A War for Resources in India: Denial and violation of the rights of Indigenous People
Intro to the Adivasis of India

- ‘Adivasi’ literary means the original settler, first settler or Indigenous People.

- Anthropological Survey insisted that there are 635 tribes in India. Yet Indian Govt. recognised only 426.

- It has population of 100 million, which is 8.6 % of the total population of India

- 90 % of them still live in the rural areas, who economy is based on agro-forestry.
Intro to the.....

- The Adivasis have symbiotic relationship with the nature.
- The alienation from the natural resources in the name of economic growth, national interest and greater common good.
- Indian state official accepted through the Forest Rights Act 2006 that historical injustice has been done to the Adivasis.
A WAR FOR RESOURCES

- In 2009, the PM of India declared in the Parliament that extremism as the biggest internal security threat and also threat to the investment climate.
- They declared that 92,000 sq km falls under 120 districts of 9 states of India.
- The Operation Green Hunt was launched by deploying 200,000 paramilitary forces.
A WAR FOR RESOURCES

- Saranda is the largest Sal Forest in Asia situated in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.
- Saranda means the land of seven hundred small hills. The forest covers an area of 850 Sq. km.
- The Forest contains 25 % Iron-ore of the country, where 12 companies are running 50 mining projects.
A WAR FOR ......

- Saranda Forest is abode of Ho Adivasis, who have been fighting for the ownership rights on forest for decades.
- The Maoist had entered into the region in the year 2000 as a savior of 125,000 Adivasis of Saranda.
- However, today, the people are caught in the crossfire between the Security Forces and the Maoists.
A WAR FOR……..

- 25 villages were seized for a month and 3 houses were burnt.
- 3 ration shops were demolished and food-grain, utensils were destroyed in every house.
- 3 villagers were killed, 2 women were raped, 500 were tortured.
- 112 villagers were detained and 33 were sent to jail.
- Schools converted into police camps and study materials destroyed.
- Official papers were burnt and 22 companies were sanctioned mining
VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

• 83 districts of India are ruled by the Extremists.
• The Security Forces killed 1000 innocent people, raped/molested 500 women.
• 6,000 people were arrested in Jharkhand, 17,000 in Chhatisgarh and 1500 in Orissa in allegation of being the Naxals or their supporters.
• 644 villages were vacated in the state of Chhatisgarh.
Militarization of the community by both parties - state and non-state actors across red corridor.

- 2055 people including 424 police, 612 common people and 1019 Naxalites were killed. In addition 500 SPOs were killed.
- 5000 children lost their parent(s) in the crossfire.
- Who’s losers in the crossfire?
- The majority of the people, who were killed in either side in the crossfire were Adivasis.
DEVELOPMENT DISCOURSE

• Adivasis are portrayed as the people, who are opposed to Development.

• 60 million people were displaced in India last 6 decades by development projects.

• 40 percent of those displaced belonged to Adivasi communities.

• 25 percent of those are estimated to have been resettled.
DEVELOPMENT

- 400 MoUs signed among the governments and private companies including 104 MoUs in Jharkhand, 90 in Orissa and 100 in Chhattisgarh.
- Policies brought in favour of the companies i.e. Industrial policy 2001 and 2012 in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.
- The Indigenous People will lose another 500,000 acres of land therefore, they are fighting across India.
DEVELOPMENT........

- Are we the Adivasis really against of Development?
- The Adivasis who surrendered their land are nowhere.
- Demographic change in Jamshedpur, Ranchi and Bokaro.
- Police Firing (Kalinganagar) and false cases filed.
- Where is the inclusive growth and development?
- Who are champion of the development?
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

- False charges labeled against 5000 activists and protesters in Jharkhand.
- Several Activists were put in Jail for demanding for enforcement of the Indian Constitution and Laws.
- Democratic movements were coined as Naxal Movements.
- Human Rights Activists are coined as the Naxal supporters.
- Lack of mouth pieces among the IPs...47 MPs but no question in the Parliament...
Denial and Violation of the Constitutional Provisions, Laws and International Mechanism

- Constitutional Provisions are not upheld by the Government.
- Laws and Policies are not enforced i.e. FRA, PESA, etc.
- International mechanism like ILO 169 is not yet ratified.
- Indian Government is silent on the UNDRIP.
- Why laws and policies are not implemented?
- Its due to rampant racial discrimination in India.
Denial and Violation ....

- Laws to protect the Land of Adivasis in several states.
- 8 Bureaucrats were found their involvement in land grab but no action taken.
- 2.2 million acres of Adivasis land was illegally grabbed in Jharkhand alone.
- 86,291 cases involving 10,48,93 acres of land.
- 12,739 cases are pending
- The govt is making easy the processes for mining companies.
There is a need to be the Glocal (global and local) forum of the Activists and Academicians to share the information.

The Academicians should make these issues visible in the international spaces.

The Academicians should give more spaces to the Adivasi Activists in their academic work.
THANK YOU!

GLADSON DUNGDUNG
Human Rights Activist
Bariatu, Ranchi, Cell: 07488203040
Email: gladsonhractivist@gmail.com
Web: www.jharkhandmirror.org