

8TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

NGO Liberation, Statement on Agenda Item 9: "Racism"

Mr. President,

Today I bring the story of a people hidden behind false talk of pluralism and democracy. I bring the case of a people who are subjected to the worst kind of racial discrimination. The people who inhabit seven northern states in India belong to mongoloid races. They were fraudulently integrated into the Indian Union and forcibly subjected to the tricolour. Their religions, customs, language and culture is distinctly non-Indo-Aryan and non-Dravidian. Whenever they go to mainland India particularly its Capital, they are treated as aliens and subjected to all kinds of insults and slurs.

I invite the member of this Council to visit North East and witness many shades of racial discrimination. Let me for the ease of reference catalogue two most prominent racial landmarks which India, the land of high castes has established especially for the Mongoloid people in the North East.

One, the Armed Forces Special Power Act of India which sanctions murder of Mongoloid people of North East by the Indian Forces. In March 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had criticized the racially discriminatory character of this legal racial discriminatory law.

Two, The Tiplaimukh dam in Manipur. India persists in disregarding indigenous people's property rights and has not altered its highly prejudicial dam building activities and plans. Most of the region's indigenous peoples depend on the forest for their subsistence and non-material needs. Their fundamental means for subsistence will vanish with arbitrary dam building exercise by India. Tiplaimukh alone will flood 300 square km of Nagalands in Manipur and displace 1461 families and destroy sacred lands of Naga people.

India is encouraging migration from mainland India to the North East to change racial topography. While doing so, it is in violation of all its obligations pursuant to international instruments. The Council must not accept it.

We demand that India allow all Special Rapporteurs particularly the Special Rapporteur on Racism and racial discrimination unhindered access to the North East. The future of a whole race of Naga people, among others, is at stake. The world must pay heed before the voices of this region go completely silence.

I thank you, Mr. President.