



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Prahar, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 August 2017]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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## **Indigenous Issues of Northeastern States of India special reference to Assam**

Human rights are entitlements inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to these rights without discrimination by the simple virtue of being human. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law. These guarantee take the form of national constitutions, common law, treaties and conventions in international law, general principles and other moral or civil codes. International human rights law specifically establishes the obligations of Governments to act, or refrain from acting, in certain ways to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and groups.

Indigenous people are those that are native to an area. Around the world what does the future hold for the indigenous peoples? This is may be an answerless question. To improve the lives of their indigenous peoples each and every government must review the past treatment and the current conditions to determine what should be done. To each government the issues of the past are vast in number and unique. The issues include: political power, education, environment, land and territory, intellectual property, poverty and the list goes on.

Tragically many indigenous groups of around the world has been depriving in enjoying their basic human rights. Northeast India comprises eight states popularly known as the eight sisters: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The North Eastern region is surrounded by the foreign territories of Bhutan, The Tibet Autonomous Region, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. In this report we are going to give you a bird's eye view on the human rights violation of the indigenous people of Northeast India with special reference to Assam. Discrimination against indigenous people of Assam is maintained in a very sophisticated form. And now these people have given up their sleep for safeguard of their own identity and rights. The lives of indigenous peoples of Assam are now in turmoil. Today, the clash between non aboriginals and aboriginals a bitter battle in Assam.

From the post-colonial i.e 1826 era to till now the indigenous tribes of Northeast specially Assam has been facing tremendous movements whether is for safeguard of language or expel of illegal migration. Food, Cloth and Shelter- these are the basic needs of human beings. But these native groups have been consistently deprived in fulfilling their basic needs as they have been suffering all the time through imbalance. Their lives are passing through volcano like situations.

Recently, a committee has been constituted by the Assam Government for protection of land rights of indigenous persons of the State with former Chief Election Commissioner Hari Sankar Brahma as its chairman. It can be imagine the situation in Assam for indigenous people is became so worse that they now have to prove themselves if they are indigenous or not. They are losing their rights in their own birthplace. This committee found that 90% of indigenous people of Assam didn't have their own land records. What a shame!

The Assam Land Revenue act which was enacted on British colonial period i.e 1886 where the other states has been enjoying their land rights with their new and updated Land Revenue Acts.

According to the Assam Accord the “**Cut of Year**” of expel of Illegal foreigners from Assam is 1971 whether it is 1951 for all other parts of India. That means, Assam has been bearing the load of Illegal migrants of these extra 20years alone. Illegal migrants constitute more than 30% of the total population of Assam which is a very large number in multi-ethnic Assam. In the meantime, the migrants who are Illegal as per the Assam Accord have remained in Assam and numbers have multiply along with their descendants. In Assam, illegal migration has becoming the leading cause of many severe issues including overpopulation, rising rates of unemployment, poverty and crime. The large scale migration has significantly changed the demographic scenario in Assam and became the important source to social, economic and political instability in Assam

The international human rights mechanisms – including: the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues (UNPFII); the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); and several Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures – serve in part to provide legal mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples to protect their rights. But these are still far away from the indigenous people of Northeast especially in Assam.

There are still lots unresolved issues that deal with the very existence of the future of indigenous peoples of Northeast India. The colonial period started in Assam in 1826 as we mentioned above, the native groups who have been living before colonial era should recognize as the Indigenous people of Northeast India and Assam. The culture, heritage and ethnicity, language, traditions and customs of these indigenous groups are in threat Therefore we request the International community ask the Government of India and request and pressurize them for these Indigenous peoples can live a meaningful and respected lives.

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