

Bhutantimes.com Blocked, IFJ Concerns

IPAdhikari
Kathmandu, June

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has shown deep concern over Bhutanese regime's recent initiative to block bhutantimes.com.

"We strongly urge the Bhutanese government to overturn this decision, which can only be described as blatant censorship, and allow the Bhutanese people full access to the bhutantimes.com," IFJ Asia-Pacific Director Jacqueline Park said.

"It is a hypocritical move by the government to block local access to this website, particularly after taking so many positive steps towards a freer media, such as allowing the introduction of media privatization last year," Park said.

The IFJ has argued the government's actions is an attack on freedom of expression and is compromising the Bhutanese people's right to information. "This issue requires serious attention and immedi-

ate action if the government is serious about moving towards a freer and open society," Park said.

The IFJ condemned the regime's act after APFA – Bhutan made the issue public.

The Bhutan government has banned viewing a website this month without furnishing any reason or accusation clamped on it.

The government ordered the recently formed Bhutan Information, Communication and Media Authority (BICMA) to block viewing this site.

The site had been popular for forum discussion where people can register and express their opinion on important national issues.

This is the second site that Bhutan government blocked. Earlier, bhutannews.com was also banned. Both these sites cannot be viewed in Bhutan at present. Forum discussions in recent months were observed to be critical of the minister Sangey Nidup, who is maternal uncle of the present Crown King.

Bhutan to Reduce Army Strength

Sangey Oendrey
Thimphu, June

Chief of the Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) Wogma Batoo Tshering has informed the ongoing National Assembly that his government has initiated process to slash the strength of the army by next year.

The current strength of the RBA is 9,021 soldiers and government plans to bring down the number to 8,000, said Tshering. The RBA strength was 10,326 in 2005 when the government announced its intention to decrease its size.

However, the government, he said, would increase the militia force to combat with the natural calamities to which Bhutan is prone.

The government advocates that owing to safe hug from the India, Bhutan does not have external threats and that it does not need army. The national police strength is around 40,000.

The assembly has directed the RBA to decide the age limit, qualification for the militias and arrange training centers and budget consulting the finance ministry.

Opinion Hunt!

The exiled Bhutanese issue is getting more complicated. There clearly exists debate whether to 'what solution' would help the issue get safe landed.

Thus, Bhutan News Service seeks opinion from you individual. We maintain confidentiality. Send us your opinion on all three options i.e. repatriation, resettlement or local integration on the below address.

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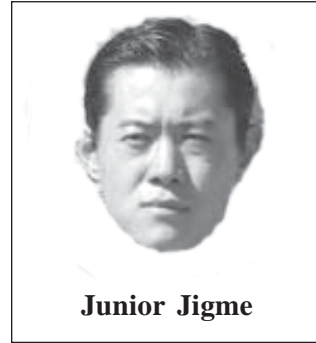
Regime Continues Atrocities

TBR Correspondent
Samtshe, June

The military government of Bhutan has arrested at least 39 people from southern Bhutan recently allegedly involved in communist party.

These people have been kept at the Samtse jail and are given heavy torture and treated inhumanly. However, status of few of them has not been known. Their family members have not been given accessibility and many children are now living alone after their parents get arrested.

The military government has accused these villagers of



Junior Jigme

hatching plots for armed revolt against the regime.

The authorities have arrested 29 from Ghumauney, nine from Nainatal and one from Chengbari block under Samtse district.

The arrested include six members from Shree Ram

Chhetri's family, two from Indra Bahadur Ghale, three from Nar Bahadur Ghale, two from Tara Bir Ghale and two from Durga Lepchha's family.

Meanwhile, Birkha Raj Ghalley, 13, Deo Raj Ghalley, 11, Bhim Bahadur Ghalley, 6, Roshan Kumar Ghalley, 3, Binita Chhetri, 11 and Arbind Chhetri, 8 are living alone due to the arrest of their parents while Arjun Chhetri is the student of Drukyl Higher Secondary School, Paro Bhutan. He was arrested from the school premises.

The organizations in exile have criticized the act of arresting citizens from Samthe.

Leaders in India to Garner Support

Bhutan News Service
Kakarvitta, June

In an effort to garner more support toward repatriation from India government and well wishers, the Bhutanese leaders in exile have left for India on June 25.

Three separate teams of leaders have left for separate Indian cities to hold talks with Indian ministers, party representatives and human rights activists.

Narad Adhikari, Gopal Gurung and Rajman Gurung teamed up for New Delhi while another team of D. B. Rana Sampang, T. B. Thapa, T. R. Rai and K. B. Gurung left for Darjeeling and Sikkim to see

support from the local people on the way during repatriation.

The third team of D. P. Kafle and Kin Dorji left for Kolkata to seek support from the West Bengal government.

The initiative has been

taken after the National Front for Democracy (NFD) suspended the Long March for addition one month from June 15. In the last week of May, the Indian authority has obstructed the march at the Mechi Bridge.

UNHCR Meets Representatives

The head of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of office in Kathmandu Abraham Abraham has called exiled Bhutanese leaders for talks on June 26.

Ashok Gurung, one of the delegates informed the TBR that the UNHCR showed serious concern on all three options. Gurung further quoted the UNHCR official as having said that the UNHCR would rather encourage for third country resettlement, currently seen as possible option lying on the table.

Gurung also said the Bhutanese delegates urged the UNHCR to deliver reliable information in written ways. He informed that the meeting also discussed on the deteriorating security situation in the camps.

We Are Deprived of Treatment, Say Victims

Yadhav Neopaney
Beldangi, June

The exiled Bhutanese who were injured by the firing of India and Nepalese security forces at the Mechi Bridge during the Long March have not been able to get medical treatment.

Subas Giri of Beldangi II extension camp, sector C/2, who received injuries by two bullets of the Indian security persons on his left hand, said none of the organizations supported for treatment. They have not even visited him.

He said, Dr Bhumpa Rai only provided some medicine and dressing for the wound.

Another participant of the march Kiran Chhetri, the teaching staff of the Marigold Academy School dislocated his right

hand due to indiscriminate beating by Nepalese police.

Giri and Chhetri said organizers should pay all expenditure incurred for treatment.

President of Bhutan Press Union (BPU), C. N. Timsina told Bhutan News Service that his right toe was scratched



while Indian police hit. He also received bruises on different parts of the body; there are scars at the back resulted from merciless beating of the Indian security. His right leg is fractured at knee. It will take at least

another three weeks to get him well.

Timsina said that so far treatment cost has not been reimbursed by any of the organizations. Foreign journalist like Laura Pohl from USA, Lee Jeong Sik from Korea and John Cookson from Aljazeera Television visited his hut, interviewed and expressed early recovery and solidarity.

He expressed high concern that the leaders failed to give continuity to the movement event after the declared period of 15 days. He also asked the leaders to do documentation of those killed and injured during the long march and put pressure on Indian government for compensation.

One person was killed and many injured during the scuffle in the 'Long March'.

EDITORIAL

Bhutan's Atrocities

Bhutanese military government has recently arrested at least 39 innocent Nepali speaking people from southern division of the country. These people are extensively accused of hatching plots for armed revolt against the regime.

Even their family members have not been given accessibilities and many children are now living alone after their parents get arrested. This certainly deserves condemnation from international rights bodies and authorities concerned. Bhutanese government's such initiative at the time it claims for holding fair election in 2008 is appalling.

It is a known fact that Bhutan doesn't have independent judiciary to undergo 'fair trail' for those detained without any reliable reason. The security forces have already begun torturing them in inhuman ways. To date there are no any reports that international rights activists have taken measures for their unconditional release.

The surprising thing is for how long will international communities stand as 'bystander' for Bhutan's continued atrocities since centuries? Not only this, the condition of those who were imprisoned in the peaceful demonstration during early 1990s is still unknown. Some hundreds are arrested by absolute Druk oligarchy at different times after this period as well. However, the sad part is that their whereabouts is never known and several attempts to rescue them have always failed one after the other.

Druk regime's these sorts of atrocities are quite known to international communities including rights bodies. India, one of the big democracies of the world, should be held morally responsible as it has been backing up absolute Bhutanese regime for such acts. It is almost late for rights bodies to probe into the facts behind the detention and work towards releasing them unconditionally.

Opinion & column

India: A Vagabond in Asia

BY: PREM RAJ

Bhutanese people are slain in love of their country and many more were brutally injured by the sleazy tactics adopted by the government of India. They were expelled from the country of origin about seventeen years back on behest of India who almost finds herself in the driving seat to carve culture, chisel and steer the policies of Bhutan.

India has always attacked in the garb of a friendship to which the world alone has witnessed the famous India-Bhutan Treaty of 1949 and the same trauma is referred as the treaty of friendship between the two countries which simply speaks, "the matters of Defence and Foreign Affairs of Bhutan would be looked after by India". There are ample queries behind this.

An independent sovereign state, being shackled and the people being made slaves by the hatchet man, India, is a global village still proud of entering into an era of enlightenment, inhibiting peace and crushing slavery. The world conscious is in a state of somnolence and hence can not visualize the pique of the people, it simply goes on the paragon slogans like secularism as enchanted by India but can't gauge the kernel of Pharisee resting in the bottom.

On 27 May 2007, about 50,000 low caste Hindus have embraced Buddhism in pursuit of human dignity, honor of their women folk, liberty and life. They were treated worst than the animals and called as the menials. Their shadow was considered as an augury of bad luck by the higher class Hindus so they tore apart the charisma of religion to strive on to the shore of peace and assuagement by counterfeiting metamorphosis. Casting aside the religion, means hoisting a life on to the gallows it is only preferred when life debauches dignity, pride and self esteem.

By changing religion still be a dicey for Dalits as living in India in a polluted atmosphere of class discrimination is quite dodgy and farcical. So the dawn of tomorrow might not fetch a light into their lives but illusions at times are the

source of mental peace and solace for the oppressed.

On 17 May 2007, Thinley Penjore, Chairman of the National Front for Democracy (NFD) – Bhutan made an appeal to the United Nations Organization that Bhutanese refugees shall launch a peaceful march across Indo-Nepal border at Kakarvitta and Panitanki to symbolize solidarity from the people of Bhutan and indicate repulsion against the mock elections scheduled to be held on May 28, 2007 in Bhutan.

Further more, in this context in view of India's changed perspectives towards resolving Bhutanese refugee crisis, a specific appeal has been made to the Indian Prime Minister for providing easy access to these refugees across Indian soil. The main purpose of this appeal is to appraise the UNO.

The Red Cross, Amnesty International, International and Diplomatic Missions /Agencies and request being made to all the organizations related to humanitarian issues to help them by making physical presence along with mass media to join the cause of peaceful refugees on 28 May, 2007 at the Mechi Bridge were all obstructed by Indian security forces.

The procession of Bhutanese refugees comprised men, women and children who only wanted to remind their demand of returning home and nothing else, which was their birth right also but the Indian soldiers hailing from *Seema Suraksha Bal* (SSB) had the instructions from their Government having demonstrated 'bete noire' thus sprawled bullets to host the bare handed, bare footed human beings who had become prey to the boisterous claims of repatriating them to Bhutan, without comprehending the hypo critic style of India.

In this tragic incident one precious life was lost and many more including Balaram Poudyal, the President of Bhutan Peoples Party were severely beaten up. They were thrown out of

their motherland on the sweet will of India and from the same foe in the garb of a friend. It has been clearly mentioned in the said appeal that the refugees would be compelled to make sit-in protests where interference to block the movement appears, so there were no such aggressive designs in the said program to agitate the Indians. But India is totally intoxicated in its idea of supremacy and leaves no room whatsoever even to vandalize his own subjects.

Amnesty International, on 23 May, 2007 slammed India for continuous abuses in Kashmir and rest of the parts and said the scourge continued to enjoy impunity across the country. In its report for 2006, released in New Delhi it reads "torture, deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and extra judicial killings continued to be reported." A huge figure of 10,000 people had been victims of enforced disappearances since 1989. The Amnesty report has also said that concerns have grown more on protection of economic, social and cultural rights of already marginalized communities. In Gujarat justice continued to evade most victims and survivors of the 2002 violence, in which thousands of Muslims were attacked and 2,000 were killed. Rehabilitation process conducted by the Indian Government is extremely slow.

In Chhattisgarh area civilians were targeted and about 45,000, *adivasis* were forced to live in special camps thus putting them into an increased risk of violations. Around 300 million people remained in poverty despite the induction of new legislation. These are the few glimpses of rights abuses highlighted in the Amnesty International Report.

But who will leash India to stop disturbing the peace of neighboring countries by sowing cactus on the soil of others? There seems to be a ray of light when the people of Asia would get together to erect a wall of unity to stop India, to become a vagabond on this island.

Semiotics of Confusion and Misery

Despite fighting losing battles against all those wretched years under extreme hope and tolerance and still groping desperately in the dark and above all, lately realizing the so-called 'proverbial light' seemingly at a distant till date precisely due to our 'Big Brother's' wanton show of apathy and mistrust in us, I believe, dear friends, it would not be a mistake now to exhibit a tinge of second-thought on my part to underline the need to spread our "submissive" hands on the available option particularly the third country resettlement.

Going back home someday and reinvent a democratic life under a secured atmosphere is in fact the topmost priority of all the genuine sufferers. However, the last seventeen years of incredibly a 'sissipual saga' of our record-breaking endurance under abject poverty, helplessness and destitution amidst dirty and congested slums is indeed, far enough to deduce our fates likely to be reeling, yet again, under cloud of uncertainties and complex conundrums given we do not wake now and decide our fates.

Meanwhile, reportedly the US has clearly stated its inability to poke the Hi-

malayan dictator to take back his long-exiled citizens owing to the lack of diplomatic ties with the former. However, its humanitarian stunt deserved to be appreciated and be taken in good faith although 'the super power' might have been an enemy to millions.

By: R N BISTA

Read & Analyse

To be honest, the need of the hour for all the camp inmates right now is the humane living above anything else. The hapless lots, many of who are literally reduced to skeletal minimums, needed to be fed full first under a sound living conditions to be able to bear the bulk of 'madness' of nationalism which, in fact, is posing rhetorically as a slow poison. Tears roll quietly from most of the aged, sunken eyes and almost daily creep their destinations 'unsung' behind the yard of each camp, leaving aside instances of rising suicidal tendencies lately, obviously hinting the wrath and outcome of our pathetic living.

Further, in the light of worsening law and order with most refugee youths, by and by, going berserk and haywire apparently under the mix of alcohol, drugs and political tabs, and prostitution covertly making an inroad to commercialism, the entire elders and parents have begun wondering if their children would ever return home safe at the end of each day. The level of frustration has reached to such a height that the entire slums have become no less than 'ticking bombs' which might explode anytime soon to bring an untold consequences if they are not defused in time with timely and feasible solutions.

Against these semiotics of confusions and misery, however is my personal opinion, it would be more prudent on the part of concerned stakeholders including our leaders to ponder over and cut a clear line between "what is possible and available" on the table. The price has already been heavily paid over the last seventeen years of our 'unblessed and worthless' rituals and the further delay on one "pretence" or the other might take a catastrophic toll sooner.

(The writer is associated with Refugee Rights Coordinating Committee and can be reached at: mithaychhetri@hotmail.com)

From Regime

Ministers Willing to Join Politics

Sangey Oendrey
Thimphu, June

Five serving cabinet ministers are "seriously contemplating" on joining politics but have not identified which party to join, according to the trade and industry minister, Yeshey Zimba.

"We have not promised our assurance to any party," said the minister after the Assembly session. "It is not rumors that we are joining and we will declare which party we will join at the appropriate time," he said. "Right now we are still

serving ministers."

Yeshey Zimba also refuted rumors that the five ministers were considering a new political party.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the All People's Party (APP), the party which has been linked with the ministers, said that they have got the assurance of the foreign minister, Khandu Wangchuk, trade and industry minister, Yeshey Zimba, home minister, Jigme Y Thinley, finance minister, Wangdi Norbu, and the labour and human resources minister, Ugyen Tshering.

Facts Behind The Scene

Worldwide Priority System for 2007

The worldwide processing priority system sets guidelines for the orderly management and processing of refugee applications for admission to the United States within the established annual regional ceilings. These processing priorities are distinct from the issues of whether an applicant is legally admissible to the United States or meets the statutory "refugee" definition. A determination that a person falls within a particular processing priority only permits access to apply to the admissions program and does not entitle that person to admission to the United States.

Priority 1: Individual Referrals
Priority 1 is available to individuals with compelling protection needs or those for whom no other durable solution exists who are identified and referred to the program by UNHCR, a U.S. Embassy, or a designated non-governmental organization (NGO). This processing priority is available to persons of any nationality.

Priority 2: Group Referrals
Priority 2 is used for groups of special humanitarian concern to the United States designated for resettlement processing. It includes specific groups (that could be defined by their particular nationalities, clans, ethnicities, religions, location, or combination of such characteristics) identified by the Department of State in consultation with USCIS, non-governmental organizations, UNHCR, and other experts. Some Priority 2 groups are processed in their countries of origin.

Priority 3: Family Reunification Cases

An underlying principle in the administration of the refugee admissions program is the importance of maintaining family unity. In 2007, Priority 3 eligibility for a refugee interview is extended to nationals of 17 countries who are the spouses, unmarried children under 21, or parents of persons admitted to the United States as refugees or granted asylum, or persons who are lawful permanent

residents or U.S. citizens and were initially admitted to the United States as refugees or granted asylum.

Eligible nationalities are included following review of UNHCR's annual assessment of refugees in need of resettlement, prospective or ongoing repatriation efforts and U.S. foreign policy interests.

The Eligibility Determination
In order to be approved as a refugee, an applicant must establish that he or she has suffered past persecution or has a well-founded fear of future persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. A person, who has ordered, incited, assisted or otherwise participated in persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion is, by definition, not a refugee. Likewise, an applicant who has been "firmly resettled" in a third country may not be admitted and applicants are subject to various statutory grounds of inadmissibility, including criminal, security, and public health grounds, some of which may be waived.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer conducts a face-to-face interview of each applicant in a non-adversarial manner designed to elicit information about the applicant's claim for refugee status and any grounds of ineligibility. The officer asks questions about the applicant's experiences in the country of origin, including problems and fears about returning (or remaining), as well as questions concerning the applicant's activities, background and criminal history. Background information concerning conditions in the country of nationality is considered, and the applicant's credibility and claim are assessed.

LIVING MEMORY



JEETAN SUBBA

Panos-Media and Tenzin

It is no doubt that a gathering brings people together. I was among three including Tenzin Phuntsho, Studio Director of Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) and T P Mishra, Editor of TBR, to represent Bhutan in five days regional level training on 'Online Radio Broadcasting' organized by Panos South Asia in Kathmandu.

Indeed, the training had gathered more than two dozens journalists, media workers, freelancers from south Asian countries except Maldives. Unexpectedly it was a matter of pride to meet with Phuntsho where I tried strengthening the bond of intimacy with him. This is because I was meeting media professional from inside the country for the first time.

When told him about the pathetic situation of exiled life Phuntsho utterly flashed signals of not being known to the matter. However, Phuntsho showed keen interest in learning more about me. I must straightforwardly say that Phuntsho is a simple guy of just 23 who lacks media professionalism but still works as the director of state-owned media house i.e. BBS.

The training participants, except T P Mishra, used to stay together in Hotel Himalaya. Phuntsho and I spent two days together in the Hotel creating funs, sharing one another's story. It was on June 20 night I heard 'knocking sound'. When I opened the door Phuntsho was inquiring if I knew the call number of Panos office. After repeated inquiries he informed me that his mother had left the world.

In fact, the very message daggered my heart. It was shocking to hear such news from Phuntsho, who had already been in my list of good friends. On 21 June I bet bye to him as he left to hometown, Bhutan via Thai Airways. The way he shook hands from inside the taxi in front of the Panos office, particularly with me and Mishra, before heading to airport, saying 'Please remain in touch' is fresh in my memory.

I still remember that on June 20, during the lunch hour, Phuntsho talking to Mishra was wishing to work together in media inside the country one day. Thank you Phuntsho!

Exile Voice

World Refugee Day observed in camp



The exiled Bhutanese celebrated the World Refugee Day in Beldangi and other camps in Jhapa and Morang districts on June 20.

Youth Friendly Center organized demonstrations. Camp secretary of Beldangi II extension Manorath Khanal also addressed a function. Speakers on the function stressed the need to keep all options open to find a comprehensive solution of the prolonged crisis of exiled Bhutanese.

Nancy Politician, the Pro-

tection Officer of the UNHCR read out the message given by General Secretary of the United Nations on the occasion.

Meanwhile, local Pathivara FM aired the news which quoted Manorath Khanal of speaking for resettlement which has created misunderstanding among exiled Bhutanese in the camp.

'FM is trying to defame us by misinterpreting us', Khanal told BNS over telephone. **BNS**

Blind Student Seeks Financial Support for MA Thesis

Indra Rizal, an exiled Bhutanese student from Timai camp, who is blind by birth, seeks financial support for his thesis works.

He is doing his Master's degree in Political Science from Central Campus, Tribhuvan University (TU), Kirtipur.

He has already appeared for his 900 marks theory pa-

pers. Now he is working for his thesis on 'Durable solution for Bhutanese Refugee Crisis.'

"If somebody can support me with 15,000 Nepalese currency I would complete my thesis within a couple of months", lamented Rizal. Rizal, who is a TU topper and gold medalist with distinction, has no means to complete thesis. **BNS**

Children Forum Office Inaugurated

Amidst a function, the filed director of the Caritas Nepal in Damak Fr Verkey inaugurated the central office of the forum of the exiled Bhutanese Children Forum on June 26.

The new office is located in Beldangi I camp. Addressing the function, he said the children must be given ample opportunities to pave way for a

better society. RCU official of the camp Khadga Sharma inaugurated a photo exhibition organized on the occasion.

UNHCR official Bhagi Dhungel said the UNHCR would help for continuity of the forum. The children's program is being run in the camp since 1997 with the aim of developing skills in children. **BNS**

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



WE ARE TOGETHER: Participants at PanosSouth Asia, Online Radio Broadcasting Training held from June 19 - June 23. Among 22 participants, three were from Bhutan including two from Bhutan News Service.

Photo: Panas

Interview of the Month

“No Power Can Stop People’s War” - Vikalp



BY: T P MISHRA

Communists Party of Bhutan, Marxists-Leninists-Maoists (CPB-MLM), established in the mid 2001 and come into public in 2003, has time and again stated that it would lead ‘peoples’ war’ in Bhutan to uproot the absolute regime and thereafter establish ‘peoples’ government’ in this Himalayan kingdom. CPB-MLM is extensively accused of being responsible towards creating havoc inside camps in Jhapa where the exiled Bhutanese have been living. In response to mailed questionnaire of T P Mishra, Editor of Bhutan News Service (BNS), the party’s General Secretary ‘Vikalpa’ said his party’s mission would continue in under any circumstances to what he said was to establish people’s rights. Excerpts:

BNS: Why you felt the need to establish Communist Party in Bhutan?

Vikalp: Where there is suppression, there is revolt. Where there is revolt, it explodes the empire of suppression into pieces and creates the exploitation free society. But to initiate the revolt, a revolutionary party is necessary. Again, to establish a revolutionary party, a revolutionary ideology is necessary. Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is only that ideology in this 21st century. For this very reason, we thought of establishing Communist Party in Bhutan. Not only that, the old parties and organizations have reduced themselves into “Manpower Companies” and were engaged in sending their cadres to the foreign lands. They were involved in such works for their selfish dream. This also polarized the cadres into two groups, viz. pro-Bhutan and pro-US. We didn’t see the authenticity of revolution without establishing communist party, which is a common institution of freedom loving people in Bhutan and revolutionary exiled Bhutanese, representing the 95 percent down trodden people. Hence, we decided it correct, to establish the Communist Party in Bhutan Marxists-Leninists-Maoists.

BNS: What your party is doing at this period?

Vikalp: At present, the country is in the hand of 5 percent Royal feudalists whereas, our party represents 95 percent of the down trodden people. Hence, our party wants to snatch the state-power from the 5 percent Royal feudalists and handover it to the 95 percent peasants and working class. It is only possible through the ‘world shaking gigantic revolution’ based on political conscience. Thus, CPB (MLM) is seriously engaged to uplift the political conscience and to fulfill the basic necessity of revolution into the people at this

period.

BNS: Why is the CPB (MLM) creating havoc inside camps where exiled Bhutanese live?

Vikalp: Our party is not creating havoc inside the camps. The way the Bhutanese regime created ‘silent state terrorism’ and tried to accuse the justice loving people as terrorist, in the same way, the agents of domestic feudalism and world imperialism from within the camps, by launching anti-national movement against the national movement of the people, and creating havoc among the nationalists (people who love to return Bhutan), they are trying to accuse the nationalist sentiments (pure Bhutanese people) as the terrorists. They are the enemy of the people and it is the symbol of their low graded conspiracy. These renegades have, somehow, created confusion in some media as well. Bhutanese people will never for-

wards the ‘yellow journalism’. They are prompting CPB (MLM) cadres to commit some mistakes on which they can create terror among the people and separate us from the masses giving all its blame to the CPB (MLM). In other words, they are trying to pull the party in a deciding war and smash it in a budding stage. This has polarized the people in the camps into a handful of pro-US elements and pro-democratic Bhutanese groups. Although it has a little negative impact now, it has served a great in the Bhutanese revolution by making clear distinction between the foe and friends.

BNS: When will your party declare to what you call ‘Civil War’?

Vikalp: It is not the Civil War but the ‘Protracted People’s War’ that our great and glorious party CPB (MLM) is preparing for. But the policy of fusing of the nation’s



give them.

BNS: What is your party’s stand on the US offer of third country resettlement?

Vikalp: At present, the incidents in camps are dramatic. Before the establishment of the CPB (MLM), no party was much concerned with the problem faced by the exiled Bhutanese. But, after its establishment in 2001 and formal declaration in 2003, not only trembled the monarchical system in Bhutan but also brought dramatic changes in the version of India and the US too, regarding the Bhutanese issue. The version of the US diplomat for South Asia, Julia Taft, in the past years and of the Indian security high officer Mr. Brajesh Mishra, on Bhutanese problem, could be traced as the good examples. As a result, the domestic feudalism and the world imperialism, have collectively, been hatching conspiracies to encircle and smash the Bhutanese movement by creating their agents from within exiled Bhutanese community.

The domestic feudalism and the world imperialism, particularly the US, are not only worried but greatly feared to see the people oriented programs and progress of CPB (MLM). They consider the camps as the cadre building centre of CPB (MLM). But they are isolated from the party’s activity inside Bhutan due to their metaphysical thought. That is why they want to dismantle the camps by tempting for dollars and jobs abroad. Since it is not possible to carry out such activities by the royal elites and the US personnel, they are making use of compradors those who could be bought in terms of money. This has been proved by the pro-US activities of the so-called some of the leaders of the past who were providing leadership in the democratic struggle.

Sometimes they even misinterpret the media and push them to

freedom movement and the class struggle has been made public, for its effective advancement. If there is foreign interference, it may take the form of National War, in which a national front can be formed against the foreign element even with the state power (monarchy), including all other parties and organizations. But if state power (monarchy) deceives, at last, there will remain no option other than the Civil War for safeguarding sovereignty of Bhutan and Bhutanese people.

BNS: Does this party have any connections with radical forces in Nepal and India?

Vikalp: CPB (MLM) is not a parasite and it does not believe in foreign aided movement. It is a self supported party and sets forth the example in its own creativity. As far the relation with the so-called radical forces in Nepal and India, we don’t have any connection with them. But from among the communist forces, there is moral support, since we have the common ideological ground.

BNS: How much area is under your party’s influence inside Bhutan?

Vikalp: Our party successfully carried out the programs of wall painting, pestering, pamphletting, hosting of flags and cross-road and closed room meetings in 16 districts out of 20 in Bhutan and in all the seven camps in exile at a time, when it was declared in April 22, 2003. This reflects the influence and capability of this proletariat party. After that, in the course of nearly four years, our party, both quantitatively and qualitatively, has made its strong hold in the masses. But it is not the right time to disclose in how many districts we owe the strongholds. We will disclose it, too, when time ripens.

BNS: What are your party’s strategies to overcome Indian intervention, which is certain?

Vikalp: Though the people of In-

dia are on our favor, the feudalist monarchical system of Bhutan is backed by the Indian expansionists and world imperialists because of which our party has been providing orientation to party cadres to remain prepared mentally from now onwards to face those two powers later while combating the absolute monarchy. It is already mentioned above that the war may take the form of National War, Civil War if the situation demands. We are well equipped with the scientific war-art of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism of the 21st century because of which the interfering element has to, by any means, downfall if the Civil War breaks out. These sorts of elements have to learn lesson from the past history of Vietnam, China, Cuba and many more. Those elements shall be outraged by the sovereign people of Bhutan.

BNS: Why has movement for democracy in Bhutan always failed? How much optimistic is your party towards establishing democracy in Bhutan?

Vikalp: There are many reasons behind the failure of movement for democracy in Bhutan but ‘poverty of ideology’ is the main thing among them. Chairman Mao-Tse-Tung has said that all things are determined by the righteousness and wrongness of the ideology. If the ideology is correct, all requisites will be fulfilled one by one but if it is incorrect, the thing in possession will also be lost in the course of time. The same thing is reflected in Bhutanese revolution. Old political parties and organizations have been lambled due to the lack of correct ideology and tactics. Neither they enjoy the people’s support nor do they possess any military might. They have been lost in the maze failing to recognize the basic components of the Bhutanese revolution. The feudalist monarchical system has been humiliating over Bhutanese democratic struggle because of these sorts of shortcomings. But CPB (MLM), based on the scientific ground of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, has been formed to stop such activities and to provide correct direction in the Bhutanese revolution. It has truly recognized the basic components of Bhutanese revolution and provided correct direction towards building a new and beautiful Bhutan.

It will be crystal clear if ‘five synthesis and the three directives on Bhutanese revolution’ produced on and recommended by the historic 9th CC meet, is seen. It is the correct handling of the correct situation. Since our party is based on the correct ideological ground and enjoys the mass support from the people, we are in full hope that our party should play the leading role in establishing the peoples’ government and making them the real owner of the country.

BNS: How can you claim, you can be victorious?

Vikalp: Revolution in Bhutan is not a vested responsibility of a single party. All the political parties, organizations and individuals, those who are in favor of the freedom loving people and oppose to absolute monarchy, are suppose to be united in a single platform at

this juncture. Since no revolutionary spirit is found in other political parties and organizations, the CPB (MLM) has been playing a leading role in building such democratic front. No power can stop the people’s struggle for justice. (This is the first time that ‘Vikalp’ has talked to independent media)

Refugees Around Us



TEJU PRAKASH

Somali Refugees Hang on to Hope in Camps

All Things Considered, November 8, 2005 · A series of camps in Kenya house 140,000 refugees from civil war and deprivation in their native Somalia. There is fear that extremist Islamist groups will find recruits amid the stagnant life in the camps.

After 13 years, the camps have the trappings of permanence in what is supposed to be temporary shelter. Life there is difficult at best, and the majority of refugees say they don’t really want to return to the violence of Somalia, even if it were an option.

But the refugees face food and water shortages, overcrowding and malaria — a dangerous mix, says 22-year-old refugee Nour Abduli. “A hungry man is always an evil source,” he says. “They are being forced to accept whatever situation that will give them a living.”



That situation, some camp administrators say, includes impoverished refugees recruited by extremist groups, possibly including groups with ideological allegiance to al Qaeda or other terrorists.

There is no evidence organized militant groups are operating in the camps. But Western intelligence and aid groups report that homegrown militant Islamist groups, including at least one group harboring members of al Qaeda’s East Africa cell, are operating in and out of Somalia.

Tens of thousands of Somali youth in refugee camps in Kenya are susceptible to recruitment by Islamic extremists. But they may also be Somalia’s best hope for a stable future.

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