

CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

172, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta - 13

1st March 1973

PRESS STATEMENT

CITU CONDEMNS FIRING ON
SER GANGMEN

Com. B.T. Ranadive, President CITU has issued the following statement to the Press:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions strongly condemns the unprovoked firing by the Railway Protection Force on the Gangmen of S.E. Railway at Hingir on 26th February resulting in death of 5 workers and injuries to several others. (As per message received by the CITU, the total number of workers killed is not 4 as officially announced in the Press).

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The Gangmen were agitating for the simple demand of confirmation of their services and withdrawal of the arbitrary transfer order against an employee. It is strange that the Railway authorities keep lakhs of workers as temporary or casual despite their services for a number of years. The vindictive transfers have also become a matter of day to day occurrence in Railways. Instead of conceding the just demand of the workers, such wanton attacks on them are meant only to suppress their legitimate T.U. struggles. The CITU congratulates the workers of Bilaspur Division of S.E. Railway for their strong condemnation of the gruesome murders and their solidarity action in support of gangmen.

The CITU demands immediate punishment to the CRP personnel responsible for this firing. The CITU notes with grave concern the increasing use of RPF against the Railway workers during their agitations and appeals to all Railwaymen and other sections of workers to launch a countrywide movement demanding immediate ban on the use of RPF against the Railway workers.

The Editor

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For favour of Publication