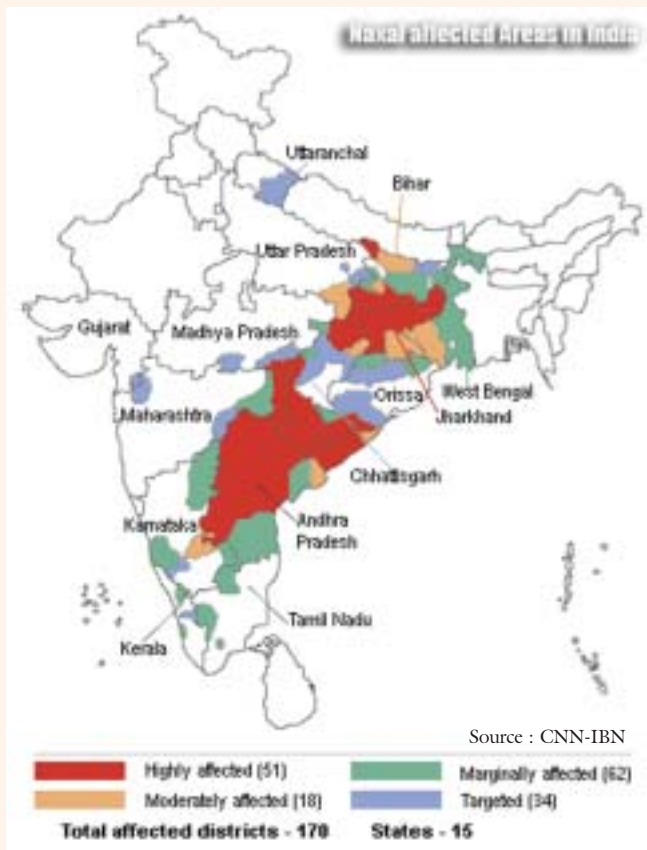


NaxalConflictMonitor

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EDITORIAL THE TOLL RISES AS THE WAR COMES HOME

At least 460 persons have been killed in nine Naxalite-affected states during January - June 2006 according to the estimate of Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR). These include 90 security personnel, 189 alleged Naxalites and 181 civilians. Majority of the killings have been reported from Chhattisgarh (222), which accounted for 48.25% of the killings, followed by Andhra Pradesh (66), Jharkhand (62), Maharashtra (42), Bihar (36), Orissa (16), West Bengal (14), Madhya Pradesh (1) and Uttar Pradesh (1). Out of these 460 persons, 225 were killed during the second quarter (April to June) of 2006 with the highest number of killings being reported from Chhattisgarh (98), followed by Andhra Pradesh (45), Maharashtra (27) and Jharkhand (30). The security forces have killed 105 alleged Naxalites out of which 43 were killed in

Andhra Pradesh, 32 in Chhattisgarh and 11 in Maharashtra. The claims of the security forces about the killing of the alleged Naxalites in encounters could not be verified. The Naxalites have also been responsible for the killing of 120 persons including 38 security forces, 75 civilians and 7 Naxalites in internecine conflict.

In his address to the Second Standing Committee Meeting of the Chief Ministers of the Naxalite affected States on 13 April 2006 Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh urged to take two-prong strategy: effective police response and socio-economic development of the Naxalite affected areas. A cursory scrutiny however shows that the governments' security measures



Source : www.iftaindia.org

INSIDE

- Major human rights violations
- State response to the Naxal problem
- Plight of the IDPs
- Solution: Follow the PM's prescriptions

outweigh development programmes needed to address the root causes of the Naxalism.

The issue has never been mere allocation of funds or launching of the special programmes. Article 245(1) of the Constitution of India provided for undertaking such programmes. However, the Planning Commission's evaluation of *Integrated Tribal Development Project* found misutilisation and diversion of funds meant for the lower strata of the society. Little corrective measures have been taken. Consequently, a large segments of the India's dispossessed and oppressed i.e. the Adivasis and the Dalits have remained untouched by any good governance in the last 58 years.

None of the special programmes announced by the States in 2006 address what Prime Minister called, "waiving debts by moneylenders, compounding of petty forest offences, coverage for every poor family in the affected districts under various schemes and better relief and rehabilitation to those displaced."

Rather, over 50,000 people have been displaced due to the Salwa Judum campaign in Chhattisgarh. The present trend of the rise in killings in the Naxal conflict would also not have reached such proportion had the State government of Chhattisgarh with tacit support from the Centre not sponsored the Salwa Judum campaign. The Salwa Judum campaign has possibly more to do with the interests of many State political leaders than counter insurgency operations.

As the governments undertake programmes either to move the civilians into the counter insurgency Salwa Judum camps or raise battalions from the populace of the Naxalites affected areas, the war has virtually come home. The Adivasis and the Dalits are increasingly getting sucked into India's civil war being waged under the leadership of the State and the Naxalites.

ACHR in its various reports and

statements categorically held that the Adivasis and the Dalits who constitute substantial number of the populace in the Naxalite affected areas do not necessarily share the ideology of the Naxalites. But, it is the language of the Naxalites they can relate to because of their dispossession and deprivation; and their condemned situation provides the classical situation for the ultra-leftist uprising.

Addressing the Naxalite problem requires putting the interest of the Adivasis and Dalits on the highest priority. It cannot be addressed by more displacement, more bad governance, sub-human conditions and hunger inside the Salwa Judum camps manned by the State.

Socio-economic development of the Naxalite affected areas requires a separate ministry for undertaking

development programmes, coordination with various State governments and involvement of the civil society groups for ensuring the right to entitlement of the Adivasis and the Dalits. Unless this fact is appreciated, security centric policies will only intensify the conflict. It took over 50 years for the Centre to realise the need for a separate ministry for development of the North East. The Central government can ignore the creation of a separate ministry to undertake socio-economic development of the Naxalite affected areas only at its own perils.

The Centre can ignore the creation of a separate ministry to undertake socio-economic development of the Naxalite affected areas only at its own perils.



Source : www.achrindia.org

MAJOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN APRIL-JUNE 2006

Both the security forces and the Naxalites have been responsible for gross violations of international humanitarian laws.

Security forces

All those who have been killed by the security forces have been dubbed as “alleged Naxalites”. ACHR has not been in a position to verify such claims. With the security agencies banning Maoists’ mouthpiece, People’s March, the Naxalites’ version is not available in public.

There has been at least one instance of allegations of extrajudicial killings of civilians by the security forces.

Secretary of Communist Party of India (CPI), South Bastar, Manish Kunjam alleged that on 8 June 2006, several villagers were killed by the CRPF during a crossfire with the Naxalites following a raid by the security forces at Dewarpalli village, about eight km from Dornapal. The raid took place when the Naxalites were conducting a meeting where a large number of villagers were also present. Following the encounter the police had cordoned off the village for two days and did not allow anyone to visit the area in order to cover up the number of civilians killed. The police claimed that eight Naxalites were killed and five others, including

two women, were arrested.

The Naxalites

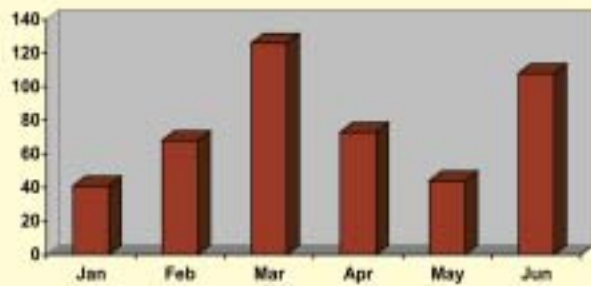
The Naxalites also did not lag behind in killings. They have been responsible for killing of at least 120 persons during April - June 2006, including 38 security personnel, 75 civilians and 7 Naxalites in internecine conflict. Of them, 26 persons, including 14 security personnel and 12 civilians, were killed in improvised explosive device explosions allegedly triggered by the Naxalites.

The Naxalites have been responsible for gross violations of international humanitarian laws including abduction, hostage taking, torture, hacking to death, shooting from point blank range and trial by *Jana Adalat*, peoples’ court.

Representatives of ACHR met some of the released hostages kidnapped by the Naxalites from Manikonta village in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on 25 April 2006. The Naxalites abducted 52 tribal villagers, including 13 women while they were returning from Manikonta village to the government-run relief camp at Dornapal in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh. The villagers being sheltered at the relief camp had gone to Manikonta village to bring their personal belongings. The Naxalites killed 15 villagers in custody and released the rest. While the bullet-ridden bodies of two abducted villagers were recovered on 28 April 2006, bodies of 13 other villagers were recovered from a deep forest with slit throats. The bodies also bore multiple wounds. The rest 37 persons were released on 29 April 2006 after warning that they would not join the Salwa Judum programme of the government.

The released hostages told ACHR representatives that their captors “selected” 13 hostages, tied their hands from behind and blindfolded them. Then, the rebels stabbed them repeatedly before slitting their throats before other hostages. The hostages were allegedly denied adequate food and forced to drink urine when they demanded water.





Month-wise killings as of 30 June 2006

Bihar

On 24 April 2006, suspected Naxalites gunned down six civilians, including a panchayat poll candidate, Mr Ashok Kumar Singh while returning home after campaigning for elections at Deojora village in Aurangabad district. Six others were also injured. The alleged Naxals also set fire to the dead bodies.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh continues to be epicentre of the killings resulting into massive violations of the right to life of the civilians.

On 8 April 2006, alleged Naxalites shot dead three Salwa Judum activists including Toda (40) and Krishna Rao (35) in a pre-dawn strike at Kunnapara in Gangalur under Dantewada district. The Maoists reportedly rounded the Salwa Judum activists and opened indiscriminate fire on them, killing three on the spot and injuring six others.

On the night of 18 April 2006, suspected Naxalites killed a Salwa Judum activist identified as Chamruram Raiti, son of Sampatram Baiti, near Mirtur village in Bijapur police district. Raiti was allegedly dragged from his house, brutally tortured in front of other villagers and was later hacked to death.

On the night of 13 June 2006, alleged Naxalites beat to death Samaru Ram, Sarpanch of Edka village under Narayanpur police station area in Bastar district after he was sentenced to death in a *Jan Adalat* for allegedly demanding a police station in the village. The alleged Naxalite cadres dragged the village Sarpanch out of his house and organized a *Jan Adalat* in the night where he was brutally thrashed with rod and lathis in full public

view. The Sarpanch succumbed to his injuries.

On 14 June 2006, alleged Naxalites killed two Salwa Judum activists including Telam Koaram, head of the Tumnar village in Bijapur. The alleged Naxalites reportedly surrounded his house and beheaded him with a sickle.

On 19 June 2006, alleged Naxalites mercilessly killed 7 villagers and injured 3 others after attacking Chikuarguda village in Dantewada district. Alleged Naxalites raided Chikuarguda village and took hostage about 25 people. Then they reportedly shot, beat and stabbed to death seven villagers. Three others were injured. Some houses were also looted and burnt.

Maharashtra

On 16 May 2006, at least 12 people of a marriage party from Chhattisgarh were killed on the spot when Naxalites triggered an improvised explosive device between villages Halewara and Petha in Gadchiroli district. The victims included three women and two children. The CPI-Maoists tendered an apology stating that the civilians were targeted by mistake and assured action against those responsible for the "negligence".

On 16 June 2006, Naxalites allegedly beheaded an Adivasi identified as Alal Lagatu Kantigal (42) suspecting him to be a police informer near Savargaon in Gadchiroli district. The deceased was dragged out of his house early in the morning and beheaded.

Jharkhand

On 3 June 2006, alleged Naxalites killed three alleged members of the Village Protection Group - Sukara Munda, Guruchan Munda and Soharia Munda - by slitting their throats at Hadian village under Gurabanda police station limits in East Singhbhum district.

On the night of 3 June 2006, alleged Naxalites killed a villager identified as Yashen Ansari on the charges of being a police informer at Barwatoli village under Chandwa police station in Latehar district. The alleged Naxalites reportedly barged into the house of the deceased, picked him up and killed him in the nearby forest.

On 17 June 2006, alleged Naxalites killed an

innocent villager identified as Shyam Sundar Singh after trying him in *Jan Adalat* in the forests of Banehesla in Lohardaga district. The Maoists' *Jan Adalat* charged the deceased of being a police "informer" and he was brutally tortured. He succumbed to his injuries after he reached home at Siram.

On the night of 22 June 2006, alleged CPI (Maoist) cadres reportedly shot dead five activists of a breakaway faction Maoist Communist Centre-Third Conference at Bhuiandih village in Chatra district. Earlier on 21 June 2006, two CPI (Maoist) cadres were shot dead by MCC(TC) activists in neighbouring Latehar district.

STATE RESPONSE TO THE NAXAL PROBLEM

Naxalism is the single biggest internal security challenge ever faced by our country...the movement has gained in strength and has now spread to over 160 districts all over the country...the extremists are trying to establish 'liberation zones' in core areas where they are dispensing basic state functions of administration, policing and justice," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh noted in his address to the 2nd meeting of Standing Committee of Chief Ministers on Naxalism on 13 April 2006.

In the second meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers to chalk out strategies to counter Naxalism, Prime Minister suggested two-prong strategy of effective police response and socio-economic development of the Naxal- affected areas. The government proposed a joint unified command backed by a liberal surrender and rehabilitation policy.

The responses of the Central government and State governments are summarised below:

Union Home Ministry and the common refrain

The Central government set up a separate division in the Ministry of Home Affairs to tackle the Naxalite crisis.

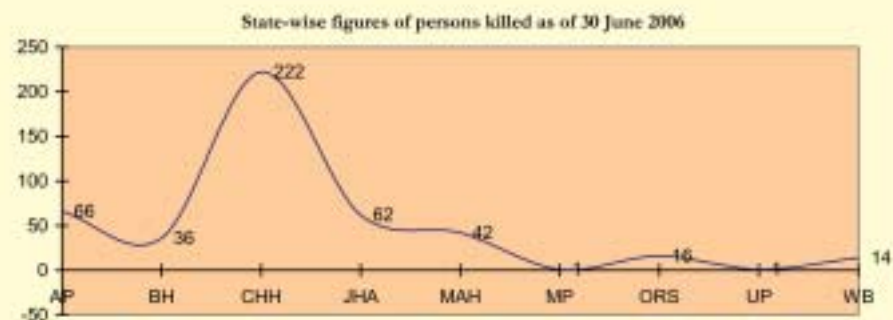
It has been supporting "Salwa Judum" type campaign and urged the States to take the experiences of Andhra police to train their police forces in the Naxalite affected areas.

The demand for more forces has been a common refrain. The Naxalite affected states want 100 central paramilitary battalions (with over 1 lakh ready-to-fight

personnel) to go after the roughly 9,000 to 12,000 Naxalites. Eight states that have witnessed Naxalites' attacks presently have 29 such battalions.

On 27 April 2006, the Centre sanctioned raising of 9 more India Reserve Battalions (IRB) comprising 9,000 police personnel for Naxalite-affected states of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana (one each) and two for worst-hit Chhattisgarh. It is also reportedly been considering sanctioning one India Reserve Battalion (IRB) each for Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Centre will spend around Rs 20 crore on each battalion, which is higher than the earlier allocation of Rs 13 crore.

The Union Home Ministry is considering to set up three or four specialised anti-Maoist centres at strategic locations - mainly at inter-state borders - each equipped with about five helicopters. The centres would be manned mainly by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the pilots would be from the army or BSE. The MHA has also been considering to set up an elite commando force exclusively dealing with the Naxalite insurgents.



In April 2006, Army Chief General JJ Singh suggested setting up an auxiliary force of ex-servicemen drawn from the Naxalite-affected States to carry out duties like detecting mines and explosive devices laid by Naxalites to attack the police and para-military forces.

Andhra Pradesh: Take the war home I

In late March 2006, the State government of Andhra Pradesh issued orders to raise 15th Andhra Pradesh Special Police Battallion exclusively comprising of tribals from the Naxal affected areas. The battalion comprising of 1,000 personnel will have 10 Inspectors, 30 Sub-Inspectors, 45 Assistant Sub Inspectors, 277 Head Constables and 820 constables.

Bihar: Want the full coppers

The Ministry of Home Affairs has allocated an annual budget of Rs 23,000 crores for all the Naxalite affected States. Out of these, the state government of Bihar alone sought Rs 21,000 crore to tackle the Naxal menace. That leaves the Central government with Rs 2,000 crore for the rest of the states. Bihar was asked to trim up the proposal.

Chhattisgarh: Demand choppers

The Chhattisgarh State Government demanded choppers for reconnaissance and para dropping of the forces in the Maoist strongholds. With a view to recruit more eligible people, read as Adivasis, to strengthen the State Police, the Chhattisgarh Government on 28 April 2006 relaxed parameters of recruitment by reducing the required height of 158 cm to 153 cm for the candidates.

Jharkhand: Price for the soldiers' limbs

"If any of the 25,000 personnel engaged in anti-Naxal drive suffers fatal wounds or permanent total disability or loses two limbs or sight, his or her family will be entitled to a maximum benefit of Rs 11.5 lakh," stated Jharkhand's Home Minister Sudesh Mahto.

In April 2006, the Jharkhand government increased the insurance to dependants of jawans killed in operations against Naxalites in the state to Rs 21.5 lakh, instead of Rs 10 lakh which are being paid presently. The annual

premium amount of Rs 2,47,50,000 for 2006 has already been paid by the state government for the "group personal accident insurance policy". About 25,000 security personnel engaged in anti-insurgency operations including from other states will also be benefited. The insurance amount would be apart from the Rs 10 lakh package, awarded by the State Government to families of such martyrs.

On 20 April 2006, the Jharkhand government also announced a new surrender policy. It offered Rs 50,000 in cash to each surrendered Naxalite and a monthly allowance of Rs 2,000. Other benefits include cash equivalent to the price of the weapon surrendered, a life insurance cover worth Rs 10 lakhs, vocational training for two years, one acre of agricultural land, health and educational facility for their children. The Naxalites will also be entitled to a lawyer to fight their case in the court. In case, the surrendered Naxalites want different lawyer, the government would bear all the expenses. The village, whose residents help in mass surrender of Naxalites, will get Rs 25 lakhs as bonus for development and the villagers would decide how to use the money for the development of their area.

Karnataka: Secret plans

"I will not publicise it. It will be revealed after the problem is tackled," - declared Chief Minister Mr Kumaraswamy on his secret plan to tackle the Naxalite problem.

Earlier, the state government decided to allocate special funds for developing Naxal-affected villages in Karnataka over the next two years. Each *gram panchayat*, village council, would be given Rs 10 lakh a year for two years for developing Naxal affected villages in their jurisdiction. As many as 315 villages under 152 *gram panchayats* in 11 districts have been identified as Naxal-affected. The state government has directed the *gram panchayats* to prepare a comprehensive development plan as per the guidelines of the Kugrama Suvarna Scheme by 15 May 2006. The gram panchayats will be the implementing agencies for these programmes. The government has also directed use of other grants from the government, zilla and taluk

panchayats for developing these villages on priority.

Orissa: Extension of the ban

On 9 June 2006, Orissa government banned CPI (Maoists) and seven of its front organizations- Damana Pratirodh Manch, Revolutionary Democratic Front, Chasi Mulia Samiti, Kui Lawenga Sangha, Jana Natya Mandali, Krantikari Kisan Samiti and Bal Sangam.

The Orissa government has also approved a comprehensive rehabilitation package for the Naxals who surrender. The rehabilitation package consists of payment up to Rs 10,000 on acceptance of surrender, payment up to Rs 20,000 for surrendering arms and ammunition, allotment of homestead land, house building grant up to Rs 25,000, Rs 15,000 for marriage, assistance to take loan up to Rs 2 lakhs from banks on which there will be no interest for two years, subsidy up to Rs 50,000 after repayment of 75 per cent of the loan, free medical treatment in government hospitals within the state and cost of fees and textbooks for study up to high school. The government also proposed to withdraw cases involving minor offences against surrendered Naxalites.

Uttar Pradesh: Take the war home II

In late June 2006, Uttar Pradesh government

declared to raise a special battalion of the Provincial Armed Constabulary, comprising local youth of the Naxalite-affected districts of Sonebhadra, Chandauli and Mirzapur to tackle the Naxalite problem in Uttar Pradesh.

West Bengal: Addressing 28 years of neglect

On 23 June 2006, West Bengal government announced Rs 50-crore special allocation for underdeveloped rural areas of the state, most of which are Maoist strongholds to intensify development efforts centering on production, employment, education, training, public health and housing in these areas. In addition, Rs 5 crore has been specially earmarked for Paschimanchal (western zone), which comprises 74 blocks of Bankura, Purulia, West Midnapore, Burdwan and Birbhum districts. A separate department for Paschimanchal development has been created to expedite the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. But the department has no budget of its own.

The government has also proposed to take loans worth Rs 150 crore from the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) for the development of the three regions - Paschimanchal, the Sunderbans and north Bengal. But funds often do not reach the tribal people in the impoverished region.

PLIGHT OF THE IDPS

An estimated 50,000 tribal people have been displaced due to the Salwa Judum programme in Chhattisgarh. They are being sheltered by the State government in 27 relief camps. While thousands of Adivasis have fled their villages and abandoned their paddy fields

fearing retaliation from the Naxalites for alleged non-cooperation, the government has also been forcing the Adivasi villagers to take shelter in Salwa Judum relief camps to isolate the Naxalites.

The actual number of displaced persons is quite high.

Most of the makeshift camps are roofed with leaves of trees and open from all sides while only a few have tarpaulin roofing. Life becomes more difficult during the rainy days as water pours in through the roofs and from all sides.

A large number of persons who have taken shelter in the Naxalite controlled areas are not counted. There is no estimate of the villagers who fled to neighbouring States like Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

The number of Adivasi IDPs is increasing further due to escalated violence. On 18 April 2006, the

Naxalites reportedly laid siege to Usoor village in Bijapur district of Chattisgarh forcing hundreds of villagers to flee their homes. While most of them took shelter in government-run relief camps, as many as 30 villagers reportedly took shelter at the local police station without

basic amenities like accommodation, toilet facilities etc. in place for all of them.

The situation of the internally displaced persons remains deplorable because of the lack of basic facilities. Most of the makeshift camps are roofed with leaves of trees and open from all sides while only a few have tarpaulin roofing. Life becomes more difficult during the rainy days as water pours in through the roofs and from all sides. In the name of ration, the inmates get a square meal of rice and dal, which is thin and watery. Many of those displaced tribals were starving and desperate in the relief camps. They have been left without any work, and the government provides little monetary assistance.

Medical facilities are non-existent as are the educational facilities.

Most importantly, there is a lack of security around the camps. There have been a couple of attacks by the Naxalites at the camps. On 16 April 2006, at least 10 security personnel, including 6 special police officers



Source : www.fridaindia.org

(SPOs), were killed in a Naxalite attack at the Murkinar Salwa Judum camp in Bijapur police district in South Bastar. The Naxalites also looted arms and ammunition including AK-47 rifles, grenades and rocket launchers from the security forces.

SOLUTION: FOLLOW THE PM'S PRESCRIPTIONS

Union Home Ministry is scheduled to convene a high level meeting of the Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of the Naxalite affected States in Bhubaneswar on 21 July 2006 to take stock of the situations. The meeting to be chaired by Union Home Secretary V K Duggal will obviously focus on security measures.

While the state has the right, prerogative, and duty to take necessary security measures, Asian Centre for Human Rights firmly believes that the policies of the government must address the root causes of the Naxalite problem as lucidly articulated by none other than the Prime Minister of India in his address to the Second Standing Committee Meeting of the Chief Ministers of the Naxalite affected States on 13 April 2006. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh stated that “exploitation, artificially depressed wages, iniquitous socio-political circumstances, inadequate

employment opportunities, lack of access to resources, under developed agriculture, geographical isolation, lack of land reforms, all contribute significantly to the growth of the Naxalite movement.”

There is no military solution to the Naxalite crisis and many State governments have suddenly woken up to the abject neglect that allowed the Naxals to strengthen their support base and have announced special programmes. As stated earlier, there has not been any dearth of such programmes but these programmes seldom reached to those who need it most. In many areas including those vacated because of the Salwa Judum campaign, the edifice of the State structure does not exist. The challenge for the government is to establish the mechanisms to make such programmes effective with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and without causing any further alienation.

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