

Second Statement by Chomsky, Tariq Ali et al on Nandigram

Wednesday 5 December 2007, by [ALBERT Michael](#), [ALI Tariq](#), [BILGRAMI Akeel](#), [BRITTAIN Victoria](#), [CHOMSKY Noam](#), [DERBER Charles](#), [SHALOM Stephen R.](#) (Date first published: 4 December 2007).

We are taken aback by a widespread reaction to a statement we made with the best of intentions [1], imploring a restoration of unity among the left forces in India –a reaction that seems to assume that such an appeal to overcome divisions among the left could only amount to supporting a very specific section of the CPM in West Bengal. Our statement did not lend support to the CPM's actions in Nandigram or its recent economic policies in West Bengal, nor was that our intention. On the contrary, we asserted, in solidarity with its Left critics both inside and outside the party, that we found them tragically wrong. Our hope was that Left critics would view their task as one of putting pressure on the CPM in West Bengal to correct and improve its policies and its habits of governance, rather than dismiss it wholesale as an unredeemable party. We felt that we could hope for such a thing, of such a return to the laudable traditions of a party that once brought extensive land reforms to the state of West Bengal and that had kept communal tensions in abeyance for decades in that state. This, rather than any exculpation of its various recent policies and actions, is what we intended by our hopes for 'unity' among the left forces.

We realize now that it is perhaps not possible to expect the Left critics of the CPM to overcome the deep disappointment, indeed hostility, they have come to feel towards it, unless the CPM itself takes some initiative against that sense of disappointment. We hope that the CPM in West Bengal will show the largeness of mind to take such an initiative by restoring the morale as well as the welfare of the dispossessed people of Nandigram through the humane governance of their region, so that the left forces can then unite and focus on the more fundamental issues that confront the Left as a whole, in particular focus on the task of providing with just and imaginative measures an alternative to neo-liberal capitalism that has caused so much suffering to the poor and working people in India.

Signed

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P.S.

* Source: <http://www.kafila.org/2007/12/04/second-statement-from-chomsky-tariq-ali-et-al/>

Footnotes

[1] See on ESSF website: [-art8301]