

General Debate:  
Agenda Item - 3:

LIBERATION  
DINO DEAN GRACIOUS

Mr. President,

I would like to draw the Council attention to the deteriorating human rights abuses of the Indigenous communities residing in North East India, a region which comprises of 8 States<sup>1</sup>.

Rights and duties are one of the primary concerns of the human civilization. They are all closely connected with Peace Justice and liberty, including growth, development, dignity, responsibility and welfare of the general community. However, understanding about the true spirit of human rights in this region is neither accepted nor well distributed. As a result, rigorous violation of human rights has become so common that the purpose of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has defeated substantial number of times.

North-East India today is a region with many examples of being one of massacre house of human rights abuses. Police torture and encounters, extrajudicial killing, Atrocities on women, insurgency, child abuses, custodial rape, including many other aggressive development projects such as the proposed uranium mining, hydro dams, oil explorations and other extractive industries activities, systematic land grabbing and land alienation by the dominant people from out side the region, are comprehensible signal of the continuing violation of human rights which has seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility in the region.

While, corruption was endemic in various government agencies including the police forces, there was no attempt has been made to combat the problem. The lack of firm accountability permeated the government and security forces, thereby creating an atmosphere in which those perpetrators often go scot free and unpunished despite the fact that India has enacted several laws that aim to protect the basic human rights of all its citizens.

The Government of India has not only failed to hold rights violators accountable or to carry out effective policies to protect the vulnerable communities over the past, and many of the recommendations made by different UN bodies specially to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, which allow soldiers to operate with impunity, requires an immediate intervention from the Human Rights Council.

Therefore we urge the Human Rights Council being the prime body to continue in addressing these issues pertaining to different human rights abuses, to play an effective role and request the Government of India to respect its international obligations under international law and accord fundamental rights to the indigenous peoples in the region.

Thank you

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<sup>1</sup> Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim respectively