

# Naxal Conflict Monitor

(An initiative of Asian Centre for Human Rights)

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## Need for a separate Ministry for Development of Naxalite affected areas

### 1. Introduction

The Union Home Ministry of the government of India has called a meeting with Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of 9 Naxalite affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to discuss increasing Naxal violence on 31 March 2006. The latest Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs reported increased violence by the Naxalite in the year 2005 from 509 police stations in 11 States including these nine States. There are a total of 12,476 police stations in the country.

The increasing internal armed conflicts between the security forces and the Naxalites in the affected areas pose the most serious challenge to human rights advocacy in India. Reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws both by the security forces and the Naxalites have been pouring in. With the involvement of civilians in anti-Naxalite operations in Chhattisgarh, it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish “combatants” and “non-combatants”. Yet, it has become increasingly clear that the Naxalites have been responsible for gross violations of international humanitarian laws by targeting the civilians through landmines. The Adivasis have become disproportionate victims of the Naxalite conflict.

### 2. Increase of killings in 2006

According to figures recorded by Asian Centre for Human Rights, during the first quarter of 2006 (January to March 2006), at least 235 persons respectively 103 civilians, 80 alleged Naxalites and 52 security forces have been killed in the nine affected States. Maximum number of killings were reported from Chhattisgarh (124 persons), followed by Jharkhand (32), Bihar (21) and Andhra Pradesh (21). Majority were killed in land mine explosions planted by the Naxalites.

The allegations of encounter killings could not be verified.

**Statistics of persons killed in the Naxal conflict  
1 January 2006 – 30 March 2006**

States	Abuses by Security forces		Abuses by Naxalites				Killings by Salwa Judum activists	State-wise Total
	Killings		Killings					
	Alleged Naxalites	Civilians	Security forces		Civilians			
Land-mines			Other means like ambush/armed clashes	Land-mines	Other means of executions			
Andhra Pradesh	15					6		21
Bihar	13		6	1		1		21
Chhattisgarh	16		12	12	44	37	3	124
Jharkhand	14		4	8	3	3		32
Maharashtra	11					4		15
MP								
Orissa	6			3	1			10
UP								
West Bengal	2		6			4		12
Sub-Total	77		28	24	48	55		
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>			<b>52</b>	<b>103</b>		<b>3</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>								<b>235</b>

### 3. The need for a ministry for development of Naxalite affected areas

The Ministry of Home Affairs in its Annual Report 2005 states that “Naxalism is not merely a law and order problem but has deep socio-economic dimensions. Therefore, a multi-pronged strategy essentially of sustained and effective police action coupled with accelerated socio-economic development of naxal affected areas is being pursued to effectively tackle this menace”.

However, the initiatives of the Central government under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana are inadequate and do not convey the sense of urgency required to address lack of development in the areas where the State governments until recently had little semblance of presence. The government’s security concerns outweigh the need for what the government calls “accelerated socio-economic development”.

ACHR therefore recommends setting up a separate agency or Ministry, akin to the Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER), to implement economic development of the Naxalite affected areas as a matter of priority. Unless, the government of India takes development of Naxalite affected areas on “war footing”, the Naxalite conflict will lead to further gross violations of human rights and fundamental

freedoms. It has taken over 50 years to establish Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER) to infuse economic development in the region.