

8th Session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda 6 United Nations Agencies

Dear Madame Chair, I am Jiten Yumnam from Manipur, presenting a group statement of the Forum for Indigenous Perspectives and Action, NE India, Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network, Philippines, Shimin Gaikou Centre, Japan, Ogiek Cultural Initiatives Program, Kenya, Foundation for Research and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Crimea, Ukraine. I would like to first thank the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights for its relentless efforts in protecting and promoting human rights of the Indigenous peoples worldwide. I would like to draw the kind attention of the kind office of the High Commissioner to the long standing alarming scale of civilian impacts, humanitarian and human rights laws violations in Manipur due to the ongoing conflict between the armed forces of the Government of India and several resistance groups such as the Revolutionary Peoples Front, United National Liberal Front, Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup and others who stood against the Merger of Manipur to India in 1949 and demanding sovereignty of Manipur. The civilian impacts, primarily extrajudicial executions, summary killings without due process of justice as a result of the conflict, perpetrated by both parties is already acknowledge worldwide by United Nations Human Rights bodies¹ and Int'l Human rights organizations² and their recommendations to protect fundamental human rights of the people of Manipur are far from being respected.

Recommendations: I would now like to request the OHCHR to urge upon the Government of India :

- to implement the provisions of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and provisions of International Bill of Human Rights
- and all non state armed actors in conflict afflicted Manipur to respect the Geneva Conventions, more specific the provisions of Article 3 that urged upon all parties in conflict to refrain from causing any form of civilian casualties
- to promote human rights of people of Manipur, especially the non derogable right, "right to Life" and "right to justice" as listed in Int'l Bill of Human Rights and as recommended by UN Human Rights Committee in 1997³
- to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 as recommended by Justice Jeevan Reddy Commission⁴ instituted by the Govt of India in 2004 in the wake of the rape and murder of Miss Thangjam Manorama by 17 Assam Rifles on 11 July 2004 and by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination⁵
- to implement the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee of ICCPR in 1997 to adopt a political responses rather than military for resolution of the armed conflict in Manipur^{viii}
- to remove declarations and reservations in International Bill of Human Rights, especially Article 1, 9, 12, 19, 21, 22 of *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)*
- to submit its 4th periodic report to UN Human Rights Committee of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) due already from 2001
- Urges upon India to sign the Additional Protocol I and II, 1977 of the Geneva Conventions
- Urge upon the Government of India to sign and ratify the Rome Statute on Criminal Court
- To protect the human rights of Human Rights defenders in India's North East under the UN Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights 1999

Madame Chair, I would further like to request the OHCHR to

- Institute a United Nations monitored Investigation to the ongoing political killings in Manipur towards prosecuting all those responsible in the murder and other violations.
- Establish a regional office of OHCHR in India and to address situations where serious rights concerns prevail.
- To urge upon the UN Human Rights Special Procedures under the UN Human Rights Council to pay a special focus on the human rights situation in conflict prone areas in Manipur and other parts of India's North East in their global monitoring of violations. Thank you Madame chair.

¹ Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, E/CN.4/2005/72/Add 1 paras, 186 – 189
Report of UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Execution to the UN Human Rights Council [A/HRC/4/20/Add.1](#)
Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: India. 04/08/97. CCPR/C/79/Add.81

Concluding observations of the CRC, India, 23/02/2000, at para. 63 and 26/02/2004, para. 68-9

² "India: Briefing on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958", AI Index: ASA 20/025/2005, 9 May 2005.

Amnesty International, India: Official Sanction for Killings in Manipur, AI Index, ASA 20/014/1997, 1 April 1997

Relentless Violence and Impunity in Manipur," Human Rights Watch September 2008 (<http://hrw.org/reports/2008/india0908/>)

³ Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: India. 04/08/97. CCPR/C/79/Add.81

⁴ <http://www.hinduonnet.com/nic/afa/>

⁵ CERD/C/IND/CO/19 ... March 2007