**Report of the PUCL-Karnataka State council**

The meeting of the State council of PUCL-Karnataka was held at the premises of Fatima Retreat, Mangalore, on 14-5-2011, from 10.00 am to 2.00pm. Mr P.B. D'Sa, President , PUCL-K, presided over the meeting. Dr V. Lakshminarayana, General secretary, welcomed the gathering. The deliberations was attended by 17 state council members hailing from Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore, Shimoga, Chamarajanagara and Koppala districts of Karnataka. Report of each units were presented by their respective representatives. After elaborate discussions on the contemporary issues the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

1. Government of Karnataka had appointed Justice Somashekar commission to investigate regarding the attack on Churches in Karnataka. The commission in its interim report had observed that Sangha parivara was involved in the attacks on Churches. However, in its final report it exonerates Sangha parivara from the charges and observes the issue of conversion acted as provocateur/motive for the attacks. PUCL-K rejects the observations of the Somashekara commission and urges the Government to immediately institute CBI investigation into the attack on Churches.
2. The Government of Karnataka led by Mr Yedurappa has been sanctioning huge grants to Hindu religious mutts, even without any solicitation from them. PUCL-K is of the opinion that it is a gross misuse of tax payer money and urges the Government to stop this kind of endeavors.
3. Of late Human rights(HR) activists in Karnataka have been systematically persecuted by the police e.g. filing of section 124A against Dr E. Rati Rao, editor of PUCL-K news bulletin. Filing of attempt to murder case against Mr Bokkalli Nanjundaswamy, who has been in forefront of the movement opposing sand mafia which has been indulging in illegal sand mining on the banks of Kapila riverbeds in Nanjangud Tq. And inclusion of Mohammad Kabeer, secretary, PUCL-Mangalore, in 'Rowdy sheet' at Ullal police station. PUCL-K considers these as attempts to suppress human rights movement and to harass the activists. It urges the Government for unconditional withdrawal of all the cases against the HR activists.
4. On 08-05-2011 on national highway no13, at kokanapalli village of Koppala Tq., in a road accident 12 casual laborers, all under 18yrs were killed on the spot. They were poultry farm workers who were being transported on an illegal vehicle. Till date no compensation has been paid either by the Government or the private contractors/ parties. PUCL-K urges the Govt. to release compensation to the victims’ families.
5. The electronic media in Karnataka is extensively propagating paranormal, obscurantist, religious dogmas & unscientific episodes thus promoting blind beliefs & pseudo science. This is in gross violation and in contradiction of the scientific temperament promotion as enshrined in the constitution of India. PUCL-K urges the media to observe self restraint in these matters and uphold spirit of constitution.
6. In the name of development and industrialization illegal mining of natural resources like Iron ore, sand, granite etc is going on unabatedly along with land acquisition. People are displaced , pauperized. The ecological destruction is going on unchecked. PUCL-K urges the Government to publish at the earliest a white paper on these issues.
7. In recent months attacks on the Christian charity institutions like orphanages by the communal forces are on an increase. They are targeting these institutions alleging either conversion or human trafficking. PUCL-K considers these as the new strategies of the communal forces and urges the Government to take strong action on these forces.
8. PUCL-K urges the Government to fulfill the legitimate demands of regularization of the Bagair Hukum land cultivators in Esoor village in Shimoga district.
9. PUCL-K urges the Government to stop police harassment of especially the sexual minorities the Hijras. Criminalizing, either poverty or sexuality of a community is against the fundamental rights and freedoms constitutionally guaranteed.
10. The PUCL-K state council expresses strong dissatisfaction at the functioning of the NHRC and Karnataka-SHRC. There are many instances to show that these commissions while passing judgments are favoring the bureaucracy and the police.

The following members have been nominated for the National council:-

1. Mr P.B. D'Sa, President PUCL-K. ('Paulin', valencia, Father Muller road,

 Mangalore D.K.)

1. Dr V. Lakshminarayana, GS PUCL-K. (#5598, 5th cross, Vijayanagara II stage ,

 Mysore- 570 017)

1. Ms Arati Chokshi, (NE-01,IISc., Bangalore-560 012)
2. Mr SarjaShankar, ('Desisamskrutri', Mylareshwara

 temple complex, B.H.road, Shimoga)

1. Mr N. Nanje Gowda (Advocate, Hosakari Nanjanapura extn,

 Chamarajanagara town)

Date; 15-05-2011

Mysore (V.Lakshminarayana)

 General Secretary, PUCL-K