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**The Seven Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
21st April to 2nd May, 2008
United Nations, New York, New York 10017**

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Agenda Item: 4 (Human Rights)

**Statement by Bhramon Baglari, President,
Boro Peoples Forum for Peace and Rights, Assam, India**

Madam chair, distinguished representatives of the governments and the UN agencies, honorable members of the Permanent Forum, indigenous brothers and sisters.

I for and on behalf of the Boro Peoples Forum for Peace and Rights would like to make this statement on the issues concerning the Boro People and the brutal violation of human rights endangering the safety and security of the common people in the state of Assam, NE India in this august Forum.

Madam Chair, the Boro People had historically been an independent nation till 1854 prior to the advent of the British who subsequently annexed their kingdom to their rule. The Boro People had yet the prerogative to liberate themselves from any external aggression and regime when the British rule in India got dismantled. The Boro People based on this historical background have been launching the democratic movements since 1967 to peacefully settle the issue of their right to self determination, but unfortunately their democratic movements are crushed ruthlessly by the government leading to the multiple human rights abuses among the common people. More than ten thousand lives have been lost during such a prolonged movement, yet the conflict continues despite the two accords signed between the Boro People and the government in 1993 and 2003 respectively.

Madam Chair, it is discernable that the government of India has never treated this political conflict seriously in order to bring the lasting peace; rather, it appears to have taken it as a mere law and order situation, often causing the internecine friction and fraternal killings as a ploy. With a view to peacefully settle this Indo-Boro Conflict through dialogue, the National Democratic Front of Boroland, a revolutionary group, entered into a Cease-Fire truce with the government of India in 2005, but till date no substantial initiative could be seen towards this end on the part of the Government.

What could be seen further during the cease-fire period is the repressive measures and the human rights violations perpetrated by the government where many innocent cadres of the National Democratic Front of Boroland are being killed and arrested in the name of violating the cease-fire ground rule by the Indian Security Forces, as for instance, M. Dwithun, killed in 2006, G. Sanjaofu and H. Hojai killed in a broad day light in 2006 including many arbitrary arrests.

Madam Chair, another matter concerning the human rights violations in the Boro heartland is the killing of the innocent civilians by some unknown miscreants by whom even the innocent inmates of the designated camps are attacked and killed without any provocation. Beginning from one S.Birdaola, an innocent NDFB cadre on 26th March, 2007 and Swargiari Babul, a retired school teacher on 2nd February, 2008, there has been more than 20 killings till date in the district of Baksa itself, the latest being the killing of one Swargiary Prahalat, the school head master on 24th March, 2008. There have also been the killings in different districts including Kokrajhar and Chirang in the Boro heartland. On 18th March, 2008, a public relation office of the National democratic Front of Boroland at Ghoshkatta in the district of Kokrajhar came under heavy fire that killed three inmates on the spot. Over all these incidents, the government steps appear to be inadequate and partial, despite the repeated complaints. In the same line, when the government wanted to remove the public relation office of the NDFB, violating the agreed ground rules against the wishes of the innocent peace loving people at Bengtol on 13th March, 2008 in the district of Chirang, the Assam Police personnel resorted to indiscriminate firing upon the innocent peace loving men and women without any provocation that killed one woman and four men on the spot, injuring many more civilians.

Madam Chair, under the above circumstances and the acute human rights' violations that are taking place unabated, I would like to urge this august forum for the following recommendations:

.1. Extend support to the ongoing peace talk and recommend the Indian government to ensure the recognition of human rights for all and respect the indigenous Boro Peoples rights to self determination.

2. Make the necessary arrangement for the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur to take stock of the grave situation of human rights' violation in the Boro heartland.

Thank you,

Bhramon Baglari,
President,
Boro Peoples' Forum for Peace and Rights
Assam, North East India.