

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. Please provide background on the aims of the Peoples War Group in Andhra Pradesh from the mid 1990s.
2. Please provide details of the leaders of the Peoples War Group in Andhra Pradesh from the mid 1990s.
3. Please provide background on the activities of the Peoples War Group in Andhra Pradesh from the mid 1990s, including the approach by the authorities.

RESPONSE

1. Please provide background on the aims of the Peoples War Group in Andhra Pradesh from the mid 1990s.

According to an article entitled 'PWG hopes merger with Party Unity will boost cadre morale', one of the aims of the People's War Group from the mid-1990s, was to boost party unity between all Marxist Leninist groups in India. Information is provided in the following excerpt:

The Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist Party Unity has merged with the Communist Party of India – Marxist-Leninist People's War, infamous as the People's War group.

PWG Secretary Ganapathy and the now-defunct PU's secretary Prasad jointly announced the merger, which took place on August 11 after a week long conference between the central committees of the two organisations, in a clandestine conference with the media at the weekend.

This follows nearly five years of unity talks between the two banned revolutionary outfits....

Ever since its birth on April 22, 1980, the PWG had been trying to bring all ML groups under its umbrella. Its strategy is to overthrow the 'imperialist rulers' of today and establish the rule of the masses. ('PWG hopes merger with Party Unity will boost cadre morale' 1998, Rediff on

the Net website. <http://www.rediff.com/news/1998/oct/05nxi.htm> – Accessed 27 October 2005 – Attachment 1)

General aims and objectives of the People's War group were resourced. The Federation of American Scientists website provides background information on the aims of the Peoples War Group, also known as The Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist):

Since 1980 clashes between police and Naxalite Maoist revolutionaries of the People's War Group (PWG) have taken place in northwestern Andhra Pradesh. The PWG champions the cause of the landless and targets landlords, law enforcement personnel and other symbols of authority in the northeast, east central and southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa. ('Peoples War Group' No Date, Federation of American Scientists website <http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/pwg.htm> – Accessed 17 October 2005 – Attachment 2)

The Observer Research Foundation website provides the following information in relation to the aims and the military strategy of the People's War Group:

Ideology and goal

Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung thought. Rejects parliamentary democracy. To wage a protracted people's war on the lines of the Chinese revolution and seize political power and thus bring in a New Democratic Revolution that would establish people's government.

Military strategy

Guerrilla warfare. Build bases areas in villages, form guerrilla zones on the way to declaring them as liberated zones, encircle towns and cities and seize political power ('People's War (PW)' 2004, Observer Research Foundation website <http://www.observerindia.com/reference/pwg.htm> – Accessed 20 October 2005 – Attachment 3).

Elaborating further on these objectives, the following excerpt from the South Asia Terrorism Portal describes the People's War Group's aims and ideology:

The PWG traces its ideology to the Chinese leader Mao Tse Tung's theory of organised peasant insurrection. It rejects parliamentary democracy and believes in capturing political power through protracted armed struggle based on guerrilla warfare. This strategy entails building up of bases in rural and remote areas and transforming them first into guerrilla zones and then as liberated zones, besides the area-wise seizure and encircling cities. The eventual objective is to install a "people's government" through the "people's war". In short, as the PWG claims, it wishes to usher in a New Democratic revolution (NDR). ('Left-wing Extremist group' No Date, South Asia Terrorism Portal website <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/terroristoutfits/pwg.htm> – Accessed 10 October 2005 – Attachment 4)

2. Please provide details of the leaders of the Peoples War Group in Andhra Pradesh from the mid 1990s.

According to The Observer Research Foundation, the founder of the People's War Group was Kondapalli Seetharamaiah who passed away on April 12, 2002. Seetharamaiah was expelled from the party in 1992 ('People's War (PW)' 2004, Observer Research Foundation website <http://www.observerindia.com/reference/pwg.htm> – Accessed 20 October 2005 – Attachment 3).

The following excerpts from an article entitled 'PWG rejects govt offer for talks' from Rediff on the Net indicates that the PWG leader in the year 2000 was a man named Ramakrishna.

The article also indicates that the following three PWG members, Nalla Adi Reddy, Y Santosh Reddy and Seelam were leaders in the late 1990s:

In a media statement issued by PWG leader Ramakrishna, the state committee of the CPI-ML (PWG) contended that even while offering to hold talks, the government has been resorting to severe repression and elimination of PWG leaders and cadres....

The state committee reiterated its charge that three top PWG Leaders -- Nalla Adi Reddy, Y Santosh Reddy and Seelam Naresh -- were arrested by the police in Bangalore and later killed in cold blood in Karimnagar district on December 2, 1999. The state committee reiterated its charge that three top PWG Leaders -- Nalla Adi Reddy, Y Santosh Reddy and Seelam Naresh -- were arrested by the police in Bangalore and later killed in cold blood in Karimnagar district on December 2, 1999 ('PWG rejects govt offer for talks'2000, Rediff on the Net website <http://rediff.co.in/news/2000/jan/18ap1.htm> – Accessed 18 October 2005 – Attachment 5).

Information regarding all leaders from the mid 1990s is scarce. According to the Observer Research Foundation website the present leader of the People's War group is Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy. According to the article at Attachment Other central leaders are listed in the following excerpt:

Present leader

Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy, General Secretary. Native of Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh.

Present top leadership

At the apex is the Central Committee (CC). Elections to the CC held last in March 2001, at the 3rd (9th) Congress of the party. There are 21 permanent members in the CC. They constitute the highest leadership of the PW. They include:

- 1 Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathy—General Secretary.
- 2 Cherukuri Rajkumkar alias Devanna alias Uday alias Madhu.
- 3 Mallojula Koteswara Rao.
- 4 Naveen Prasad, formerly of Party Unity.
- 5 Nambala Keshava Rao @ Ganganna, the lynchpin of the Central Military Commission.
6. Katakam Sudarshan alias Anand.
7. Former Karnataka State Committee Secretary.
8. Mallojula Venugopal @ Bhupathi.
9. Jingu Narasimha Reddy @ Jampanna, Secretary of the North Telengana Special Zone Committee (NTSZC).
10. Sande Rajamouli @ Prasad, earlier Andhra Pradesh State Committee Secretary, Full Timer in the Central Committee.
- 11 Lanka Papi Reddy @ Lachchanna, Secretary, Dandakaranya Special Zone Committee (DSZC).
12. Akkiraju Haragopal alias Rama Krishna, Andhra Pradesh State Committee Secretary.
13. Wadkapoor Chandra Mohan @ Devanna, Secretary, Andhra Orissa Border Special Zone Committee and member of the Central Military Commission.
14. Central Committee Member belonging to Karnataka, Full Timer.
Ramesh alias Balaji
15. Bihar State Committee Secretary.
- 16 West Bengal State Committee Secretary.
17. Tippadi Tirupati @ Devuji, Secretary, Dandakaranya Area Committee.
18. Sumit, formerly of Party Unity.
19. Surjit, formerly of Party Unity.
20. Maharashtra State Committee Secretary
21. Tamil Nadu State Committee Secretary

(‘People’s War (PW)’ 2004, Observer Research Foundation website <http://www.observerindia.com/reference/pwg.htm> – Accessed 20 October 2005 – Attachment 3).

3. Please provide background on the activities of the Peoples War Group in Andhra Pradesh from the mid 1990s, including the approach by the authorities.

Please see the following research responses for background information on the activities of the People’s War Group from the mid 1990s:

- RRT Country Research (1998) *Research Response* IND12686, 27 January Q.3 (Attachment 6)
- RRT Country Research (1996) *Research Response* IND11444, 19 August Q.1 (Attachment 7)

A report entitled ‘Left Wing Extremism in India’ by P V Ramana on the Observer Research Foundation website lists murder, abduction and extortion as central activities of the People’s War Group. The full report is available at Attachment 8. The People’s War groups influence is described by Ramana in the following excerpt:

Of all the Left-wing extremist groups, the PWG has the largest presence, in different parts of the country. At the present, the rebels claim that they have established seven guerrilla zones of domination, four in Andhra Pradesh, where the group was originally founded on April 22, 1980, one in Bihar, one in parts of Maharashtra-Madhya Pradesh border, and the other in the Dandakaranya forest in central India. Further, the PWG has a State Committee to oversee its activities in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana and Punjab. The MCC has, in the year 2003, acquired a new presence in Punjab after a little known Naxalite group, the Revolutionary Communist Center of India—RCCI (M), merged with it. (Ramana, P V 2005, ‘Left Wing Extremism’ Observer Research Foundation website <http://www.observerindia.com/analysis/A072.htm> – Accessed 18 October 2005 – Attachment 8).

The Federation of American Scientists website provides information regarding the activities of the Peoples War Group from the mid 1990s:

In June 1998, Naxalites attacked a tribal village in Andhra Pradesh's east Godavari district, where they killed the village chief and beat eight women and shot two men. On 22 February 1998, an Orissa policeman was killed by suspected PWG militants, who had entered the state from neighboring Andhra Pradesh. In areas under their control, Naxalites dispense summary justice in "People's Courts", which in some cases condemn to death suspected police informers, village headmen, and others deemed to be "class enemies" or "caste oppressors". Madhya Pradesh state transport minister Likhiram Kware was hacked to death on 16 December 1999. The Naxalites also extort money from businesses. Their victims, in addition to police and local government officials, include suspected police informers, village headmen, and landlords whom they accuse of oppressing scheduled caste members. The PWG also used land mines to kill police, and insurgents used bombs to kill government officials, police, and civilians. (‘Peoples War Group’ No Date, Federation of American Scientists website <http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/pwg.htm> – Accessed 17 October 2005 – Attachment 2)

The South Asia Terrorism Portal website chronicles several major incidents involving or affecting the People's War Group (PWG) from the mid-1990s. These incidents reflect ongoing clashes between police and the People's War Group. The following excerpt provides an overview of the activities from 2001 to 1993 in reverse chronological order:

2001

- December 29: PWG Naxalites kill a Congress Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), D Raghya Naik, near Maddimadugula village, Mahboobnagar district in Andhra Pradesh.
- December 25: Four Naxalites of the PWG, killed in an encounter near Padmakshigutta in Hamumakonda town, Warangal district in Andhra Pradesh.
- December 10: 15 Naxalites of the PWG and the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (Janasakthi), CPI-ML (Janasakthi) group surrenders before the police in Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh.
- December 8: The PWG Naxalites blast a guest house of the Singareni Collieries on the banks of Kinnerasani river, near Palvancha in Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh.
- December 7: Nine PWG Naxalites arrested in Garhwa district in Jharkhand.
- December 5: Union government bans PWG under the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO).
- December 1: To commemorate the first anniversary of the People's Guerrilla Army (PGA), the PWG unleash a fresh wave of violence. They attack the Koyyuru police station, telephone exchange, house of a MLA and office of the Mandal Revenue Officer in Visakhapatnam district. The PWG attack Y Ramavaram police station in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. In Orissa, the Naxalites blast the house of State Cooperation Minister at Poteru Market in Malkangiri district. In Chhattisgarh, the Naxalites attack two police stations in Dantewada district.
- November 29: The PWG blasted a milk processing plant owned by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's wife, on the Tirupati-Pileru road in Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh.
- November 21: Six persons including five personnel of the Bihar Military Police (BMP) were killed in a landmine blast triggered by the PWG in Koiribigha Harijan Tolla, Gaya district in Bihar.
- October 21: The PWG Naxalites blew up Coca Cola bottling plant in at Atmakaru in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh.
- October 19: Seven persons including six police personnel were killed in a landmine blast triggered by the PWG in Jagpura village, Patna district in Bihar.
- October 17: Four persons including two police personnel were killed in a PWG landmine blast in Gorkhagaon village, Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh.
- September 9: Five personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed in a PWG ambush at Sunnampalli, East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh

- August 20: Ten police personnel were killed in a landmine blast triggered by the PWG in Remidicherla village, Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh.
- August 9: Six police personnel were killed and an estimated 22 seriously injured when the PWG launched simultaneous attacks on Kalimela and Motu police stations in Malkangiri district in Orissa. Two Naxalites were also killed in the incident. The Naxalites also took away huge quantity of arms and ammunition.
- July 9: The PWG sent a threatening letter to the Tribal Development Minister of Maharashtra demanding that all government schools, teachers who are not from Gadchiroli district should be replaced with local educated youths by July 20, 2001. The letter threatened that if the State government fails to agree to its demand, it will trigger large scale arson in the district.
- June 14: An estimated nine personnel of the Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP) were seriously injured when the PWG Naxalites attacked the Yerragondapalem police station, Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh.
- April 19: Four police personnel were killed and three more seriously injured in a landmine blast triggered by the PWG in Chintakarrapalem village, East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh.
- April 9: The PWG Naxalites attacked and destroyed the Hindalco mine office in Sarguja district, Chhattisgarh.
- March 22: In two separate incidents, the Naxalites of the PWG raid and blast two police stations at Srisailam, Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh and looted some weapons and communication equipment.
- February 12: The District Collector of Warangal and his driver injured in an attack by Naxalites of the PWG in an unspecified location in Warangal district.
- May 27: The PWG blow up the house of former Union Minister and Congress leader Jaipal Reddy in Mahboobnagar district, in Andhra Pradesh.
- May 25: The PWG Naxalites blast the house of Andhra Pradesh Minister for Higher Education in Medak district.
- March 7: Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Minister A Madhav Reddy was killed in a landmine blast set-off by the PWG Naxalites on the outskirts of Hyderabad.
- February 20: Twenty two police personnel, including an Additional Superintendent of Police killed in a landmine blast triggered by the PWG Naxalites in Bastar district, Chhattisgarh.
- February 19: Seven police personnel were killed in an attack by the PWG Naxalites near Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

1999

- December 16: The PWG Naxalites killed Madhya Pradesh State Transport Minister Likhiram Kavre in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh.

- September 13: The PWG Naxalites PWG blew up police station and kill five police personnel in Medak district in Andhra Pradesh.
- September 4: The PWG Naxalites killed Assistant Inspector General of Andhra Pradesh Police, Umesh Chandra in Hyderabad

1998

- October: The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (Party Unity), CPI-ML-PU merged with the People's War Group (PWG). After the merger, the new party was named the CPI (ML) (People's War).

1997

- January 10: The PWG Naxalites storm a police station in Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh killing 16 police personnel.

1993

- November 28: Ten personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed by the PWG Naxalites in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- November 14: Nine police personnel including a Superintendent of Police, were killed by the PWG in a landmine blast in Mahboobnagar district in Andhra Pradesh.
- January 27: Deputy Inspector General of Police, K. S. Vyas, who had earlier led the Grey Hounds, anti-Naxal elite police force in Andhra Pradesh , killed the PWG Naxalites in Hyderabad.

('Left-wing Extremist group' No date, South Asia Terrorism Portal website
<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/terroristoutfits/pwg.htm> – Accessed 10 October 2005 – Attachment 4)

The following excerpts are from the University of Maryland website report “Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India” and offer a chronological overview of some of the major activities and events associated with the People's War Group in Andhra Pradesh in the mid-1990s. Please note that the following articles are also available in-full at the Members's Request. The following list of reports outline the activities of the People's War group in 1996:

January 2, 1996: Nine persons, including three villagers, were killed in an encounter between PWG extremists and police at Palakurthy village in Karimnagar District in Andhra Pradesh. Police said the extremists were conducting Praja court (people's court) at Palakurthy village when, on noticing police, they opened fire. In the return fire, six Naxalites and three villagers were killed, and six other villagers were injured. (British Broadcasting Corporation 1/4/96)...

January 8, 1996: Five Naxalites belonging to Parkal Dalam of People's War Group (PWG), allegedly blew up the house of R. Prakash Reddy, a member of the legislative assembly, at Kesavapuram village in Warangal District in Andhra Pradesh. The Naxalites entered Dalam=s house and planted bombs under a tractor. However, no-one was injured. (British Broadcasting Corporation 1//10/96)...

January 9, 1996: Five Naxalites, including a wing leader, were killed in an encounter with police in Asravalli Forest area of Warangal District in Andhra Pradesh. The police recovered

a Amassive quantum of arms and ammunition@ besides 30,000 rupees cash from the spot. The encounter came close on the heels of stepped-up Naxalite violence in the state (British Broadcasting Corporation 1/11/96)...

April 3, 1996: In Andhra Pradesh, five extremists were killed in two separate encounters with the police in Nadirabad district. A court building was also blown up. Amongst those killed were four activists of Singhavali Karmika Samakhaya, a frontal outfit of the People's War Group. Another extremist was killed at Khanapur in the same district in an exchange of fire with the police. (British Broadcasting Corporation 4/4/96)...

April 14, 1996: Some 25 members of the People's War Group (PWG) stormed an outlying police station in Andhra Pradesh's Godavari district, killing one officer and injuring another, then escaped with 20 rifles and an AK-47 automatic weapon. The raid followed a shootout earlier in Bihar in which six Maoist guerrillas were killed and six police injured in a three-hour firefight, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI). Eleven PWG were arrested in the aftermath. The PWG stepped up its violent campaign ahead of this month's general elections, which it wants voters to boycott. (Agence France Presse 4/15/96)...

April 27,1996: During elections, in Andhra Pradesh, one person was killed in a fight between rival parties, and police shot and killed a militant from the communist People's War Group that had called on landless peasants to boycott the election. Pre-election violence killed at least 30 people, including 25 in Bihar. A police officer was killed and two were injured in a landmine blast set off by militants of the People's War Group in Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh.(Gazette Mail 4/28/96 and Agence France Presse 4/30/96)...

October 7, 1996: Seven policemen were killed and three injured when suspected Maoist extremists set off a mine blast in Andhra Pradesh. The blast destroyed the jeep carrying the 10-member police party to Mulug town in Warangal district for security duty at a meeting addressed by Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu Naidu. The extremists had expected a police party to head for Mulug because Naidu was in the area to campaign for his regional Telugu Desam Party in by-elections to 11 state legislative assembly constituencies. The PWG had called for a poll boycott. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 10/7/96)...

November 18, 1996: People's War Group guerrillas killed a senior police official and his wife in a landmine blast near Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. (Agence France Presse 11/18/96) (University of Maryland 'Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India' University of Maryland website 2004 <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/chronology.asp?groundId=75011> - Accessed 19 October 2005 – Attachment 9).

The following excerpts of media reports from the 'Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India', provide an overview of events relating to the People's War Group in Andhra Pradesh in 1997:

1997:

January

10 January: Sixty suspected PWG insurgents killed 18 persons including 16 policemen in a gunbattle and fled after bombing a police station in Andhra Pradesh. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 1/10/97)...

March:

21 March: Seven members of the PWG were killed by police in Andhra Pradesh after they opened fire on a police party in Laxmipur village. In the encounter that followed the seven, including a woman, were gunned down, and a huge cache of arms was also recovered from their forest hideout. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 3/21/97)...

24 March: Indian security forces gunned down four members of the PWG in southern Andhra Pradesh. A gunbattle erupted near a village in Medak district overnight when the police stormed a guerrilla hideout. A police officer was injured in the firefight. (Agence France Presse 3/24/97)...

July

1 July: A group of Indian Congress party workers were traveling to a party meeting when members of the outlawed People's War Group triggered a landmine explosion, killing four and injuring several others in Andhra Pradesh. (London Guardian 7/2/97)...

15 July: The Indian cabinet extended its ban on the People's War Group for another year. The ban was due to expire on July 25. (The Hindu 7/16/97)...

6 August: The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, strongly criticized naxalites due to their boycott of the Janmabhoomi public works program. He also compared them to the mafia, citing instances of extortion of money, carrying of weapons, and the use of threats and force. The Chief Minister's statements followed the shooting of Basava Reddy, the vice-president of his party's Warangal district unit. There had been accusations that Janmabhoomi projects had been given to contractors and not the general public. (The Hindu 8/7/97)...

10 August: Fourteen policemen were injured in mine blasts triggered by the People's War Group at Machupet in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman [India] 8/10/97)...

21 August 1997: A status report on extremist activities prepared by the Andhra Pradesh government appeared in an Indian newspaper. Among other things, the report conceded that the PWG was trying to run a parallel government and take over administration at the grassroots level, and that it had been either attacking or threatening the Forest, Revenue and APSEB officials to keep them from visiting villages. To create a political vacuum at the village level, the PWG rebels had been attacking leaders of various political parties and trying to unite leftist forces into a single group. (The Hindu 8/21/97)...

25 August: The Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Ms. Renuka Chowdhary, opposed a proposal to eliminate a government scheme relating to the promotion of research on diseases to which the scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are generally prone, a school health check up program and the Panchayat Swastha Seva Scheme. All were to be cut due to budgetary restraints. (The Hindu 8/26/97)...

Two members of the People's War Group were killed in an exchange of fire with police on the outskirts of Sangem village in Andhra Pradesh. The incident occurred when police patrol parties, spotting some Naxalites holding a meeting near the hillocks in Kammalagutta, asked them to surrender. The Naxalites in turn fired at the police, provoking retaliation. Two other Naxalites were killed in separate incidents in Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, PWG Naxalites blew up the house of the ruling Telugu Desam legislator near Choutpally village in Nizambad District in protest against Afake encounters@ with police. (British Broadcasting Corporation 8/29/97)...

26 August: Naxalites of the outlawed Peoples' War Group (PWG) in Andhra Pradesh shot dead a local church pastor at Krishnadevaripeta, in the port city of Visakhapatnam. The Naxalites branded him as a Apolice informer. @ (British Broadcasting Corporation 8/28/97)...

31 August: The Hindu reported on a series of one-upmanship between Naxalite forces and the local police in Adilabad and Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. The Naxalites, who in the past had warned local parents not to let their children join the police or the armed forces, had begun locking up the houses of police families. In retaliation to the PWG action, the police went to

Somarampet village and locked up the houses of three militants. The police ransacked the house before leaving. Earlier, they broke open the locks put up by the Naxalites in the house of the constable, Bal Reddy. The sudden raids forced the militants and their family members to flee the villages. (The Hindu 8/31/97)...

September

3 September: The CPI(ML) People's War Group declared the east region of India, comprising Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh and Koraput and Ganjam districts of neighboring Orissa, a guerilla zone. The People's War Group had already formed two guerilla zones, one comprising of five districts of North Telangana in Andhra Pradesh and the other comprising of six districts situated on the borders of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. (Bhandara, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur districts in Maharashtra and Bastar, Rajnandgaon and Balaghat districts in Madhya Pradesh form the Dankaranya guerilla zone, while Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam districts in Andhra Pradesh form the second guerilla zone). Technically, the PWG think-tank defined a guerilla zone as a stage of revolution where on one side the reactionary government will not be in a position to steadily continue its rule and on the other side, the revolutionary forces will not be in a position to firmly establish their State power, however well the guerilla war might have developed. Both sides will be contending for full control over the area and it will remain as an intermediate zone between the two. @ (The Hindu 9/3/97)...

13 October: Naxalites blasted the Chityal railway station in Andhra Pradesh as a prelude to a district bandh (strike) called by the PWG on 15 October to protest police operations against them and false encounters. Communications equipment was damaged, but rail traffic was not disrupted. (The Statesman [India] 10/13/97). (University of Maryland 2004, 'Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India' University of Maryland website <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/chronology.asp?groundId=75011> - Accessed 19 October 2005 – Attachment 9)

The following excerpts of media reports document the activities of the People's War Group in 1998:

19 March: About seven members of the Janashakti group of Naxalites killed an extremist belonging to the banned People's War Group in Andhra Pradesh. Previous rivalry is said to be the reason for the murder. (The Statesman [India] 3/13/98)...

15 April: The Andhra Pradesh Congress unit demanded that President's Rule be imposed in the state. The reasons given for the Central rule demand were: the burning of a suspect's brother by the police in Hyderabad; the rape of two women, including a former Naxalite, by the police; and the killing of two Congress workers in a group clash in Guntur. Pointing out that all the victims in the three incidents belonged to the minority community, Majlis MLAs alleged that a pattern involving attacks on minorities has emerged ever since the TDP has extended support to the BJP-led government in Delhi. (The Statesman [India] 4/15/98)...

14 June: A Naxalite was killed in an encounter in Andhra Pradesh. A police party returned fire when they were fired upon by a group of Naxalites holding a meeting near the village. (The Statesman 6/14/98)...

10 July: Naxalites shot dead the TDP leader and District Cooperative Central Bank chairman at Nirmal Town in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman [India] 7/10/98)...

15 July: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet decided to reimpose the ban on the PWG and its outfits for one year. The earlier one-year ban came to an end in May 1998. (The Hindu 7/16/98)...

23 September: Naxalites of the Red Tigers group blasted a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Kosgi town in Andhra Pradesh. The extremists, who had called for a boycott of Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, had left a note threatening to blow up the Gandhi statue at the state Assembly premises if it was not replaced with a Telugu Talli statue. (The Statesman [India] 9/23/98)...

3 October: Two Naxalites were killed in encounters with police, while PWG militants blasted a police station and injured two persons, including a constable, in separate incidents in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman 10/3/98)...

18 October: Naxalites of the banned People's War Group shot dead an auto driver and blew up the house of a landlord in two separate incidents in Andhra Pradesh; police arrested four rebels the night before. (The Statesman 10/18/98)...

19 October: Two PWG members, including one involved in the ambush of Yadgiri police station recently, were killed in an encounter with police near Bibinagar in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman 10/19/98)...

20 October: Naxalites blew up the Andhra Pradesh excise and prohibition minister's house after asking the inhabitants to leave. The attack was believed to be in retaliation for a recent encounter in the district, when nine PWG men were killed. The minister represented the Dichipalli Assembly constituency in Nizamabad district. (The Statesman [India] 10/20/98)...

25 October: A Naxalite of the Chandrapulla Reddy-Janashakti group was killed in an encounter with the police in Mallareddypet village in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman [India] 10/26/98)...

3 November: A senior leader of the CPI-ML Janashakthi group of naxalites was killed in an encounter with the police at Kistapur village in Andhra Pradesh, after police raided a house in the village. (The Statesman [India] 11/3/98)...

5 November 1998: Naxalites of the PWG set ablaze a state transport corporation bus near Magularpalli village in Andhra Pradesh in protest against the encounter at Banswada in which six Naxalites were killed. (The Statesman [India] 11/5/98)...

11 November: A Singareni Karmika Samakya (Sikasa) member was killed in an encounter with police near Bellampally forests in Andhra Pradesh. Sikasa was a wing of the People's War Group. (The Statesman [India] 11/11/98). Maoist Communist Center rebels beheaded a rival People's War Group activist near Gargoma village, then left leaflets containing the hit-list of the rival targets at the scene. (The Statesman [India] 11/19/98)...

4 December: Eleven PWG insurgents were killed in an encounter with Indian police in Andhra Pradesh. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 12/4/98)...

16 December: A former Congress(I) member of Parliament and three members of the banned People's War Group were killed and a telephone exchange was bombed in separate incidents in Andhra Pradesh. Kadem Narayana Reddy of the Congress (I) was shot dead by four Naxalites of an unidentified group at Ambarpet village in Adilabad district. (The Statesman [India] 12/16/98)...

20 December: People's War Group Naxalites set fire to a house at Katnadhamrajpalli village in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman [India] 12/20/98)...

21 December: The Orissa government ordered a combing operation to flush out Naxalites operating in areas bordering Andhra Pradesh after over 50 suspected PWG

rebels attacked two police outposts killing a constable and injuring six. Naxalites used to cross over to these areas whenever there was a clampdown in neighboring Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The Orissa state government had followed a soft approach - no armed confrontation with Naxalites as long as they didn't create any law and order problem. (The Statesman [India] 12/21/98) (University of Maryland 2004, 'Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India' University of Maryland website <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/chronology.asp?groundId=75011> – Accessed 19 October 2005 – Attachment 9)

In relation to activities in 1999:

9 January: Six naxalites stopped a State Road Transport Corporation bus, asked the passengers to get off, and then set it on fire near Govindwada village in Andhra Pradesh. (The Statesman [India] 1/10/99)...

19 January: Three PWG naxalites, including a commander and a woman member, surrendered before the Andhra Pradesh home minister. (The Statesman [India] 1/19/99)...

16 March: A police head constable was killed and two others injured when about 30 naxalites belonging to the People's War Group opened fire at a police party near Lingampally village in Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh. In another incident, about 15 ultras went to Kallur Railway Station and blasted the generator and control rooms, damaging the communication system. Police suspect the rebel's action was in protest against the killing of two leaders of the Radical Students' Union (RSU) in an encounter with police recently in Mahbubnagar District. (British Broadcasting Corporation 3/17/99)...

20 March: According to police, a total of 450 Naxalites from different cadres surrendered to the police in the last year following appeals made by the government of Andhra Pradesh to the Naxalites to join the mainstream. (British Broadcasting Corporation 3/21/99)...

4 April: A Naxalite was killed in an encounter at Mangalapura village in Andhra Pradesh.. (The Statesman [India] 4/4/99)...

7 April: A top leader of the Peoples' War Group was killed in an encounter with police near Konraopet police station in Andhra Pradesh. (British Broadcasting Corporation 4/8/99)...

13 April: Mr. D. Sripada Rao, former Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, was intercepted by PWG members as he traveled by Jeep near Annaram village. The Manthani squad of the PWG asked him to get out and opened fire, killing him on the spot before fleeing into the forest. In a separate incident, extremists of the Rachakonda squad of the People's War Group (PWG) blasted a house in Manthana Gowrelli village in the early hours. (The Hindu 4/14/99)...

14 April: Five PWG members planted a powerful bomb that shattered a portion of Puttur railway station in Andhra Pradesh to avenge the murder of their colleague, Shankar, in a fake encounter with police recently. (The Hindu 4/15/99)

15 April: Eight Naxalites were killed in a fierce encounter with police near Seethampalli village in Andhra Pradesh. (British Broadcasting Corporation 4/16/99)...

13 September: Three police officers were killed when suspected PWG rebels blew up the Medak district police station in Andhra Pradesh. The attack was the third blamed on Naxalites in the southern state since the five-phase poll process to choose new deputies to the 545-member lower house of parliament began on September 5. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 9/13/99)...

20 September: People's War Group Naxalites triggered a powerful landmine blast killing four policemen in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. A special police party comprising two armed reserve policemen and two civil police personnel were engaged in clearing landmines planted by the PWG when the explosion occurred. (British Broadcasting Corporation 9/20/99)...

28 November: Fifteen PWG members armed with guns and lethal weapons stormed the Bellamkonda railway station in Andhra Pradesh. (The Hindu 11/29/99)...

1 December: Four police officers were killed in a landmine blast triggered by suspected PWG rebels in Andhra Pradesh. (Deutsche Presse-Agentur 12/1/99)...

2 December: Four PWG members, including three leaders, were killed in a fierce encounter with the police in Koyyuru forest, Andhra Pradesh. The killings were followed by allegations that the encounter had been staged to cover up torture, leading the government to demand a post mortem on the victims, at the request of their families. (The Hindu 12/3/99 & 12/4/99)...

6 December: Suspected naxalites belonging to the Boath dalam of the People's War Group (PWG), bombed the house of a former Minister and Telugu Desam Party ad hoc committee convener in Jatralla village, Andhra Pradesh. Incidents were reported from Nizamabad and Adilabad district as well. In Adilabad district, three buses were burnt. (The Hindu 12/7/99)...

7 December: In Warangal district in Andhra Pradesh, two constables were shot dead by a PWG squad in the Eturunagaram forest area. Attacks on houses of political leaders, the burning of buses and telephone exchanges have been reported from other Telangana districts. (The Hindu 12/8/99)...

9 - 16 December: During a week long protest by the People's War Group against the killing of three of its leaders, the rebels went on a rampage in various districts in Andhra Pradesh, destroying Government buildings and properties of ruling Telugu Desam party leaders. The violence was more pronounced in Adilabad district where an RTC bus was set on fire near Sanathpur, while elsewhere in the district, a rice mill owned by a TDP leader was blown up. In Karimnagar district, the extremists blasted a telephone exchange in Mamidalapally, the native village of a ruling party legislator. The office of the Mandal Revenue Officer was blown up in Addatigala village while in Mahabubnagar, a building housing the Judicial First Class Magistrate was razed. In Kurnool, extremists blasted the quarters of a forest guard near Velugodu village. They also bombed the railway station at Rajampet, burned several other stations and trains in Andhra Pradesh, and killed the Madhya Pradesh transport minister, as well as five tenants staying in a building owned by a TDP leader (The Hindu 12/9/99 & 12/13/99 & 12/16/99)...

19 December: A head constable of the Andhra Pradesh Special Police was killed and another injured when suspected naxalites of the People's War Group blasted a culvert between Dubbaguda and Salgulapalli villages. The region was scheduled to go to the polls the following day. (The Hindu 12/20/99)...

20 December: Members of the PWG bombed the house of a member of Andhra Pradesh's ruling Telugu Desam Party after asking the occupants to leave the building. (Agence France Presse 12/20/99)...

24 December: The Karimnagar district police arrested five naxalites belonging to the People's War Group in Andhra Pradesh. (The Hindu 12/25/99) (University of Maryland 2004, 'Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India' University of Maryland website <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/chronology.asp?groundId=75011> - Accessed 19 October 2005 – Attachment 9)

Reports regarding the activities of People's War Group in Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000 are provided below:

11 January: About 25 PWG guerrillas bombed a police camp at Kazaznagar town in Andhra Pradesh, killing two policemen. (Agence France Presse 1/11/00)...

24 January: According to the Union Minister of State for Home, in the first nine months of 1999, there were 366 naxalite-related incidents in Andhra Pradesh, including 108 deaths, as against 737 incidents and 205 deaths in 1998. Bihar registered 288 deaths out of 347 incidents in 1999, while the corresponding figure for 1998 was 206 deaths in 370 incidents. (The Hindu 1/24/00)...

2 February: In Andhra Pradesh, seven Naxalites, including two women, were killed in separate encounters with the police in Warangal District. (British Broadcasting Corporation 2/2/00)...

3 April: The Andhra Pradesh Assembly attempted to pass a resolution urging the Naxalites to surrender and open a dialogue with the government, but many of the legislators were too afraid to speak. The lone Marxist-Leninist member condemned first the PWG for violence, and then the government for resorting to Afake encounters.@ (The Statesman [India] 4/3/00)...

26 April: Indian policemen shot dead at least six guerrillas of the Peoples' War Group (PWG) in an encounter in Andhra Pradesh=s Nalgonda district. Ten other outlawed left-wing guerrillas surrendered to the police elsewhere in the region. (Agence France Presse 4/26/00)...

27 April: In Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, police shot dead 12 extremists in an eight-and-a-half hour encounter in the hill ranges. PWG members later alleged that over 100 policemen opened fire indiscriminately and hurled grenades. (The Hindu 4/28/00 & 4/30/00) (University of Maryland 2004, 'Chronology for Scheduled Tribes in India' University of Maryland website <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/mar/chronology.asp?groundId=75011> – Accessed 19 October 2005 – Attachment 9)

Several other incidents involving the People's War Group have been recorded in media reports at the time. In November 1994, the People's War Group were believed to have been responsible for land mine blasts that killed at least eight police officers, according to the Los Angeles Times:

Land mines believed planted by a militant Maoist group killed at least eight police officers and two civilians in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh. The explosion was the second in four days in Andhra Pradesh, where the Peoples War Group apparently is trying to disrupt Monday's state elections. A police official said the target of the attack was Narasimha Reddy, a staunchly anti-Maoist minister in the state government who was in the car behind the vehicle in which the victims were riding. ('Land Mine kills 10 as Elections near' 1994, *Los Angeles Times*, 30 November, – Attachment 10).

The following news report from the BBC Monitoring Service provides an overview of the activities of the Peoples War Group from 1995. In March 1997, the Andhra Pradesh state minister stated that violence in the area had escalated:

“Hyderabad, 19th March: Naxalite violence in southern Indian Andhra Pradesh state has been continuing unabated despite reimposition of ban on ultra-leftist Peoples' War Group (PWG)

last year. This was admitted by state's home minister, A. Madhav Reddy, in the state assembly on Tuesday [18th March]. Reddy said extremists had committed 165 murders and 1,022 other offences last year compared to 86 murders and 605 other offences in 1995. As on 10th March this year, 25 persons fell victim to Naxal violence and 115 cases of other offences were reported, the minister said." ('Naxalite violence said to be continuing unabated in Andhra Pradesh' 1997, *BBC Monitoring Service*, 20 March – Attachment 11)

In May 1997, BBC Monitoring reported that a land mine blast killing several authorities had been attributed to the Peoples War Group:

Hyderabad, 17th May: In a powerful land mine blast triggered by Naxalites of the outlawed Peoples' War Group (PWG), a sub-inspector and four constables were killed on the spot on the outskirts of the Laxamapur village in Mahabubnagar District in southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday [as dateline].

According to police, the incident occurred at 1730 IST [Indian Standard Time] when the police party, on receiving information that the Naxalites had attacked some villagers, were proceeding in a tractor to Laxamapur village limits on a combing operation. However, the unsuspecting policemen fell prey to the trap laid out by the Naxalites of the upper plateau Dalam. The five policemen were killed on the spot in the blast, triggered by the Naxalites from a distance, police said, adding that another managed to escape as he was thrown off the vehicle in the massive explosion.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition were also taken away by the fleeing Naxalites, police added. ('Five Police killed by land mine in Andhra Pradesh' 1997, *BBC Monitoring Service*, 19 May – Attachment 12)

In August 1997, BBC Monitoring also reported that the People's War Group shot dead a local pastor:

"Hyderabad, 26th August: Naxalites of the outlawed Peoples' War Group (PWG) in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh shot dead a local church pastor at Krishnadevaripeta, in the port city of Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

Police said Vasa Sunde Rao was killed by the Naxalites who branded him as a "police informer" ('Naxalites kill church pastor in Andhra Pradesh' 1997, *BBC Monitoring Service*, 28 August – Attachment 13)

Project Ploughshares, a Canadian-based organisation that provides expertise and analysis to both government and non-government organisations to promote the peaceful resolution of political conflict, have produced The Armed Conflicts Report. This report, updated in 2004, provides the following information regarding the approach by Andhra Pradesh authorities:

In 1980 the insurgents, especially the militant Peoples War Group (PWG), began guerrilla-style attacks on police who responded with extra-judicial executions of suspected Naxalites in 'encounter' killings. Incidents of the latter declined in 1995 and 1996 when the state government unilaterally refrained from many enforcement actions. Following continued Naxalite violence, the state renewed counter-insurgency operations in August 1996, reintroduced a ban on the PWG first imposed in 1992, and allegedly established the Green Tigers armed vigilante group to combat Naxalites. In recent years, conflict casualties have escalated as combatants target not only rivals but also civilians suspected of supporting rivals.

(Project Ploughshares 2004, 'Armed Conflicts Report' at <http://www.ploughshares.ca/libraries/ACRText/ACR-IndiaAP.html> – Accessed 19 October 2005 – Attachment 14)

The US Department of State country report for India for 1997 provides information regarding the approach taken by the authorities from the mid 1990s in relation to the Peoples War Group. It states that over the past few years, hundreds of policemen and suspected Naxalites have been killed and that "encounters" are usually faked by the police to cover up the torture and subsequent murder of Naxalite suspects, sympathizers, or informers. The Disturbed Areas Act was also a reaction to the conflict by authorities and is outlined below:

Since 1980 clashes between police and Naxalite Maoist revolutionaries of the Peoples' War Group (PWG) have taken place in northwestern Andhra Pradesh. Over the past few years, hundreds of policemen and suspected Naxalites have been killed, according to press reports and human rights organization. As of September police had killed 102 Naxalites in approximately 80 "encounters." Seventeen years of guerrilla-style conflict have led to serious human rights abuses by both sides. Human rights groups allege that "encounters" are usually faked by the police to cover up the torture and subsequent murder of Naxalite suspects, sympathizers, or informers. These groups cite as evidence the refusal of police to hand over corpses of suspects killed in "encounters," which are often cremated before families can view the bodies. Villagers in PWG-dominated areas complain of regular harassment and arbitrary detention by police. Police officials are rarely if ever held accountable for human rights abuses.

The Disturbed Areas Act has been in force in a number of districts in Andhra Pradesh for more than a year. It gives police extraordinary powers of arrest and detention. Human rights groups allege that security forces have been able to operate with virtual impunity in parts of Andhra Pradesh under the act. They further allege that Andhra police have contributed to the establishment of an armed vigilante group known as the "Green Tigers," whose mission is to combat Naxalite groups in the state. The NHRC is investigating some 285 reported cases so-called "fake encounter deaths" allegedly committed by the Andhra police in connection with anti-Naxalite operations. Amnesty International reported that T. Puroshotham, joint secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee and a lawyer, was attacked and beaten on May 27 by persons he believed to have been plain-clothes police. The Green Tigers group claimed responsibility for this attack a few days later. Amnesty also reported that on April 6, Gadder, who had been campaigning against the police practice of cremating as 'unidentified' the bodies of suspected Naxalites killed in 'encounters' with police, was shot five times at his home in Andhra Pradesh. Again, the Green Tigers claimed responsibility for this attack, alleging that Gadder and APCLC activists were 'Naxalite sympathizers.

(US Department of State 1998, 'Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1997' – Attachment 15)

An additional report documenting the action of authorities in the mid-1990s is offered in the 1996 article entitled 'India Police detaining thousands as elections continue'. According to this report, police made preventive arrests prior to elections in the area – preventive arrests are considered the common practice of authorities - and released detainees after the balloting ended:

NEW DELHI, India - Police detained thousands of people across the country Wednesday and took up positions at polling stations on the eve of the second phase of India's general elections.

Police shot and killed two suspected communist rebels in Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's home state of Andhra Pradesh, where rebels have called an election boycott and threatened to disrupt voting. Police also searched the area for guns.

Trouble also was expected in the key northern state of Bihar, where armed militias employed by political parties have been known to seize polling stations and intimidate voters.

Balloting was to be held in 15 states today involving one-third of India's 590 million eligible voters.

Another third of the electorate voted last Saturday and the rest are to cast ballots Tuesday, with counting beginning the next day. The vote is being staggered to maximize police protection.

As is common before an election, police made preventive arrests in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and the western state of Maharashtra. Detainees usually are released after the balloting ends.

Shops and businesses closed in four constituencies in Andhra Pradesh following a two-day strike called by the Peoples' War Group, a militant outfit claiming to represent landless peasants. The group opposes all elections, saying only a Marxist state can end what it calls exploitation by landowners and oppression by police.

The rebels have killed at least six people in recent weeks, including a policeman. In the last general elections five years ago, they killed at least 15 policemen in bomb attacks. ('India police detaining thousands as elections continue' 1996, *Associated Press* 2 May – Attachment 16)

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