

**Sixth Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda Item 5, Human Rights

Joint Statement by Ms Anjali Daimari on behalf of Asian Indigenous Women's Network, Indigenous Women's Forum of North – East India, Boro Women's Justice Forum, Community Action and Research for Development, Tebtebba Foundation, Garo Indigenous Women Association, Lamkang Women's Union, Taiwan Indigenous Peoples NGOs Alliance, South Asia Indigenous Women's Forum, NGO forum of Cambodia, Atayal Community, Western Sumi Hoho.

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is great pleasure for me to have this privilege to address the Sixth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues representing the different Indigenous Women's organizations of Asia.

In most of the Asian countries indigenous women continue to face human rights violations both from the state and non- state actors. Militarization in many indigenous lands and territories and resources have led to marginalizing women pushing them to the brink in the society. With the loss of their territories or destruction of their environment indigenous women lose control over not only their means of production which have been the source of their livelihood and survival for generations but also lose their role as guardians of indigenous cultural knowledge.

As we know that in North East India the five indigenous peoples' Revolutionary organizations struggling for their right to Self-Determination are under cease fire with the Government of India. Instead of finding amicable solution and respecting the ground rules, the government is resorting to unprovoked killings of the members of the revolutionary groups, **while we were in this UN building, on the 12th May one more member of the National Democratic Front of Boroland was killed in cold blood by the Assam Police rising the death toll 10 till date after ceasefire.** More than 300 cadres from the five groups have been killed by the security forces till date during the ceasefire period. We, women, being the mothers, very much concerned and saddened to see our youths killed by both the state and non-state actors. We want peace and justice to prevail in our lands and a stop to bloodshed and our rights being protected.

The case of **21 women raped by non-state actors in Tipaimukh area in Churachandpur district in MANIPUR on the 16th January in 2006** the where about 402 people were beaten up according to the report by the fact finding team. 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 of few individuals.

Recommendations:

- We condemn the use of Violence Against Women (VAW) as an anti-insurgency measures as this has influenced the same practice among local armed groups further intensifying the volatile security situation of women. The use of "Rape" as weapon of war by the military to humiliate and attack communities has grave consequences to women, their households and their communities.
- We urge the Commission of a more comprehensive study on indigenous women's perspectives on the CEDAW and VAW towards the formulation of general recommendation to the CEDAW. In this respect we urge the Commission o the Status of Women, through its Special Rapporteurs mechanisms to look into the grave and systematic violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of indigenous women particularly in Asia which is a home to a majority of the world's indigenous peoples.
- We call to end patriarchy in all forms and at all levels, the elimination of structures and institutions that reproduce VAW such as militarization and development aggression also calls for support to the on-going efforts of women themselves to negotiate their identities' in avenues like peace building, education, health, employment,, the right to territories and the resources within as well as other entitlements.
- Government of India should demonstrate sincerity and commitment to the ongoing Peace process among the various indigenous revolutionary groups by repealing the draconian Armed Forces Special Power Act (1958) and restoration of democratic space to the groups and other struggling communities across the region.
- We urge the UN GA to adopt the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples without any further delay.
- We invite the Special Rapportuer on Violence Against Women(VAW) for a dialogue with the indigenous women and AIWN can facilitate the process to study on the situations on indigenous women
- The Rajkhowa Commission should complete its investigation and make its report public at the earliest, as its due since May 17 2006,
- Finally,

In relation to the case of the hunters of Taroko Nation, considered to be the guardians of their traditional territory and wild animals who face constant harassment by no less than the Ministry of Interior National Park Police Force which is also a direct violation of its own national law particularly the "Indigenous Peoples Basic Law enacted and promulgated in 2005, we demand an end to the human rights violations committed by the Taroko National Park Police, followed by publicly released apology and promise to Taroko people that such violence will not happen again. We reserve our rights to file for national compensation and other legal means of justice.

We thank you Madam Chairperson for your kind attention.