

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples,

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Intervention by Stella Tamang,

Nepal Tamang Ghedung

Thank you Mr. Chair!

I am taking this opportunity to share with you the degrading human right situation at home in Nepal. Mr. Chair, you must be aware that at present the armed conflict between the government security forces and rebellions is going on. We are under the state of emergency and the fundamental freedom and all the human rights are suspended.

Unfortunately, like in most part of the world, this conflict is centralised in the area and territory of indigenous peoples therefore the indigenous peoples are the highest victim of this terrible situation. Mr. Chair indigenous peoples are very innocent and do not understand what does emergency and curfew mean. There have been cases of indigenous peoples killed since they came out from the house to take a sick woman to a traditional healer during curfew at night.

Within the last six years, more than 4000 people have been killed. In the last five months, there is not a single day without news of killings. Indigenous women and children are suffering the most. They are mentally, emotionally and physically affected by the present situation. Women and children are recruited for armed fighting and are used as human shields in most of the critical situation. Many innocent indigenous peoples and children are killed and women and girls are raped. Many indigenous peoples have been killed because they do not belong to either the rebellions or the government force. The present situation is affecting the life of indigenous youth since they are forced to take up arms. Arms are coming into Nepal at the cost of food, shelter and clothing of the indigenous peoples. The basic means of subsistence and economy are going down.

Apart from this, another severe violation of human rights is the denial of language rights of indigenous peoples. Mr. Chair, the new constitution of Nepal, 1990 declares Nepal as a Hindu state and the ruling class's language "Nepali Khas" language as an official language denying the diverse languages of the indigenous peoples. The constitution stated the languages of indigenous peoples as a national language not allowing to be used in office and school.

To end, I would like to make the following recommendations to the Permanent Forum:

1. To recommend ECOSOC to take initiative to bring both the rebellion force and the government of Nepal to peace dialogue again,
2. Recommend specially the Human Rights Commission to bring out authentic report of the human right violation in the conflict areas of Nepal with the special focus on indigenous peoples,
3. Recommend ECOSOC and Human Rights Commissions to call for speedy and concerted action immediately for the protection of women and children affected by armed conflicts,
4. Recommend to stop the recruitment of children for armed conflicts,
5. Recommend to take measure to protect the rights of indigenous children and youths,

6. Recommend ECOSOC for the creation of a Working Group on “Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation”.
7. Recommend for the adoption of Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights,
8. Recommend for the adoption of UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,
9. At last Mr. Chair, as a mother I would like to request you to strongly recommend for the safety of our children and to ensure them of clean air to breath and pure water to drink.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.