

**Statement by Community Action and Research for Development (CARD)
6th Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda Item 4(F) Human Rights

Presented by Ms.Sumshot Khular¹, President, CARD, Manipur, India

Greetings from Manipur, India.

Respected Madam Chairperson, Members of the Forum, Indigenous Sister and Brothers!

The hills of Manipur especially the Churachandpur and Chandel in recent times have been declared as the liberated zone by the valley based Meitei militant outfit, United National Liberation Front (UNLF) where the reign of terror increases, complete disregard to life and liberty of the innocent villagers. On 13th March 2007 at 5:30 IST, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) in connivance of the Burmese Military Junta raided a refugee camp at TS.Laijang and after several rounds thrashing the refugees, over 400 were forcibly taken away to Namtun in southern Myanmar, whose fate and whereabouts are still unknown. The UNLF had been planting land mines, rape, and torture, forced enlistment as porters, burning of houses, extortion of food and cattles.

In 2003 Mr.Beshot Leivon of Charangching Khunou village was killed as the Kangleipak Kana Yawol Lup (KKYL) stayed forcibly in his house then at dawn the Indian armies attacked his house due to report. The KKYL fled but his family had nowhere to go staying inside his own house they killed him while still sleeping in his bed. The armies let all the menfolk in his village wear on the army uniform and they were about to shoot them to claim that they all are UNLF cadres/militants but sue to the protest from the women folk in the village they were spared, had they been all killed the village would be without a single men. They were beaten black and blue and then they left.²

In 2006 July a young college boy Premson Sungnem was killed in Leingangching as the armies attacked the village after the militants left his village while coming out from toilet. The army stationed at Waikhong camp are the ones involved in this killing. Mr.Sankhil Thamhring shot to death while returning from hunting, when the armies were chasing the militants shot him down tearing apart his body into shreds and bits. In 2004 December 25th Nungkangching Lamkang village on Christmas day they ate up all the meat cooked were eaten up by UNLF and the men folk were beaten black and blue.

Till date 33 Kukis have been killed, many maimed and injured by landmines, 39 villages in Khengjoi block of Chandel district compelled to flee from their homes for safety reasons. They forcibly occupy and used Church for shelter or storing of their arms and ammunitions. The case of **21 women raped by UNLF at Parbung, and Lungthulen in Churachandpur district on the 16th January at 9 p.m in 2006.**

¹ Ms.Sumshot Khular is a Lamkang indigenous person, President of Community Action for Research and Development(CARD) Initiatives of the Lamkang Indigenous peoples based in Thamlakhuren village, Manipur,India.

² Protests were held in Chandel and the family given a compensation of one lakh rupees.

Around 402 people were beaten up in Lunthulen village, and the Pastor of the village along with one Rev. B.L Thomas was also beaten up according to the report by the fact finding team. In this areas too, the demanded firewood, water, rice, hen and dogs and they are forced to give whatever they had. The villagers many times face trouble when the militant groups fight amongst themselves, the UNLF and KCP and others.

The government took two smokescreen operations named "**Operation Dragnet**" and "**Samtal Salient**" as an eyewash. Under the conspicuous political intervention, the Indian security forces remained silent spectators which clearly convey the story. Despite this grave human rights violations, till date the fact finding team report was not released due to pressure from the militants groups to the human rights organisations, who are vocal in any Human rights violations committed by state actors and the media of all verity and all hue and cry was absolutely and conspicuously absent when the **21 women were raped** remained a silent spectator when the violations is committed by their own communities who are non-state actors. The AFSPA promotes impunity by allowing torture, extrajudicial killings and disappearances besides many other forms of human rights violations leaving behind a huge accountability gap leading to destruction of our common humanity and dignity.

Looking at the Indian government's deliberate and continual ignorance on the efficient implementation of the ceasefire ground rules exacerbating the tension and multiplying the casualties among the Nagas, India will have no moral standing in the international community to speak and claim itself as the largest democratic country while these genocidal policies continues to be perpetrated in its so called backyard occupied Northeast and the Naga homeland. We can assume India's quest for positions in the Human rights council, UN Security Council as a serious deception due to its dismal human rights record in Naga homeland and possess a grave threat to minority and indigenous peoples struggling for basic human security and the recognition of their right to self determination.

Recommendation:

- ☞ Immediate release of the 400 innocent villagers held captive by the UNLF and Burmese Military junta through military intervention,
- ☞ Immediate clearing of the hills from valley base militants,
- ☞ The Rajkhowa Commission should complete its investigation and make its report public at the earliest, as its due since May 17 2006,
- ☞ Immediate rehabilitation and compensation be given to IDPs who are victims of the communal conflict still languishing in refugee camps/grouping centres since the 1990's
- ☞ Government of India should demonstrate sincerity and commitment to the Indo-Naga Peace process by repealing the draconian AFSPA and restoration of democratic space to the Nagas and other struggling communities,
- ☞ We hold the government of India wholly responsible for the continuing killings of civilians and clashes amongst the armed cadres in the state and region,

- ☞ We demand that India ratify the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court (ICC) with universal jurisdiction over the cases of genocide, crime against humanity, war crimes torture extra-judicial killings/executions and disappearances which will strengthen her assertion as a functional democracy to maintain accountability and transparency towards its commitment to the various international Human Rights treaties it had ratified so far.
- ☞ We urge the Special Rapporteurs as well as other mechanisms relevant to Human Rights Council to study the effects of armed conflict on fundamental rights of indigenous peoples especially on women and children in Manipur, and Northeast region,

Thank you, Chairperson, for your kind attention.