

Agenda Item 9 (Future Work)

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Dear Madame Chairperson,

I am Jiten Yumnam, a Meitei from Manipur in India's North East, speaking on behalf of Forum for Indigenous Perspectives and Action, Manipur in India's NE and the Shimin Gaikou Center, Japan.

Indigenous Peoples struggle and Militarization

Madame Chair, many of the Indigenous Peoples around the world are in midst of armed conflict with their respective states that colonize them, that continue to suppress their rights and to intimidate with their military rights. Impunity, consistent pattern of denying justice to Indigenous peoples victimized with military violations and excesses has become a regular feature highly militarized areas around the world.

For instance, in Manipur in India's North East, Indigenous Peoples has been resisting all colonial subjugation of our rights, first by the British and now by the Government of India, ever since forcible annexation in 1949.

Manipuri Indigenous Peoples' call for National Liberation and struggle for recognition of political rights, to control and manage our own land and resources live with dignity as nation, continues to be responded with military might of Indian States. The Indian Army, under the cover and full protection of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 and other plethora of emergency legislations, Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act, 1967, National Security Act etc, seriously undermined civil rights, right to life, to judicial remedy and disturbed our peaceful existence as peoples. Militarization has led to massive occupation of our land, cultural sites, and compelled us to kill each other after recruitment to the military. Now, the military are protecting developmental activities such as Tipaimukh Dam, Mapithel Dam, Loktak Multipurpose Hydroelectric Power Project etc, aggravating the climate of impunity due to injustices of Indian military and now by public and private corporations, multinationals and Financial Institutions. In Okinawa, Japan, the Indigenous Peoples faced continued victimization due to Massive US military presence.

Recommendations:

That the Permanent Forum conduct a study on cause and impact of Militarization by States on Indigenous Peoples and especially on youths, women with due identification and impacts of emergency or special laws, decrees that allow full scale militarization and militarization of indigenous peoples lands, territories, and resources, and its multidimensional impacts on indigenous peoples.

The UN Study should also explore the trend of involvement of Military in developmental aggression, in introduction of arbitrary and destructive developmental norms in Indigenous Peoples Land.

That Permanent Forum urgently take up "Militarization in Indigenous Peoples Land" as a theme of its upcoming sessions at the earliest to address all impending threats to the survival of Indigenous Peoples.

I would like Permanent Forum to call upon Nation States in conflict with indigenous peoples to recognize their inherent right to Self Determination, their political rights of Indigenous peoples

Calls upon States to repeal all Emergency, extra legal, draconian laws, decrees and orders imposed on Indigenous Peoples Land end climate of impunity by investigating violations and prosecuting all military personnel involved in blatant human rights violations in Manipur (NE India) and elsewhere in the world.

THANKS