo that had invaded Iraq in March 2003, refused to set up any such international tribunal as its objective was not to try Saddam but to get a stamp of approval for his murder.

Episode of farcical trial

The process of the trial was not only flawed but stained with blood as well. Three defence lawyers were brutally killed. The defence's top lawyer, Khalil Al Dulaimi, said that the purpose of the assassination of his colleagues was "to terrify the lawyers and hinder the work of the defence team". The US occupation army and the puppet government officials seized all documents collected by the defence council. None of these documents or even any written submission of the defence was admitted by the Tribunal. No defence lawyer was allowed to meet Saddam and co-defendants. Even witnesses in favour of the defence were coerced to change. Before the session began on the day of announcement of the

so-called verdict, Ramsey Clark, the former US Attorney-General who in keeping with the best tradition of bourgeois democracy reflected a high moral standard and spirited defence of human rights and justice by deciding to defend Saddam Hussein defying the red eyes of the rulers of his own country, was driven out of the trial room by the Tribunal chief judge.

Of the five judges initially appointed as per choice of the Pentagon rulers, Rizgar Mohammed Amin, the chief judge was removed for being 'excessively soft towards Saddam and other co-defendants'. Every time a judge made a decision that allowed the defence attorneys or the prisoners to state their case in court, a new judge subservient to the occupation authorities replaced him. Immediately after that, the first judge resigned citing political interference and undue public criticism and was replaced by a Pentagon pick-up. Ultimately, four of the five judges were replaced. Only one of the five Iraqi judges was shown on television; the identity of the other judges is being kept secret. Jalal Talabani, the President of the puppet regime observed in September last that Saddam Hussein deserved to be executed 20 times a day and he was waiting for such an order of summary punishment. Even the prime minister of the puppet government well ahead of the pronouncement of the verdict said that he was looking forward to the death sentence which would come soon.

All this bears enough testimony of the conditions under which the



Protest in Iraq on 6 November against death sentence on Saddam Hussein

proceedings were carried out and what was to be the final outcome. According to Andre Chami, one of Saddam Hussein's authorized lawyers, what were being witnessed were a "parody of trial and a parody of defence". Harold Pinter, this year's winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, has described the American invasion of Iraq "as a bandit act, an act of blatant state terrorism, demonstrating absolute contempt for the concept of international law". The fairness of the trial had also been questioned by many including world bodies like Amnesty International and London-based international law experts. But the US-UK-Puppet Government triumvirate was ecstatic at the verdict and called it 'unmatched in history'. Indeed it has been unmatched because who has ever seen such a burlesque of the judicial process!

What is the propriety of Bush-Blair to try Saddam?

Moreover, what is the propriety of Bush-Blair, the greatest perpetrators of crime after Hitler to initiate trial of Saddam? Without going into the question of whether there was at all any truth in the canards being spread against Saddam by the international media controlled by imperialist multinationals to confuse the world people on this score, it can be said that if one has to abide by the barest precepts of bourgeois democracy, if there is any such issue of misconduct or excess committed by a state head or political leader, that ought to be regarded as sole concern of the people of that particular country and it is only they who, if they so desire, could sit in judgment on him. And that is possible only if that country's sovereignty and independence are in place. But is Iraq in that position today and the Iraqi people free to exercise due

socio-political rights in a true congenial democratic environment? Is that the objective situation there? Can such free exercise of will or action take place under the bayonet of a savage imperial army overrunning their country in singular pursuit of ravage and pillage? Nothing could be more paradoxical than to call a trial taking place in such a thralldom to have been ordained and conducted by the Iraqi people. It has clearly been a plot of the devil pair aided by its puppet government to kill Saddam through staging of a counterfeit trial. For this crime of orchestrating such a fake trial of the President of a sovereign country with a murderous intent, Bush-Blair and their accomplices should have been on the dock of people's court and refused respite from the noose.

Despicable role of the Indian government and its social-democrat friends

Here a mention ought to be made of the most disquieting and deplorable role of the Congress-LDA and CPI(M) supported UPA government of capitalist India. Refraining from condemning this dastardly act of the US imperialists, the Indian government, which the other day pretended to be a vocal protagonist of Non-aligned Movement, made a guarded statement that for all intent and purpose lent a covert support to the US conspiracy. "Such life and death decisions require credible due process of law, which does not appear to be victor's justice and is acceptable to the people of Iraq as well as the international community," External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in a statement after the verdict. He also hoped that "this verdict will not add to the suffering of the people of Iraq." Great indeed! A complete

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Protest demonstration in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6 November against death sentence on Saddam Hussein

Develop worldwide People's Movement to annul the diabolic death sentence

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subversion of their country's sovereignty, a totally rigged and pre-meditated verdict against their elected President masterminded by illegal occupants, a throttled voice — all this is expected not to add to the woes and miseries! Such could only be devil's advocacy and indicative of how it is shamelessly appeasing the US imperialists in utter disregard to the glorious anti-imperialist tradition of the Indian people.

No less deceptive has been the role of the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI on whose unqualified support is surviving the present UPA government. While making some customary show of opposition to this ghastly sentence to dupe their honest cadres and assuage the anti-imperialist sentiment of the masses, these social democrats masquerading as Marxists are making no attempts to create effective pressure on the Congress-led government to force it denounce the cooked up judgment of the illegal Tribunal and mobilize governments of all other countries who have been victims of the aggrandizement and intimidation of the US imperialists in exerting onward pressure on the Pentagon regime and its puppet regime of Iraq to abandon execution of this judicial murder of Saddam.

US imperialism tyrannizing the whole world

It is thus clear that this trial has been a total farce and in fact a damp squib on the much-trumpeted bourgeois judicial system to distract, demoralize and suppress the irrepressible freedom struggle of the Iraqi people by the US imperialists and thereby facilitating US hegemony in the Middle East, for escalating threat to Syria and Iran, endangering freedom and sovereignty of any country that dares to defy Pentagon whips and perpetuate tension in the region. Notably, the verdict has come at a time when the occupation of Iraq is collapsing under the blows of the resistance. The verdict is also a desperate attempt of the US and its puppet forces to stir up enmities among the Iraqi people, to "divide and rule" Iraq. By executing Saddam, the US imperialists are out to send out a message that anyone daring to disobey them would invite such extermination. It is the Pentagon brigands and their cohorts who would determine the right to

existence of any country, statesman or political leaders. "Kneel down or perish" — such is the warning from the camp of imperialism. Can we surrender before this insolent muscle flexing of a gang of criminals and allow a tyrannical rule to devour the world enslaving the entire mankind? If there is a rudiment of human essence residing in us, we cannot.

Saddam's death verdict must be annulled

It ought to dawn upon us that the brigandage of US imperialism is not a danger to Iraq alone. It poses threat to liberty and sovereignty of any country that would refuse to toe US war mongering. Iraqi resistance, as we have been continuously saying, is not just a fight for regaining the national sovereignty and independence of that country. It forms integral part of the global anti-imperialist movement to save mankind from the clutches of bloodthirsty US brigade. Today, annulment of death sentence of Saddam and his unconditional release is inseparably linked up with the freedom struggle of Iraq which is again a part and parcel of the anti-imperialist struggle in general and anti-US imperialist struggle in particular of the whole world. Failure on this score would only embolden the US imperialists and their associates to be on a rampage with yet more ruthlessness and bestiality. It is heartening to see people's protests against war crimes of US-UK imperialists in Iraq, for restoration of status quo ante and allowing the Iraqi people to decide on their own motherland surging forth round the globe including their own homelands. Accumulated wrath of US people and their disapproval of their government's war of aggression on Iraq have been clearly reflected in the recent drubbing the ruling Republican Party of George Bush faced at the hustings.

But most of these protests, even if they may assume boisterous form, are spontaneous, isolated and often rudderless. What is essential is to co-ordinate and integrate these people's protests into a massive sustained organized worldwide anti-imperialist movement which would be a nightmare for the imperialist brigands, make them totter, and thwart them. Genuine communists throughout the world must come forward to initiate and steer this movement. Surge of this much



Protest demonstration in Calcutta on 6 November against death sentence to Saddam Hussein

desired anti-imperialist people's movement with communists as the core can only rein the US imperialists and their accomplices, provide backbone to the struggles against all kinds of oppression and suppression and facilitate emancipation of toiling masses from the yoke of ruthless imperialist-capitalist exploitation. Otherwise, the US imperialists would scale up their gangster operations, mete out the fate of Iraq to others, and indiscriminately kill the political leaders and statesmen of other countries to bring upon the world a

complete fascist darkness. Every peace- and freedom-loving person having minimal self-esteem must, as an inalienable part of the struggle for protecting freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of his motherland, raise the demand for stalling the imperious death sentence of Saddam who has emerged as a figurehead of anti-imperialist movement. Imperialist sharks must be rebuffed, repelled and razed to the ground. This is a task history has adjured us. We ought to prove ourselves equal to the task.

Protest demonstration demanding annulment of diabolic death sentence on President Saddam Hussein

Tamilnadu

The Dindigul-Theni District Organizing Committee held a 3-hour long demonstration at the Bhagawati Amman Tidal, near the busy **Theni** Bus Terminus, on the morning of 12th November, 2006. Comrades M J Voltaire, member of the Tamilnadu State Organizing Committee, AIDSO and S Venugopal, District Secretary of the Party, addressed the demonstrators.

Karnataka

Thousands of protesters consigned to flames effigies of Bush and Blair at Mysore Bank Circle in **Bangalore** on November 9 in condemnation of the pre-planned death sentence. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary addressed the gathering at the spot. Later a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was sent to him through the Governor of Karnataka.

Bihar

Effigies of the imperialist brigands Bush and Blair were burnt at Saheed Bhagat Singh Chowk in

Patna on the demand of withdrawal of death sentence on President Saddam Hussein, lifting of US-UK occupation of Iraq and creating pressure to that effect by the Government of India on UK and USA. Thereafter a big rally led by Comrades Shivsankar, Bihar State Secretary, Arun Kumar Singh, member, Bihar State Committee, Shival Prasad and Sadhana Misra marched to the Rajbhawan where a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted to the Governor.

Gujarat

Gujarat State Organizing Committee of the Party organized a demonstration at Kadak Bazar, **Baroda**, on 8th November. The demonstration was addressed by Comrades Tapan Dasgupta, Mukesh Semwal, Bharati Parmar and other leading organizers. A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was sent through the Governor of Gujarat Sri Naval Kishore Sharma.

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Kit Scam in West Bengal

Stark revelation of pervasive corruption in CPI(M) rule

West Bengal is currently being rocked with the startling disclosure of a huge scam involving blood testing kits. These kits are used to test blood samples to check if these contain HIV (AIDS) virus, Hepatitis B and C viruses and malarial parasites and also to ascertain the blood group. It has come to light that over the past one and half years or so, a Secunderabad-based firm Monozyme (India) Limited has been supplying such kits, hundreds of thousands of them, to the state Health Department which distributed these to government hospitals and blood banks all over the state. On scrutiny, it has been found that kits were supplied whose expiry dates were over, whose labels were tampered with to write down false, later expiry dates than originally stipulated, and even some kits which had already been used. Besides private hospitals and medical establishments, the Health Department sent such defective testing kits to 115 government blood banks and hospitals.

Grave health hazard posed by the scam

To say that this is harmful to the public health of the state would be an understatement. One shudders to think what could be the outcome if the faulty kits fail to register the presence of HIV (AIDS) virus, Hepatitis B and C viruses, malarial parasites in the blood samples tested and to ascertain the correct blood group. The patients who receive contaminated blood through transfusion are liable to be infected with these killer diseases and die. For those who may go on living for some time, the rest of their lives would be a painful nightmare. Transfusion of blood of a wrong group to a patient would have an immediate, catastrophic result. The enormity of the health hazard posed by this can be gauged from the statement of the DC (DD) of police on 26.10.2006 last (reported in the Statesman, 27.10.06) that the police had by that date seized about 110,000 such spurious kits from all over the state. How many thousands more such kits must have already been used to "test" blood for administering to patients, and how many thousands more must be lying undetected in stock at the hospitals and blood banks? Cases of HIV and Hepatitis B infection following blood transfusions have been reported in the media. The most vulnerable are the patients suffering from Thalassaemia who need blood transfusion at least twice a month.

Government involved in the scam

Such is the magnitude of the scam and it has been on for at least one and a half years. But was it detected and unearthed through the vigilance of the government, from its concern about the people, at its

initiative? Not at all. For quite some time, complaints about these kits have been coming from different medical colleges, hospitals and blood banks in West Bengal. Last year, the blood banks of Bardhaman and North Bengal Medical Colleges had informed the health department in writing that these kits were substandard but still they were asked to continue using these. Questions were raised by the NRS and RG Kar hospitals and the Central Blood Bank in Calcutta about the quality of these kits a few months back and health department officials were informed about it. But the government showed a singular incapacity to act. Thus there is no doubt that left to the government, the scam would have gone on and on with snowballing of disastrous consequences. But a fortuitous event intervened. On August 18, Monozyme (India) charged two of its officers with defalcation of money. Later on, during interrogation by investigating police officials, they divulged how their firm had been swindling the government by supplying defective blood testing kits (editorial in the Bengali daily Bartamaan, 23.10.06). This was splashed in the media and there was a furore. The police had to act and the government was forced to take notice of it.

Did the government express grave concern at the enormous health hazard that the scam indicated? Did it take drastic steps to punish the culprits? Far from it. Without conducting any enquiry, the CPI(M) chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee gave a clean chit to the health officials by saying on October 23 that "No top health official is involved in the case" (quoted in The Statesman, 24.10.06). This shows callous

unconcern about the people on a question of life and death. His only concern seems to be that the government is not disgraced in any way! How did he know at once that no government health official was involved in the scam even while the police investigation had just only just begun? Hundreds of thousands of defective kits are supplied and accepted, distributed and put into use and yet the health department officials are innocent of it! Even a child would not believe this nor that such a big transaction for supply of spurious kits was contracted without large sums of money changing hands in the form of bribes to government officials or ruling party functionaries. A scam on such a large scale could not have gone on in an organized manner for so long without involvement of the government and the ruling party at the highest level. It has been revealed that Govind Sarma, the majority share holder and director of Monozyme (India) Ltd., a jute baron owning a number of jute mills in West Bengal, has intimacy of longstanding with many top leaders of CPI(M). It is being widely held in knowledgeable circles that a minister is involved in this scam and is trying to shield the accused Sarma. What a senior health department official told The Statesman on 14.10.06 is revealing: "... Before issuing purchase orders, kits are checked at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Disease. But Mr. Sarma's kits got past the tests. ..." No wonder why this was so.

Callous, dishonest government attitude

Not to speak of bringing the culprits to book, the total government unconcern about public health continues. As late as on 2.11.06, there have been reports in the media that these faulty kits are still being used in some government hospitals and blood banks.

The people are shocked, the medical community aghast. Demands have been raised for resignation of the state health minister, treatment and compensation to the victims who have contracted AIDS or Hepatitis after taking blood that was tested by using defective kits. It has further been demanded that the patients who have taken blood from the blood banks and the hospitals during the last one and a half years must be

identified from the records and their blood tested again to find out if they have been infected with any disease after taking blood. If so, the state government should bear all expenses for their treatment and pay adequate compensation to them.

The only way in which the scam, the corruption can be unearthed and exposed in detail is through a thorough, impartial enquiry. But scam or no scam, how can any one in a responsible position, being in power, deny responsibility of the very fact that such a happening of this magnitude fraught with grave consequences could occur at all, as the CPI(M) chief minister has done? Had he any sense of democratic values, any respect for democratic norms, he would have resigned forthwith. He dons the cloak of Marxism and poses to be honest, but he has avoided instituting an enquiry to conduct detailed investigation from the ministerial down to the bureaucratic levels to reveal the truth and find out who are responsible for the scam. This is the burning necessity. Instead, he has merely stated that no health department official is involved, as if the government has no further responsibility in the matter and so, all is well. How is this?

On the plea that the problem of substandard kits is an all-India phenomenon, the government has suggested a CBI enquiry into the matter. By this, it is trying to shirk its own responsibility, reduce the importance of the issue and avoid taking immediate action that is urgently needed. Does it have no faith in its own police, or is it trying to sidetrack the issue? If it were honest, its sole concern should have been to reveal the truth at the earliest on an issue of such public importance.

The kit scam has caused such a commotion that the government, despite all its attempts to confuse the people through false statements and propaganda and suppress it, is finding it impossible. We feel that the need of the hour is a judicial enquiry at the highest level to find out the truth and identify the guilty so that exemplary punishment may be meted out to them. The government shows no inclination to do this. Its hands can be forced only through the pressure of mass movement.

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Great November Revolution Day observed in different states

Delhi

On the occasion of the 89th anniversary of great November Revolution, a public meeting under the auspices of the Delhi State Organising Committee of the party was held on November 7 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. Hundreds of activists of SUCI along with common people assembled



Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressing at New Delhi

there to observe the day. Addressing the gathering as the main speaker, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, Central Committee member of the party, highlighted various teachings of November Revolution and observed, inter alia, that after the counter-revolution and restoration

of capitalism in erstwhile USSR and other socialist countries including China, the world imperialism under the brigandage of US-imperialist has gone berserk in this so-called unipolar world.

In the changed international situation, the imperialists headed by US have unleashed naked political and economic attacks over the people of all the countries. Comrade Chakraborty appealed to all to come forward to strengthen the line of building up strong anti-imperialist movements conducive to the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in our country. The meeting was presided over by veteran State Committee member Comrade J. N. Mandal.

A resolution severely condemning the most tyrannical death sentence pronounced against Saddam Hussain, President of independent sovereign Iraq

following a mock trial staged by the puppet government glaringly at the behest of the US imperialist, the international gendarme, was also unanimously adopted at the meeting.

Bihar

Great November Revolution Day was

observed at Patna, Bihar through a mass meeting on November 8 at IMA Hall. Comrade Shiv Shankar, Secretary, Bihar was present as the main speaker. Two resolutions – one against the death sentence awarded to President Saddam Hossain and another against the sanction imposed on North Korea were unanimously adopted in the meeting. Comrade Shivlal Jadav, Secretary, Patna District Secretary was on the chair.

Tamilnadu

To commemorate the anniversary of great November

Revolution, a meeting was held at the Theni Party Office on the evening of 11th November which was attended by a good number of people. Comrade S Venugopal, Secretary, Dindigul-Theni District Organizing Committee, SUCI presided over the meeting. The main speaker for the evening was Comrade A. Rengasamy, member, State Organizing Committee, SUCI.

On the same day, a meeting was held in Chennai, where the main speaker was Comrade S Narayanasamy, member, State Organizing Committee.



Comrade Shivlal Jadav addressing at Patna

Protest Rally in Rohtak

At the call of the Haryana State Organizing Committee, SUCI, on 30th October 2006, a massive protest rally against spiralling prices of all essential commodities, mounting unemployment, creation of Special Economic Zones, sealing of so-called unauthorized constructions, shops and properties, rampant power-cuts, commercialization and privatization of education, growing crimes particularly crimes against women, corruption, curtailment of working people's rights, globalization, liberalization & privatization etc. was held at HUDA complex in Rohtak on 30th October 2006. The rally was presided over by the State Secretary Comrade Satyawan while Comrades Anup Singh, Hari Prakash, Ramphal, Rajendra Singh, I. S. Rathi, Vijay Singh, Roshan Lal, Zile Singh and Kanta Sharma moved resolutions on the above issues. SUCI Central Committee Member Comrade Krishna Chakraborty addressed the rally as the main speaker. In his address, Comrade Chakraborty dwelt elaborately on the hoax of industrialization by the monopolists in the current third phase of intense market-crisis of decadent, moribund capitalism and showed how world imperialism-

capitalism, in the name of pursuing the policy of globalization-liberalization and privatization is shifting the burden of its crisis on the toiling people to make them bleed white. He severely criticized the policies of the various state governments including those run by the pseudo-Marxists to forcibly snatch fertile agricultural land from the peasants and hand over the same to the domestic and foreign monopolists in the name of development and thereby subserving the class interest of the ruling capitalist class. He called upon all to join the country-wide mass movements on all these burning problems of people's life being developed by the SUCI as the genuine communist party on the soil.

In support of the heroic struggle of the peasants Mass meeting at Singur

In support of the heroic struggle of the peasants of Singur in West Bengal against grabbing of thousands of acres of most fertile land by the West Bengal CPI(M) Front Government for the Tatas' proposed motor factory, the SUCI, West Bengal State Committee organized a mammoth mass meeting at Singur on 3rd November last. Thousands of common people from all walks of life – peasants, workers, employees, students, youth, women, intellectuals – joined the rally to express solidarity with the Singur peasants' fight against the onslaught of the Tata-CPI(M) Front government combine.

Comrade Pravash Ghosh, member, Central Committee and Secretary of the West Bengal Committee of the SUCI addressed the meeting. In his address, while exposing the utter falsity of the slogan of 'industrialisation' of the CPI (M) and its government, Comrade Ghosh scathingly laid bare the real character of the CPI(M) leadership most nefariously serving the interest of the Indian monopoly houses and the foreign capital to the detriment of the interest of the toiling people including the middle, marginal and landless peasants.

(Below) A section of the huge gathering at Singur



By embracing capitalism, CPI(M) has totally degenerated

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CPI(M)'s corruption knows no bounds

The CPI(M) poses and projects that the government run by it in West Bengal is a model one providing honest administration, and some of those who are uninformed may be taken in by such false propaganda. But those who have knowledge of affairs in the state know that nothing could be farther from the truth. The present kit scam is by no means an isolated instance. Criminal negligence and mismanagement, callousness and total unconcern about the people, lack of any principle or honesty and rampant corruption of the CPI(M) mark the activities of the government in every sphere. Hardly a month passes without a new scam involving corruption at high levels of the government and the party surfacing. Corruption has become so uncontrollable that despite all efforts, the government and the CPI(M) cannot hush it up. It has been leaking out in the media. Scam after scam is surfacing. This process of all-out corruption started from the very beginning of governance by the CPI(M)-dominated Left Front in 1977. Even in the early stages, corruption reached such a level that even Jatin Chakravorty of the RSP, the then PWD minister in the Left Front ministry and a close friend of the chief minister Jyoti Basu was forced to raise questions about how the son of the chief minister had quickly risen from the level of an ordinary employee to become a top executive in Bengal Lamp, a company taken over by the government, or how he had suddenly become the owner of a biscuit factory in Durgapur. He stirred up a hornet's nest. The CPI(M) pressurized his party RSP to drop him from the ministry. Subsequently, Nripen Chakravorty, ex-chief minister of the CPI (M) government in Tripura and a polit bureau member, described the CPI(M) governance as the most polluted and corrupted. Again, Benoy Chowdhury, the land and land reforms minister of the CPI(M)-led West Bengal government and a polit bureau member, had to admit that his own government had become a government of the contractors. Even Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the present chief minister, once called the state government led by his party a government of the thieves.

Since then, the CPI(M), making

use of its position as the ruling party, has spread the tentacles of corruption into every sphere, has universalized corruption, trampling upon all democratic sense of values and norms everywhere, right from the Writers' Building, the seat of power in Calcutta, down to the village panchayat level. All government departments, including even Education and Health, are stricken with this all-pervading corruption. No work can be got done in any government office without paying bribe. No substantial government contract is awarded or purchase order issued unless huge sums are paid as bribe. On the one hand, the industrialists, traders and contractors are getting whatever they want done by paying bribes. On the other, the leaders and workers of the CPI(M) have become so corrupt that the people are stunned by it. Not only that the CPI(M) has been participating in and profiting by the corruption in the government, corruption within the CPI(M) itself has been growing to reach a staggering level. No promoter or housing developer is allowed to do construction work by the CPI(M) hooligans unless he pays huge amount as 'commission'. There is no account of hundreds of crores of rupees of the government teachers' provident fund. Even in far away rural areas, no one gets appointed as a teacher unless he or she "donates" into CPI(M) fund lavishly. The amount varies, but is always in lakhs of rupees. Through the village panchayats controlled by the CPI(M), the Anchal Pradhans, Panchayat Pradhans and other panchayat functionaries drain out huge sums from the budgetary allocations for panchayats to fill their own pockets as well as the party coffers. Various methods are adopted for this like bribes from the contractors against payment of inflated bills to them, "payments" made for fictitious works against false bills, payment to fictitious labourers by preparing false muster rolls, etc. In rural areas, relationship of the CPI(M) with the people has become such that in order to get anything, even what is due, or to get anything done, the people cannot escape paying bribe to the CPI(M) functionaries or workers this way or that way.

Some of the scams during CPI(M) misrule

Space does not permit us to give

even a short list of the major scams that have come to light during the CPI(M)'s misrule in West Bengal. We can but mention a few of the most glaring ones. There was the PL Account scam which revealed that about Rs.2500 crore public money had been usurped. Different departments of the government had opened many PL Accounts and hundreds of crores of rupees had been withdrawn by the government and 'spent'. But the government could not produce any accounts to show how and under which heads these huge amounts had been spent. This charge was made in the government of India CAG Report. In 1995-96 and 1996-97, hundreds of crore of rupees allocated for Jawahar Rojgar Yojna, Rural Employment Scheme and Self Employment Scheme for Rural Unemployed (SESRU) remained unspent but the government failed to produce any accounts to show what happened to the huge surplus amounts. Over Rs.50 crore was embezzled from the Alipore Treasury alone between 1980 and 86. The AGWB Audit Report was suppressed by the government. Public outcry eventually forced it to appoint an enquiry commission. The commission in its report confirmed the scam. Police enquiry was started but stopped midway and the matter was put into cold storage. Afterwards, there were charges of fund embezzlement from 10 treasuries in 7 districts but all these remained uninvestigated. The WAKF scam was about illegal transfer of WAKF property worth Rs.1000 crore at important locations of Calcutta at throwaway prices. The present Speaker of the state Assembly, Hasim Abdul Halim was the WAKF minister then. During his tenure, the promoters and speculators usurped huge land and building properties through lease at nominal rates in connivance with WAKF office bearers, without any advertisement or floating of tenders. When the matter came to light, public outcry forced the then chief minister Jyoti Basu to ask the judicial secretary to investigate. The report submitted by him was first sought to be suppressed and finally rejected by the government!

Cause of CPI(M)'s degeneration

How is it that whatever modicum of sincerity and honesty that prevailed in the CPI(M) earlier,

became extinct after the CPI(M)-led Left Front rule began in West Bengal in 1977? Many ponder why this has been so. This is worth examining to correctly understand the cause of it. So long as this party participated in mass movements even with a reformist outlook, some degree of honesty and decency prevailed in it. But when, pursuing the path of social democratism, it forsook the path of mass movement and took to running governments within the capitalist framework on the basis of understanding with the capitalist class, it started degenerating fast. It is a sad truth that moving along this path, the be-all and end-all of the CPI(M) politics has for long become to attain governmental power and retain it at all costs through understanding with the capitalists, by appeasing them and currying favour with them. By aligning themselves with the capitalist system, the CPI(M) leaders and workers have become totally devoid of any ideology or principle. As the inevitable outcome of this, all-out corruption has engulfed them. In running government in capitalist style for years, the CPI(M) has formed an unholy nexus with the capitalist class – the industrialists, traders, contractors and promoters and rich peasants. In this process, the party has degenerated thoroughly. It has deserted the people, feels no concern about them, has lost all shreds of principle, honesty and decency and become utterly corrupt and dehumanized, trying to cover up its real face with pseudo leftist and populist vocabulary and postures. The present ugly face of the CPI(M), as hideous as that of any bourgeois party, is the outcome of its having embraced capitalism. It is money power that sustains the party and keeps it going.

Just as the CPI(M) is serving the capitalist class from governmental seat, so also is the ruling capitalist class extending its protective arm to keep the position of the CPI(M) secure. Monopoly-controlled press and electronic media underplay CPI(M)'s corruption and the ruling class provides full backing and support to it enabling it to win election after election in the state by employing every conceivable foul means. The silver lining is that the people of West Bengal are gradually becoming conscious about this and realizing the degenerated character of the CPI(M).

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Death sentence on President Saddam Hussein : SUCI demands annulment on All India Protest Day

The rally organized in Chowk Bazar, **Surat** on 9th November, was stopped by the police who threatened the participants and forcibly dispersed them. However the demonstrators re-assembled again and staged the demonstration. Comrade Satyendra Singh addressed the gathering.

Venue of the demonstration arranged by **Ahmedabad** district organizing committee on 11th November was City Income Tax Circle. The public meeting was addressed by Comrades Kanu Khadadiya, Mukesh Semwal and Bhaveek Raja.

U.P.

Protest demonstration was held at **Sultanpur** under the leadership of Comrades Swapan Chatterjee, District Secretary, Jagannath Burma, and Joyprakash Mourya. A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister and submitted to the District Magistrate demanded annulment of death sentence on Saddam Hussein.

At **Jaunpur** the demonstration was led by UP State Secretary Comrade V.N. Singh, District Secretary Comrade Jagdish Chandra Asthana, Comrade Diresh Kant Dubey, Comrade Surendranath Mourya.

Protest demonstration was also held at **Pratapgarh** led by Comrades Bichan Ali, Pratapgarh District Secretary, Puspendra Biswakarma, R. Biswakarma. All the programmes were held on November 8, 2006.

West Bengal

In **Calcutta** a big demonstration marched from Raja Subodh Mallick Square to the American Centre where effigies of Bush and Blair were hanged and burnt. Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Central Committee addressed the gathering. Comrade Manik Mukherjee, member, West Bengal State Secretariat consigned the effigies to flame. Here also a memorandum was adopted to be sent to the Prime Minister through the Governor, West Bengal, a copy of which was submitted to the officials of the American Centre.

Corrigendum

Through oversight, Rourkela was shown within Jharkhand in place of Orissa in *Proletarian Era* dated 15 October, 2006. Mistake regretted.



From top : Gujarat – Ahmedabad, Kerala – Ernakulam, Orissa – Bhubaneswar, Assam – Guwahati and Bihar – Patna.

From top : Karnataka – Bangalore, Jharkhand – Ranchi, Tamil Nadu – Chennai, AP – Anantapur and Chhatishgarh – Durg.

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