

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub Commission on the Promotion and
Protection of Human Rights
Working Group on Indigenous Populations, (GENEVA)
Twentieth session
22 - 26 July, 2002.



Item 5

THE PROBLEMS OF LAND RIGHTS IN ZO LAND

Mr.Chairperson,

Distinguished Experts Members of Indigenous Issues,
and Representatives of Indigenous Peoples,

First of all, I would like to express my happiness to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations for helping me to participate on behalf of my Organization in this session.

Mr.Chairperson,

United ZO Indigenous Peoples is concerning of the all ZO Indigenous Peoples, inhabited and located in the Indo Burma and Bangladesh border areas which was Governed by separated Acts and Regulations which were not operated in Burma nor India and the country was declared as EXCLUDED AREAS basing on the Government of India Acts 1935 by the colonizers.

Mr.Chairperson,

ZO Indigenous Peoples are now divided under three Nationalities and assimilated then become minorities using different clan names or imposed and mispronounced names like CHINs, KUKIs, ZOUs YOs, CHHOs and ASHOs etc.

The Northern parts of ZO Indigenous Peoples inhabited areas Manipur State in India is facing Land Rights problems since the State Government has recently put in practice the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Acts (MLR / LA) which violates the inherent Rights of the ZO Indigenous Tribal peoples of the State that had been enjoying since the time of British rule. Under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, this Indigenous Tribal lands are protected from possession by the more advanced communities by the act under reference has indirectly violated that protection.

In Burma, ZO inhabited areas such as Chin State, Sagaing Division and western part of Magwe Division, the military junta regime has forcibly taken Lands of the Tribal people for construction of military establishments and building Pagodas without giving them any compensation and without concerning of the Land Owners.

Some parts of Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, the ZO and other Indigenous tribal peoples are also facing the some problems as mention before

Mr.Chairperson, Indigenous peoples around the world are facing more or less similar problems of dispossession of their life sustaining resources of LAND.

Alienation of Tribal Indigenous lands and marginalization of tribal people to a minority in their native lands have adversely social and political impact in the ZO Indigenous inhabited areas, that various of the militancy related problems in the region had something to do with tribal Indigenous Lands.

I would therefore plead this august body to insist the responsible Governments, United Nations Agencies, Expert members of the Indigenous Issues and NGOs concern for solving ZO and also other Indigenous People problems in this regards

Thank you Mr.Chairperson for your kind attention

Suan Tung Parte
President
United ZO Indigenous Peoples (ZOIPU)