

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples,

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Intervention by Stella Tamang, Nepal Tamang Ghedung

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. Chair, I am taking this opportunity to draw your attention to 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 and we are under 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 indigenous peoples are the 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 being killed since they came out from the house to take a sick woman to the traditional healers during curfew at night.

In the last six years, more than 4000 people have been killed. From the last five months, there is no 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, children and girls 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. This armed conflict is multiplying the already alarming situation of women trafficking for sex trade and bonded and child labour. 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 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. Request Permanent Forum to recommend ECOSOC and Human Rights Commissions to request the Government of Nepal for peace talks.
3. Recommend, specially the Human Rights Commission to bring out authentic report of the human right violation in the armed conflict areas of Nepal with the special focus on indigenous peoples,

4. Recommend to take measure to protect the rights of indigenous children and youths,
5. Recommend for the immediate adoption of the UN Draft Declaration on the rights of the indigenous peoples,
6. At the end I would like to request Permanent Forum to strongly recommend ECOSOC to take initiative for ensuring our children the fresh air to breath and pure water to drink.

Thank you, Mr. Chair