

**Joint statement On the occasion of the 10th Sessions of the United Nations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
New York 16 – 27 May, 2011 A.D.**

Agenda: Item 4. (b)

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International Campaign for Boroks' Human Rights (ICBHR)**

Madam Chairperson, distinguished Members of the Permanent Forum, distinguished observers from Member States, Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, NGOs, media and fellow indigenous brothers and sisters.

I am honored once again to be on the floor of the 10th Sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. For over a decade the PF has been providing a ray of hope for the indigenous peoples across the world and for over 6 decades the UN has stood as the chief architect of crisis solutions. I am also delighted to carry with me the goodwill and a greeting of peace and hope from the people of Twipra.

We are meeting here at a time when the indigenous peoples around the world are increasingly marginalized in one hand and the national governments willfully ignore the pathetic conditions of indigenous peoples on the other. The relation between the indigenous populations and the dominant ruling people include violent conflict and suppression by military might. One salient feature of the conflict in the context of Twipra has been colonization of the territory that denied our historical rights and opportunities.

Madam Chair and the members present, these circumstances in our territory clearly demonstrates India's goal in the region. But if you see the conflict only from New Delhi's view point, then you will be blind to the truth. People who entered the territory as illegal immigrants have been made lawmakers while people who entered as refugees have been made citizens and electors

The North Eastern states of Twipra, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh are also having the same problems like ours. We, the United Seven Sisters States of north east India will continue to fight for the rights to self-determination and sovereignty till the last drop of our blood.



The response of the unlawful lawmakers is to resort to the application of black laws, like **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)** giving excessive powers to members of security forces which in turn bred more violence and more conflict that lead to endless human rights violation and bloodshed.

I do understand that change cannot come overnight. No single discussion or speech can settle the problem. But I am convinced in order to make a beginning; we must openly say the legitimate things the Boroks nurture in their hearts. There has to be sustained effort to know the real causes of the conflict in the territory and to find an amicable solution.

Madam Chair, words alone cannot meet the needs of our people. These needs can only be met if the Permanent Forum on indigenous issues and international community boldly acts in the days ahead. When the villages of our people are burnt down, our women are molested and raped and innocent Boroks are shot dead by the security and paramilitary forces of India, it is a stain on the conscience of international community. Millions of Borok indigenous are driven to the point that borders to extinction. This is the failure of the world today and it simply cannot be allowed to go at this rate. Rectification is a must if it is to exist for humanity, for to promise a future is the sacred obligation of the world to itself. This responsibility falls upon the United Nations so long as it claims to represent the world. This must be fulfilled and to this end, our Borok indigenous people shall remain committed.

Today, I would like to call upon the international IPs to march forward unitedly with the spirit of oneness and to support the international IPs movement for Liberation & Self-Determination as a symbol of international solidarity and unity.

Let me also take this opportunity to extend our cordial invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, representatives of UN High Commissioners for Human Rights, Economic and Social Council, other UN agencies, and NGOs, to visit our state to make on the spot assessment of the devastating effects of the presence of 2 (two) million illegal immigrants and the costs Boroks paid for it.

Recommendations:

1. The Boroks of Twipra urges upon the Permanent Forum, UN agencies, EU, Amnesty International, UNPO and all concerned to kindly prevail upon the

Government of India (GOI) to urgently withdraw its armed forces and 2 (two) millions Hindu Bengali illegal immigrants from Twipra with the view to restoring the sovereignty and independence of Twipra.

2. We call upon the Permanent Forum, UN High Commission for Human Rights, European Union, Amnesty International, UNPO and all other relevant organizations to make efforts in approaching the GOI to respect Borok Human Rights of Twipra based on the Universal declaration of Human Rights (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).

3. We call upon the Permanent Forum, UN bodies; UN High Commission for Human Rights, UN Economic and Social Council, UNPO, EMRIP, and International communities to urge the GOI for holding constructive and effective dialogue for long term solution of Indo-Borok conflict at the United Nations level with the Borok Indigenous representatives.