

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta - 13

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

7th January 1975

The Director General,
International Labour Organisation
Geneva,
Switzerland.

Re: Supression of trade union rights
in West Bengal (India).

Dear Sir,

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions has drawn attention of the ILO on several occasions to the suppression of trade union rights in West Bengal. We are however, extremely sorry to note that the attacks on trade union and democratic rights of the workers continue unabated as a result of which normal functioning of trade unions in the State is becoming increasingly difficult.

We are bringing to your notice a recent incident which goes to show how the rights of trade unions are being curtailed day by day.

All the trade unions in jute industry in West Bengal including the INTUC gave a proper notice of strike from 6th January 1975 in support of their demands and against non-implementation of past agreements in full. The preparations of strike were going on unitedly and in a peaceful manner.

Bengal Chatka Mazdur Union, our affiliate, planned a meeting of jute workers on 5th January at Kamarhatty and the police authorities granted permission for it. Shri Jyoti Basu Vice-President of CITU was going to address the meeting. However, police issued orders under Section 144 of Cr. P.C. banning all meetings on the plea that subsequently a rival meeting was declared by the ruling party on the same occasion. Some archas arrested by the Bengal Chatka Mazdur Union were also burnt down on 4th January night but no action has been taken against the culprits.

This deliberate obstruction in the activities of a trade union by the ruling party is not an isolated instance. Similar attacks are being launched which have made a mockery of right to organise and freedom of association.

I would therefore request you to make enquires into the matter and take immediate steps so that the suppression of trade union and democratic rights is stopped forthwith.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- B.T. Ranadive
President.

The News Editor,

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