

Invoking Peace

The growing violence and peacelessness pertaining in different parts of our country including West Bengal perturbed the different Gandhian organization, working in West Bengal and led by the West Bengal Gandhi Peace Foundation and supported by Gandhi Museum, Barrackpore, West Bengal Harijan Sevak Sangha, West Bengal Sarvodaya Mandal, Kustruba Peace Centre, etc., decided to undertake a Satyagraha to bring back sanity, courage and morale and unity, restore peace and protest against all forms of violence in the affected areas of West Midnapur, Jhargram and other areas. On the 12th March, 2010, in the morning 20 cyclist and some others including one lady awareness building started the protest march from Digha, East Midnapur and covered violence-ridden disturbed areas like Binpur, Lalgarrh, Sanrpura, Lodhasuli, Raghunathpur, Pirakata, Janda, Satpati, Moupal, Jangal Mahal in Jhargram etc.. In all they convened more than 450 kilo meters and have concluded their Satyagraha at the Gandhi Statue near Mayo Road, in Kolkata today, 19th March, 2010, at 2 pm.

The Satyagrahis stayed in the affected areas, conducted public - meetings and talked to all levels of the people to find out and realize the real causes and issues of affectation. Although some people in Jangal Mahal areas expressed that there is nothing unusual in peaceful living the Satyagrahis found fear, mistrust, lack of security, marks of wanton violence and hardly people opening their mind about real situation. They realized that while mal-development was one reason, the other one was the exploitative attitude of the vested interest including parties and lack of initiative on the part of the Government. Overall a violent situation do persist here. Even the employment of the Joint Action Force could not be found to be affective. Rather people are more apprehensive about its role and necessity. Under the circumstances we feel that trusting the local people and involving them in constant peacefull constructive development - work and through non-violent, lovable methods peace and amity could be restored. The present Satyagraha is the first step towards this.

Our suggestions to get over the present unhappy situation are:

1. Undertaking of a neutral enquiry to find out the real situation in Jangal Mahal.
2. Making People aware about different Government Schemes and Project for their development.
3. Involving the local people in proper implementation of all short - term and long - term Planning.
4. Re-consideration of the necessity for maintaining the Joint Action Force.
5. Requesting the political Parties not to spread and undertake activities that may incite violent, peaceless action.
6. Making efforts to bring back people who have left their homes out of fear.
7. Requesting all to shun the part of violence and solve problems through peaceful dialogue and means.
