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TIONAL FISHWORKERS' FORUM

(A Federation of State Level Trade Unions)

Central Office:

Cherureshmi Centre

Vallathura

Trivandrum = 695 008 Tel : 0471-461376 Fax : 0471-342053

Email: nff @ fishnet.frlht.ernet.in

Head Office : F10/12 Malaviya Nagar

New Delhi - 110 017 Tel: 011 6428733 6 126

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Ref

Date:

POSTER MODEL

PROTECT COASTAL ZONE

PROTECT COASTAL PEOPLE

CAMPAIGN BEGINS ON 7TH FEBRUARY 1997

AND ENDS ON 28TH FEB 1997

INDEFINITE HARBOUR BLOCKADE AT KANDLA (GUJARAT), MUMBAI (MAHARASTRA), VISHKAPATTINAM (ANDHRA PRADESH) BEGINS ON 5TH MARCH 1997

CANCEL JOINT/CHARTER/LEASE/TEST FISHING VESSELS AND STOP
POACHING BY FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS

NEF ZINDABAD

Page 1/1

Acen No: 2368

(A Federation of State Level Trade Unions)

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Date: 20-12-96

Reed 23/12/96

Dear Sepastion mether

Enclosed please find the following:

- 1. Decision of the General Body 1996.
- 2. Press Release.
- 3. Leaflet materials.
 - a. Protect Coastal Zone Protect Coastal People
 - b. Industrial Fisheries and Aquaculture
- 4. Decisions of sub-committee for coastal campaign
- 5. Poster model

Philomine Marie (Office Secretary)

Chairperson: Thomas Kocherry, 41/1771, Veekshanam Road, Kochi - 682018, Tel. 0484-370617, 370427, Fax. 370914

Ge-chairperson: Harekrishna Debnath, Punniya Ice Factory, Diamond Harbour P.O., West Bengal Tel: 03174-243-55-24

General Secretary: R.K. Patil, Machimar Kriti Samiti, Badwar Park, Sarvoday Machimar Co-operative Society, Cuffe

Parade, Mumbai - 400-005, Tel: 0252-586233 (R). Secretary - 1: Premjibhai Khokhari, Secretary - 2: Ramesh Dhuri,

Secretary - 3: Nalini Nayak, Secretary - 4: Mercy Alexander, Secretary - 5: P. Ravi, Secretary - 6: A.J. Vijayan, Office

Secretary: Philomin Mary, Executive Members: 1. Bhai Banderker, 2. Matanhy Saldanha, 3. Jaganatha Rao, 4. Subba Rao, 5. Xavier Pinto,

6 Theresammal, 7. Gopinath Das.

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Date: 20

DECISIONS OF THE 11TH GENERAL BODY OF NFF HELD ON 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH DECEMBER 1996 AT KHARWA VIDYARTHI BHAVAN NEW FUVASA, PORBUNDER, GUJRAT.

Decision - 1

In order to obtain permanent membership in the Indian Labour Conference (ILC), the National Centre for Labour (NCL) has to attain a membership strength of five lakhs by March 31st 1997. As one of the major constituents of the NCL, NFF's share is one lakh and fifty thousand membership. In order to attain this, it was decided, the unionization and increasing membership of the existing registered unions federated in the NFF must get TOP PRIORITY in our organisational work.

Decision - 2

It was decided that a union under the name of "GUJRAT FISHWORKERS' FORUM" be registered immediately. We try to bring in fishworkers in the crafts, both mechanised and non-mechanised and sea-going boat owners in the union. By 31st March 1997 we must try all our efforts to bring about fifty thousand memberships. Since Self Employed Womens' Association (SEWA) is also a federated trade union in the NCL, it was further decided to make fish vending women and the women workers in fish processing plants to be made members in the SEWA Gujrat Union. In order to facilitate the process a sub-committee was formed. The members of the sub-committee are:

Mis. Manali, SEWA -Convenor

Smt. Niroo Bai, SEWA

Sint. Mercy Alexander, NFF

Sint. Purnima Meher, NFF

Sri. Premji Bhai Khokhari and

Mr. Ayub Kasam Triya, Khandla

It was also decided that the registration of the union must be completed by the end of December 1996. So that the verification for the year 1996 could be made by the ILC.

Decision - 3

It was decided to complete the registration formalities of the Maharashtra Machimar Kriti Samiti as a trade union by the end of December 1996 and includes all the members of all the co-

operatives of Maharashtra as its members. An audited statements should be made available for verification by ILC by the end of March 1997.

Decision-4

It was decided to increase the membership of TFU, KSMTF, MTSMS (Malwan Taluka Shramik Machimar Sangh), DMF (Dakshina Bangla Matsyajibi Forum to ten thousand membership each by the end of March 1997 and the audited statements be available by the end of March for verification by the ILC.

Decision - 5

It was decided that the Nagai-Karai District Fishworkers' Federation, Tamil Nadu be registered as a trade union and bring about five thousand membership by the end of March 1997. Mr. P. Christy is responsible for this.

Decision - 6

It was decided to make all efforts to register All Goa Fishermens' Union, Tamil Nadu Fishermens' Union(Tuticorin) and increase the membership of Kalinga Fishermens' Forum. Xavier Pinto, Thomas Kocherry and Harekrishna Debnath respectively will facilitate this process. Thomas Kocherry will also try to register a trade union in Vishakhapattanam.

Decision - 7

It was decided that the NFF should focus on travelling facilities both in trains and buses for fish vending women. The NFF should also focus on obtaining retiring rooms for the women fishvendors at different central fish landing centres. NFF should also try to obtain proper facilities for selling fish and hygienic toilet facilities in all the markets. It was further decided to campaign against human rights violation and for social security for the women workers. The womens' core group will try to bring in a holistic Migrant Workers' Act, so that we can campaign for the same. The proposed SEWA union should organise struggles based on the above demands.

Decision - 8

It was decided that the NFF should collaborate with the proposed study by CEC -Delhi on women workers in processing plants in Veraval, Porbunder, Mumbai, Mangalore, Aroor, Shaktikulangara, Tuticorin and Calcutta. Smt. Sobhana and Mr Desai who are co- ordinating the study will be contacting different NFF leaders.

Decision - 9

It was decided that the NFF should collaborate with the 50th year of Independence Celebration by the National Alliance of Peoples' Movements (NAPM). The NAPM is organising a 24 hrs

mass fast in all state Capitals on 15th August 1997 with a sole demand "The right to life". It was agreed that the NFF should join the campaign prior to the celebration. The NAPM is organising a national workshop on political ideology with emphasis on Gender, Dalit, Tribals, Minority, Language, Culture, Sub-national autonomies and state power perspectives with the help of resource persons in the respective areas. The dates for this workshop will be from 17th to 21st April 1997 in Khandla, Maharashtra. Smt Nalini Nayak and Smt. Gabriella Dietritch will be co-ordinating the workshop. The General Body requests the NFF leaders to respond when invited.

Decision - 10

It was decided that the NFF should collaborate with the NCL in it's efforts to bring about Minimum Wages for all the workers in India.

Decision - 11

It was decided that the NFF should collaborate with the South Asian Trade Union Forum in handling the atrocities upon innocent fisherman by the state powers -Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Srilanka in the sea. It was decided that the Chairperson, Mr Premjibhai Khokhari, P Christy and Thomas Kocherry should be responsible for the process.

Decision - 12

It was decided to add a paragraph in the 1996 NFF report on the NFF's involvement in the exhibition on traditional technologies at the Anna University, Madras.

Decision - 13

It was decided that the 1998 NFF Calender should be based on the theme, "Coastal Zone Management" with the emphasis on 'Mangroves', estuaries', traditional and customary rights. The following committee was nominated for implementing the same:

Xavier Pinto - Convenor

T. Peter (Kerala)

Sint. Purnima Meher, (Maharashtra)

Mr. Ayub Kasam Triya, (Gujrat)

Decisions - 14

It was decided that the NFF should collaborate with the decisions of the National Fisheries Action Committee Against Joint Venture (NFACAJV) to hold indefinite harbour blockade in Khandla (Gujrat), Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Vishakhapattnam (Andra Pradesh) It was decided that Xavier Pinto, General Secretary, and Thomas Kocherry will be responsible for the blockades in each of the harbours respectively. It was also decided to hold indefinite Dharna simultaneously

in Delhi. It was agreed that each state should send 20 persons to the Delhi Dharna. T Peter Kerala, Peter Das (Tamil Nadu), Ramesh Dhuri and Janardan Thambe (Maharashtra), Premji Bhai Khokhari (Gujrat) and the Chairperson are responsible for Delhi and the co-ordination. It was proposed the blockades could be in the beginning of March '97 depending on parliament session.

Decision - 15

It was decided to collaborate with the formation of World Forum of fishworkers' and small fish harvesters against industrial fleet and coastal mono shrimp culture. The General Body requests each state to contribute towards the expenses. It was agreed upon that the leaders other than delegates from various coastal states should be invited to participate at the World Forum in Delhi provided they look after their stay and travel expenses.

Decision - 16

It was decided that the General Body should request Thomas Kocherry to respond to the offer of scholarship for three years by the Green Peace for marine conservation activities.

Decision - 17

It was decided to resolve the following resolution:

"The General Body of the NFF expresses its deepest sympathy and condolence on the death of Jasubhai Gaganbhai Shyal, the President of the Porbandar Machimar Boat Association, by police firing. We request the Government of Gujrat and the Government of India to order a judicial inkry into this daylight killing".

Decision - 18

It was decided to organise a national campaign for Costal Zone Management combining it with the drive to increase membership and preparing for the blockades in the month of February. It was decided the NFACAJV should be requested to collaborate with the campaign. In order to facilitate this the following committee was formed:

T.Peter (Kerala),

Peter Das (Tamil Nadu),

Premji Bhai Khokhari (Gujrat)

Thomas Kocherry

General Secretary and the Chair person.

Decision - 19

It was decided to co-opt the following members into the executive committee of the NFF:

- 1. Smt. Purnima Meher,
- 2. Ms. Jesu Rethinam,
- 3. Mr Peter Das.

Decision - 20

It was decided to nominate Thomas Kocherry, Nalini Nayak, Ramesh Dhuri, General Secretary and Chairperson as executive members of NCL.

Decision - 21

It was decided to hold the next executive committee meeting of the NFF on April 4th 1997 in Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, to evaluate the implementation of the decisions of the General Body particularly unionization & increase of membership.

Decision - 22

It was decided to hold the next General Body meeting in Mumbai on 6th, 7th and 8th December 1997.

Decision - 23

It was decided to pass the accounts of the NFF for the year 1996.

Decision - 24

It was decided to appoint S. Joseph as the Auditor.

Decision - 25

The General Body authorises Thomas Kocherry to do the needful for the auditing purposes.

Decision - 26

Harekrishna Debnath took over the responsibility of being the Chairperson of the NFF.

Decision - 27

It was decided to communicate the election of Harekrishna Debnath as Chairperson and R K Patil as the General Secretary to the State Bank of India, Valiathura branch for account operations.

Decision - 28

It was decided that Thomas Kocherry be responsible for facilitating the formation of World Forum of Fish Workers & Small Fish Harvesters.

Decision - 29

It was decided to add in the 1996 NFF report, the General body's deepest concern over the illness of Nalani Nayak and their best wishes and prayer for a speedy recovery.

Sd/-Harekrishna Debhath (Chairperson)

R K Patil
(General Secretary)

*1, was decided to pass the accounts of the NFE for the year 1996

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Date:

9th December 1996

Press Release

The General Body of the NFF met in Porbunder decided to begin the indefinite Harbour Blockades in Khandla (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharastra), Vishakabattinam (Andhra Pradesh) and indefinite Dharna in Delhi from 5th March 1997 onwards. There is only one demand -Cancel all the existing licences issued to Joint-Charter-Lease-Test fishing vessels and stop all poaching by the foreign fishing vessels. Prior to the agitation there in going to be a National Campaign from 7th February to 28th, 1997. Besides campaigning against foreign fishing vessels, it was decided to highlight the violations of Costal Zone Regulation Notification of 1991 by the destructive Industries, Five Star Hotel Tourism and Coastal Mono Shrimp Culture.

Although the National Front Government has accepted all the recommendations of Murari Committee, it has not taken any action. to cancel the existing licences. Though all these licences are illegal the Government of India has not taken any actions. This will make anyone to suspect Bureaucrats and the Ministers concerned. Therefore the CBI should inquire into all the dealings. If the food processing Ministery had refused to show the files to the Parliament Standing Comittee, the above suspecian increases.

Hundreds of destructive industries Mono shrimp, Aquaculture and Five Star tourism are violationg Coastal Zone Regulation Notification day and night. The hole Coastal Zone is under the threat of total destruction. In this contact we have no other choice but to come together and stoc all this.

All people of good will are requested to join the campaign the struggle.

Chairperson: Thomas Kocherry, 41/1771, Veekshanam Road, Kochi - 682018, Tel. 0484-370617, 370427, Fax. 370914. Co-chairperson : Harekrishna Debnath, Punniya Ice Factory, Diamond Harbour P.O., West Bengal Tel : 03174/243/55/24.3 General Secretary: R.K. Patil, Machimar Kriti Samiti, Badwar Park, Sarvoday Machimar Co-operative Society, Cuffe R Rerairo Membai - 400 005, Tel : 0252-586233 (R). Secretary - 1 : Month tair Khokhova Societary - 2 : Ramesh Dhuri, Secretary - 3 : Nalini Nayak, Secretary - 4 : Mercy Alexander, Secretary - 5 : P. Ravi, Secretary - 6 : A.J. Vijayan, Office Secretary : Philomin Mary. Executive Members : 1. Bhai Banderker, 2. Matanhy Saldanha, 3. Jaganatha Rao, 4. Subba Rao, 5. Xavier Pinto.

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PROTECT COASTAL ZONE

PROTECT COASTAL PEOPLE

In the context of indiscriminate destruction of mangroves, pol ution of water bodies and environment, coastal lands and water lakes, lagoons and other water bodies owned and enjoyed by the people as common property, in the name of development and in many cases with the blessings of the State Power, the fisher people organised a march along both the coastal lines of India in 1989 with the sole demand"Protect water, Protect life". This historical movement of the National Fishworkers Forum (NFF) and its follow-up actions for a legislation to protect coastal ecology prompted the Central Government to issue the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification in 1991.

This notification guarantees the traditional and customary right of the fisher people in the coastal area and also provide very strict restrictions on other interventions of the coastal 'zone. All the coastal State Governments are responsible for strict implementation of this notification through Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMP). But none of these State Governments made any plan within the stipulated period. On the contrary, the destruction on the coastal zone and pollution of the coastal water have increased, since then totally ignoring the CRZ notification. In the context of a recent Supreme Court Judgement the coastal states submitted Costal Zone Management Plans without any consultation with the coastal communities. Fisherfolk being the most concerned one in the CZMP have represented to the Central as well as state Governments for proper consultation before finalising such plans which fell into the deaf ears. Instead hundreds of destructive industries, mono shrim mono shrimp aquaculture and five star tourism are violating Coastal Zone Regulation Notification day and night. The whole coastal zone is under the threat of total destruction. In this context the coastal people have no other choice but to come together and stop all this. The fisherfolk once again has taken up the challange and the KSMTF/TFU/AGF/DMF/MMKS is organising a coastal compaign (March) from 7th February 1997 to 28th February 1997. All people of good wil COASTAL ZONE PROTECT COASTAL PEOPLE". Will the compaign to "PROTECT

Page 1/1

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Industrial Fisheries and Aquaculture

Both Industrial fisheries and aquaculture must essentially be seen as a part of the process of short term "packing" of international capital in a specific location for a short duration of time during its race for profits. Having elsewhere ruined the coastal Zones and the marine ecosystems adopting what has come to be called the "rape and run" policy, capital is in search of vergin territeries. These untiming efforts of private international capital are bolstered by the multinational agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank who influence Governments and thus legitimise these exploits.

These were started largely under export orientation regimes and more recently under the liberlisation initiated under the Structural Adjustments Programmes (SAP). These were pushed in the debt-trap context. So the developing countries are push into this.

Both are sustained by the international demand for luxury protein, pet foods and animal feeds. In the G-7 countries people are looking for boneless fish. Therefore conversion of fresh cheap fish takes place to produce shrimp. Industrial fisheries is additionally sustained by the expanding demands for pet food and animal feeds.

Ignoring the traditional and customery rights of fisher people, coastal areas and seas are sold out to the industrial fleets and MNCS for aquaculture. This is an open violation of the Indian constitution, fundamental rights, directive principles and above all Art 21, the right to

Both these destroy large sea ecology and coastal environment. Both are self destructive. Both displace local people and labour. This destruction is a big threat to the food security of people, cheap protein is converted and the local people have no access to them. The paddy fields are converted. The drinking water is taken away and polluted. The resources are depleted for a short term gain. Both jeopardize the local people's right to work.

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Ecological and self destruction is inbuilt into their systematic functioning. In 1988 global shrimp aquaculture consumed 180,000 tonnes of fish meal derived from an equivalent of 900,000 tonnes of wet-weight fish. It is further estimated that the year 2000 about 570,000 tonnes of cultured shrimp will be produced in Asia. The feet requirement for this will be the order of 1.1 million tonnes of feed. This is equivalent to a staggering 5.5 million tonnes of wet-weight of fish nearly double the total marine fish harvested in India today. Because of this pressure any sudden destruction is the only short term solution. This is what is happening in India both industrial fisheries and industrial shrimp culture.

Alternative

An alternative exists in the form of the existing (but often declining) traditional small scale, coastal fishing and coastal aquaculture. This coastal communities which are today facing the threat to displacement and loss of livelihood are the human foundation on which an alternative should be built. The numerous long-lying intertidal coastal zones and the inshore seas are the ecosystem foundations on which this alternative should be based.

Page 2/2

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The NFF sub-committee for the coastal campaign met in Porbandar on 9-12-96 and took the following decisions:-

- There should be 2 leaflets based on the 3 major issues eg. Coastal Zone Management Plan, Industrial Fishing & Coastal Shrimp monoculture as campaign material. (Two model leaflets can be translated into state languages).
- Posters should be printed in regional language (model poster should be the basis -annexed).
- 3 All the state level planning and preperation should be completed by 15th January 1997.
- 4 Each union should print sufficient receipts and membership forms for the membership drive during the campaign.
- 5 Campaign begins on 7th February 1997 and ends on 28th February 1997 (details to be worked out by each state committee).
- Indefinite harbour blockade at Kandla, Mumbai 8
 Visakhapattanam and indefinite Dharna at Delhi begins on 5th
 March 1997.
- 7 Slogan:- Protect Coastal Zone Protect Coastal People

For Sub Committee

fmaul.

Philomine Marie (Office Secretary)

Page 1/1

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