

Pleat for favour of Information

PETITION SUBMITTED TO THE HON'BLE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, GUDDAHAR, BY THE UNDERSIGNED HARIJANS OF POTLADURTHI VILLAGE OF KAMALAPURAM TALUK:

Most Respected Sir,

All of us are landless, poor, Harijan agricultural workers. We undergo lot of suffering due to stark unemployment for the major part of the year.

The Deputy Tasildar of Kamalapuram has granted ~~the~~ ^{of} permission for eleven ~~our~~ our families on 7.3.75 for an extent of 22 acres in Survey Nos 786/4 in Potl-adurthi village limits at the rate of 2 acres per family for fasli 1386. All the eleven families have paid land revenue on 8.6.77 to the village magistrate of Potl-adurthi for the above land for fasli 1386 and obtained receipts for the same. ^{The Ekmal permission was also renewed for the same} lands to the same persons for fasli 1387 in Tasildar order date 21.6.77.

But the following big ryots of our village, who own large extents of Patta lands and who are ineligible for Banjar lands, are occupying the said 22 acres illegally:-

1. Padigapati Balireddygari Pulla Reddy
2. Padigapati Venkatarreddy F/O Ganabaiah
3. Padigapati Vasudeva Reddy a/o Ganireddy
4. Obulaa Subrahmanyan a/o Narayanaiah
5. Sangireddy, son-in-law of Padigapati Thippireddy
6. Manayala Pullareddy a/o Varadareddy
7. Chinthakunta Muneyyagari Subbanayada
8. Naanna a/o Mala Ramayya
9. Subbaana a/o Golla Sala Ganganna
10. Thal lamapuram Subbaiah
11. Sivareddy a/o Yeranna.

Unless we paid Rs. 150/- to the surveyor Sri Manikrishnaiah, as illegal gratification, the latter refused to do the survey and after paying the said amount, he only located the boundaries for 22 acres, but did not

subdivide it into 11 plots for which we were granted permission. We represented the matter to Sri Rangachari, the then Deputy Tasildar of Kamalapuram, who only advised us to manage the affair somehow with the surveyor. As the latter demanded Rs. 200-00 for dividing into plots, we could not pay the amount to him, and he refused to comply.

Getting disgusted we of our own accord entered the land for dividing it among ourselves there upon (1) Padigapati Balireddygari Pulla reddy (2) Padigapati Vasudeva Reddy s/o Gangireddy (3) Padigapati Venkata reddy s/o Sambaiah and (4) Obula Subramanyam s/o Narayanaiah got enraged and severely beat two of people namely Sanjeevigandla Chinna Narasimhulu and Gunigandla Narasimhulu; Immediately we reported the matter to the Sub Inspector of Police, Yerraguntla station. The latter did not take any action on our complaint, eventhough the persons against whom we complained have severely beat us in addition to illegally occupying the lands for which we were granted ~~for~~ eksal permission.

We represented the matter to Y. Eswara Reddy Ex-M.P. and the latter wrote to the Sub Inspector Of Police, Yerraguntla requesting him to help the sufferers. But it was of no avail.

After this we approached the present Deputy Tasildar Sri Khaja Mohiddin, requesting him to help us by sending the surveyor for dividing the land into plots. The Deputy Tasildar expressed his inability to intervene against Sri Subbarayudu and his party men. He advised us to meet

the District Collector. At this ^{turn} also we approached Sri Eswara Reddy ^{and narrated to him what had happened. On this, Eswara Reddy} personally met the Deputy Tasildar and requested him to do the needful to the miserable Harijans. The Deputy Tasildar has not taken any action, even after this.

Sri Subbarayudu, a big and powerful landlord of Potladurthi along with his followers are occupying the said 22 acres. Since Subbarayudu is very influential at higher

levels of Government. The local revenue and Police officials are not taking any action against him and his men.

Meanwhile we hear that the said Subbarayudu has secured beanni eksal permission in the name of one Christian Munenna for the land, he is occupying . We request you sir, to note and consider this grave violation of rules and norms, which requires cancellation of this previous permission before granting a new permission to the same land. We are afraid this example of binami permission may be followed by others also and ultimately, we stand to get nothing. The illegal occupants ^{who} are all big ryots, are already threatening us with dire consequences and are also not engaing us ^{as} coolies. If the Government also does not come forward to protect us we have no other way than leaving the village in search of livelihood.

N.B.:- The undersigned have ^{are yet to meet the collector on 26th Oct as you office are closed till Dasara holidays.}
Compliments
Yr. Obedy
Of course they met the S.P. of Police at his Residence on the issue about which I had already brought to his notice.

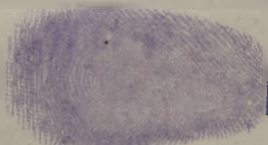
On hearing that you kindness are promptly and justly intervening to help poor Harijanas, we are approaching to place before you the sad story of our miserable plight. we request you to kindly intervene in this matter and direct the Deputy Tasildar of Kamalapuram to immediately take up the subdivision of the plots and at the same time afford us police protection against the aggressive actions of the big ryots.

We have great hope that you will ^{help} us to liberate ourselves from the clutches and violence of the local landlord and his men who are perterating all injustice against us with the connivance of the local officials.

Thanking you,

Yours most obediently,

Cuddanah.)
18-10-1977)



L.T. I of Sanjavigandla
Narasimhulu

To
Sri A. N. Tiwari, District Collector,
Cuddanah.

Copy to the Superintendent of Police,
Cuddanah.

Copy to the Chief Minister ,
Govt. of A.P. Hyderabad.

(just for favour of information)

DL Communist Party Office

Y. Suresh Reddy
Ex. M.P.

Hochi-Minh Bhavan
GUDDEBAGH

18-10-1977.

Ad

Dear Com Kodayam

Dear Sri A. P. Rajan,

I would like to bring to your kind notice the following few lines for your serious consideration and favourable disposal, regarding a false case complained in Chennur Police Station against 4 members of a ryots family and 13 Harijans by Valluru Ganganna and others of Khadarkhan kottalla under the instigation and leadership of section of landlords of Machinayapalli village, Guddebagh Taluk, who manoeuvred this plot in a planned way in connivance with the police officers at lower level.

Why these land-lords have resorted to such unfair and aggressive postures against the already depressed and oppressed Harijans is no more a secret thing; it is an open talk and a general phenomena too in rural area, since Lokshabha elections. Confining to this village for the present, the Harijans have applied for permission, as per government rules, to cultivate the banjar lands, the benefits of which were being grabbed unlawfully by the land-lords since decades, and got it. Recognition of a higher authority i.e. a government over and above these landlords petitioning to it against them and obtaining orders directly appeared to them something like a bolt from the blue and a challenge to their "Almighty power" who till that day were the virtual rulers of that village since ages and even after 30 years of independence, socially, economically, culturally and what not. Hence revenge, retaliation and harassment in every possible way through other wings of the government with the support of their domineering influence over these sections has become the order of the day!

They got a resolution passed by their panchayat Board, requesting for conversion of a D. C. land and some banjar

contd..P-2.

Hope you are
O.K. and
wish the
same to
Comrades
1. Madhavan
2. P. Khare
3. Ashid
the Mean
Mentis of

our Ajay Bhavan.

I met
Mr. Rajan

District
Superintendent
of Police with
the memorandum.

He promised
that he would
help the

Harijans of
of this village
in every way
possible by
him and
also assured
me to send
special police
whenever required

by the Harijans
to assist their
agricultural
operations in the Banjar

lands given by the Govt
and take severe action against the landlords who come in their way
comprns. Y.S. Reddy

lands, given to Harijans for eksal permission, into burial and grazing lands as if they are necessary only for dead bodies and animals and not as a means for better living of the Harijans, a need which the land lords were consciously unaware of as long as those lands were under their possession! They managed the P. W. officers to tontom that those lands belonged to K. C. Canal and therefore will be auctioned for lease so that the Harijans could be easily outbid in auction and those lands kept again under their occupation! They saw that the previous Revenue Divisional Officer issued stay orders restraining entry of the Harijans into those lands given eksal permission by the Tahsildar, suddapah. Some of them have filed suits in civil courts challenging Tahsildar's eksal permissions. They imposed social boycott too, though partially for the present!

Are they satisfied with these measures? certainly not. They have decided to give a still more telling blow, by adopting a measure which can be called 'economic blockade', so as to make the Harijans accept their easerainty and fall at their feet.

They stopped to give the work of water-regulating (madava) to these Harijans, by which act the Harijans were deprived of 15 putties of paddy ^{ie, 9000 K.Gs,} they were getting before annually! In their place some black legs from Khaderkhan Kottala, a nearby village, were engaged by the land-lords.

It is in this background that the present situation developed. On ryot of Bachinnayapa le village by name Kanunurthi Subba Reddy, against the zulm and hukums of land-lords dared to come to the forefront to engage the Harijans for regulating water to his ~~field~~ fields. How could the landlords tolerate this ~~vigntful~~ vigilant and lawful defiance to their aggressive and revengeful actions against the Harijans? So they went in a crowd on 6.9.77 and beat the Harijans Mekala Pochhaiah, his daughter-in-law Gangamma and Obalesu and caused injuries too. The injured were admitted into the Hospital and they gave a police complaint also. To counteract this, the landlords ^awanted to gain one

blackleg by name vallur Gangaana of Khader Khan Kottala for giving a false complaint in connivance with Sri Sewarajah the then Sub Inspector of Police ^{of} Chennai Police station against 15 Harijans and 4 members of Kanparthi Subbarreddy's family. ~~He~~ ^{of} course the slight injuries caused by the blackleg complaint on his person by himself, was not believed by the doctor who examined him.

Here, I may be excused for bringing to your ^{memory} ~~the~~ the statement made by the Chief Minister at Khammam. Immediately after the unprecedented mammoth rally of Harijans and Girijans on 4th September ^{at Hyderabad} 1977 for solution of their pending issues and against the increasing atrocities of landlords Sri Vengal Rao stated at Khammam that District Collectors and District Superintendents of Police are given full powers to take severe action against all those who perpetrated atrocities on Harijans. Welcoming this positive gesture on the part of the government, I expressed at the same time in a statement to the press, which appeared in "Andhra Prabha and Visalandra" my doubts about the role of police officers at the lower level, citing this very instance of Rachinnayapalli where Police have fully colluded with the land-lords to carry on their atrocities unhesitatingly against the Harijans, even after the above mentioned speech of the Chief Minister made at Khammam.

I met Sri Bhaskar Reddy, Circle Inspector of Police on 24th September, explained to him what happened ^e rally at Rachinnayapalli and requested him to drop the false complaint given by Valluru Gangaana against the Harijans and Kanaparty Subba Reddy and his family members. He readily accepted. I also spoke about this in the huge meeting of Harijans held at Guddarah on 25.9.77. Afterwards, I had a long talk with Chennai Sub Inspector of Police on this issue. Again when I came to know of some hesitancy in Chennai Sub Inspector, I rang up

to Bhaskar Reddy and then too he was of the opinion to drop the case filed against the Harijans . But what happened in the meanwhile, I am unable to understand. Later, I came to know that the Circle Inspector of Police ^{was} ~~is~~ not willing to drop the case on the plea that Assistant Superintendent of Police ^{was} ~~is~~ against such action. I tried twice to meet him. But unfortunately he was not available.

Now it appears that everything necessary is made ready to act according to the bidding of the landlords and launch the case against Harijans. This act on the part of officials at lower level will surely lead to results quite *contrary* to what the Chief Minister wanted i.e. emboldening the landlords of not only that village but also many of the surrounding vil ages to go ahead without any fear of law and order in their undeclared 'crusade' against the Harijans. I may give her just one instance in this specific issue itself to show you how these police officers are so extraordinarily vigilant to come to the rescue of these landlords and try to see not even a fly touch their interests. In the September 9th issue of 'Sadanu' Telugu daily, -not a Communist paper-, a news item by its correspondent appeared stating that 40 uppercaste Hindus of Rachinapalle raided with sticks and sickles on the Harijans namely Mekala Pichhaiah, Mekala Gangamma and Obulesu and inflicted severe injuries. This news item would have certainly created terrible mental agony and caused sleeplessness that whole night to the Circle Inspector and Assistant Superintendent of Police who had already been committed for reasons obvious enough to any body

contd....5.

to safe-guard the interests of landlords. So they came out the very next day i.e. on 10th in 'Andhra Pratrika' daily stating that it ~~is~~ ^{was} not true that caste Hindus raided on Harijans and the clash that took place on 6th at Rachinnyaswall was only among two sections of Harijans themselves.

Dear Sri Rajan, I am sorry for making this letter such a lengthy one. But I could not help otherwise in bringing to your notice how the police at lower level are not in tune with the rapid changes taking place around and as such are going in their usual old route against rules and regulations and policies of the same government which ~~consider~~ consider them the most disciplined among its employees and the best among the law-abiding citizens. For the present, not ^{in my anxiety to bring to your notice} going astray to similar such cases in Rajipeta, Yerraguntla, Mydukur, Rajupeta Police stations. I request you to patiently ponder over this issue and see that this false case launched against the Harijans and Subba Reddi's family is dropped so as to bestow ^{at least} to these ~~constant~~ constant victims of upper caste and upper class suppression and oppression which slogan is oft repeated by the Prime Minister, Sri Morarji Desai and inculcate sense of security among these unfortunate lot, whom the father of nation so dearly called "the children of God".

Thanking you,

Sincerely Yours,

To
Sri A. P. Rajan,
Superintendent of Police,
C U D D A P A H

Y. Eswarareddy
(Y. ESWARA REDDY)

Copy to Sri A. M. Tivari I.A.S.
District Collector, Giddalur.

Copy to Sri M. Vengala Rao, Chief Minister,
Government of A.P. Hyderabad.