

Prachanda Comes Out Against Operation Green Hunt

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Nepali Maoists have come out in support of their Indian comrades and declared their opposition to the security operations against them.

Speaking over telephone, Nepali Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal, known as Prachanda, told Hindustan Times: “This is the first time we are publicly saying that we oppose state repression and the so-called Operation Greenhunt in India. The problems of the day can be solved only through dialogue and negotiations, not through the use of force.”

Indian Maoists are ideologically the same as their Nepali counterparts, he said, adding: “Politically we are the same, although we have differences on certain issues.”

Admitting that the Nepali Maoists had a “relationship” with the CPI(Maoist) when the former was underground, he said the ties ended when his party decided to come out “in the open and contest elections”.

Prachanda denied that the 11-member Nepali Maoist team that left for China on Thursday had any deeper implication. “This is not a political visit. It is a visit to study ‘historical and cultural’ ties between Nepal and China. We desire good relations with both India and China.”

But the timing of Prachanda’s statement has raised eyebrows. “His declaration of support is related to internal political developments in Nepal,” former RAW official B. Raman said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/newdelhi/Prachanda-against-anti-Maoist-ops/566303/H1-Article1-566679.aspx>