

24th Session or Working Group on Indigenous Population
(WGIP) 31 July-4 August, 2006

Agenda Item: # 4[a] Rights

Organization: Association Nepal Kirat Kulung Language and Cultural Development

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Speaker: Dilip Singh Rai(Kulung)

Thank You Mr.

Chairperson. Greetings to everyone.

I am Dilip Singh Kulung Rai from Nepal for the first time and I am giving this statement on behalf of my organization " Nepal Kirat Kulung Language and Cultural Development Association."

Introduction:

The Kulung is one of the excluded indigenous nationalities of Nepal. The Kulungs are generally settled eastern Hilly part of Nepal. They have own identities. Most of the Kulungs are displaced from their origin Mahakulung, Solukhumbu due to civil war since long time..The kulungs lifestyle is very miserable shows national data of 2001.

Issues of Kulung:

The main problem of Kulung is identity crisis in own country being Rai-ised since long time back.. Government of Nepal has issued and " Act of National Foundation for Upliftment of Indigenous Nationalities-2002" and the Article 2(a) of the Act has stated that " Indigenous Nationalities mean the community or race having their own mother-tongue and traditional custom, separate social structure and written and non-written history as listed in Annex." Kulung community and another Kiratis groups as Loharung, Nachhiring, Sampang, Yamphu, Chamling, Bantawa have all of them but still it is not listed in the Annex because the only reason is *Rai-ised*.

How Kiratis are Rai-ised:

When King Prithvi Narayan Shah, ancestor of present king conquered over the Middle Kirat (Majh Kirat) in 1773 and appointed local Kirati Headman (inclusive Kulungs and other Kirati Groups) with a royal commission and the honorific title *Rai* or *Chieft* to act as intermediaries between them and the state. Rai was allowed a good deal of autonomous and affirmed the rights to their ancestral lands, which were called *Kipat* (McDugals, 1979:8). Similarly, Prof Dor Bahadur Bista, writer- Ramchandra Rai, Historian Shiva Kumar Shrestha, Janak Lai Sharma, Durga Hang Yakhha Rai all are agreed that *Rai* is not a race or caste but it is just a honorific title. Kirati has, as Kulung, many specific ethnic communities as Limbu, Yakkha, Sunuwar etc.

Urge to right to self- determination;

Kulungs and another Kirati Groups(Above Mentioned) are deprived from utilizing own right to self-determination after being *Rai-ised*. Therefore, Kulungs and another Kirati Groups request all the delegates, representatives and participants of 24th Session of Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) to support our voice and make it word wide to establish sovereignty and self- identification showing our solidarity in favor of right to self- determination in all respects.

Thank You

