



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Thirty-fourth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Prahar, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 February 2017]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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## Cry for Justice

North-Eastern states of India having breathtaking scenic beauty, rarest floras and faunas, lofty hills, lush tea gardens, undulating plains, mighty waterways, dense forests, fertile valleys, etc. But the indigenous people living in these colourful regions are suffering a lot and living bland lives. Various Indian laws are based on discrimination in such a form so as to deceive world opinion. Discrimination against indigenous people of Assam and north-eastern states are maintained in a very sophisticated form. And now these people have given up their sleep for safeguard of their own identity and rights. After colonialism since 1826 to till now a huge tragic change has been occurring in the lives of the indigenous people of northeast. Here, we are going to draw a picture of these terrible changes of the lives of indigenous people of northeast in collaboration with the United Indigenous Council which has been working as the leading organization in the Northeast India.

Migration has always been a reality to Assam, Tripura and other states of northeast India. This is a severe burning issue that affects all indigenous people of north east India. In Assam, there are many problems which develop including overpopulation, rising rates of unemployment, poverty and crime. The large scale migration has significantly changed the demographic scenario in Assam and became the leading cause to social, economic and political instability in Assam.

According to the Assam Accord the “Cut of Year” of expel of Illegal foreigners from Assam is 1971 whether it is 1951 for all other parts of India. That means, Assam has bore the load of Illegal migrants of these extra 20years alone. The “Cut of Year” for Identification and deportation of Illegal migrants is different with Assam and other parts of India. In the meantime, the migrants who are Illegal as per the Assam Accord have remained in Assam and numbers have multiply along with their descendants. All anti foreigner acts, laws and Accords which were enacted by the Government of India, in some extent seems like boomerang for all Assamese people. Till today the Illegal migrant problem remains unresolved.

Many acts and laws in India have been violating the human rights of indigenous people. Recently, Ministry of Home Affairs of Govt of India issued notification that foreigner from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who were compelled to shelter in India due to religious persecution would be exempted from the rules under the Passport Act of India, 1992 and foreigners Act, 1946 in respect of their entry and stay in India without such documents or after the expiry of those documents. Unfortunately, this Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was placed in the parliament on August 11. Granting citizenship on religious line is against the secular ethos and dignity of India. Already Assam has been bearing the load of illegal migrants of extra 20 years alone as we mentioned above, the whole Assamese community will face the black shadow of vanish and diminish very soon if this Citizenship (Amendment) Bill enact in Assam.

According to the parliamentary source of India on 2001 above 50 lakhs of illegal migrants were exists in Assam. Significantly, illegal migrants constitute more than 30% of the total population which poses a great threat to the identity of Assamese people and which become a severe matter of concern.

In this regards, we would like to inform that ‘Indigenous people of Tripura’, a neighbouring state of Assam have become now minority in their own region because of illegal migrants.

The Majuli Island is a typical example of how indigenous culture is put at stake. Majuli has retained Assamese culture in pristine form the time of Srimanta Sankaradeva (1449-1568) was an integrating force for the indigenous people. Majuli and some other places like Alipukhuri (Patekibori), Bardowa, Barpeta etc. used to be centres of cultural training and propagation since the time of Srimanta Sankaradeva. Illegal migrants cause threat to these heritage sites.

In Assam and northeast India especially in Manipur has been widely reported of numerous incidents of human rights violation in the press and by human rights activists. India has not been able to overcome the main issue of human rights even after sixty years of independence. According to records, places where people have been tortured, maimed and killed by the Indian army, paramilitary forces, and the police on numerous occasions are primarily Assam, Manipur and other northeast states of India, Punjab, Kashmir etc. In the state cases of extra-judicial killings, torture, disappearance and rape are on the increase as the Indian Army fights various insurgency groups. Many girls and women has been

raped and lost their lives in the hands of various defence forces. Unfortunately, maximum cases of these rapes and violations remain unresolved.

Living in harmony and peace since early days of history, the policies of Govt. of India somehow diversified us into numerous small groups of different caste, community and tribes for its convenience to rule which leads to conflicts amongst these little groups motivated by political issues. The erstwhile Assam was broken into several states on the alibi of administrative efficiency. But these divisions led to acrimony among the newly carved states as the Govt of India did not demarcate the borders properly while dividing the states. Consequently people living in border areas live in utter tension and uncertainty about their locus-standee. Border clashes are common in North east. Assam Nagaland Border is specially witnessing violent incidents.

The potentiality of development of Assam is enriched by its natural resources like petroleum, tea, Coal and hydro-power generation. The state has the potential to be self sufficient for all-round development as it is rich in natural resources. But policies so far has reflected an avoiding attitude of the govt. towards North Eastern States of India. The resources were drained out of the state since India's independence for development of other parts of India and Multi-National Industrial Groups only for the vested interest of corrupt political leadership.

The Brahmaputra basin spreads over parts of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China, India, Bhutan and Bangladesh covering a total area of 5, 80, 000 Sq.kms. A proposal for linking of the Manas, one of the main Brahmaputra tributaries with Sankosh, linking it further to Teesta and Ganga was taken into consideration by the National Water Development Agency and during the time it was accepted. In December 1994 it was circulated to the concerned states of - Assam, Bihar and West-Bengal.

River interlinking is now a matter of South Asian proportions. It is feared that that implementation of this project might cause displacing of communities, cultures and lifestyles, vast forest tracts to be sub merged, disturbing wildlife and leading to consequences for public health.

Another severe issue is the construction of a mega hydel project on the Subansiri, a tributary of the Brahmaputra. The 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower project is the biggest of the three dams under construction in Arunachal Pradesh. In the past year and a half people in Assam have held a number of protests and recently two Buddhist monks in Tawang of Arunachal Pradesh state have lost their lives in protesting against big dam project. River and flood plain fisheries are a critical source of food and income of fisher community of Brahmaputra valley, particularly the rural poor. This kind of big dam will not only harshly affect the several riverside communities but also flora and fauna and water life. Geographically Assam is situated in Himalayan region which is very earthquake and flood prone area. 2000 MW hydel project could occur more and more natural calamities.

Languages play an important part in the means with which different cultures interact with each other and with others. But on this matter, indigenous people of north east states especially Assam have been deprived from a long time. Various major scripts of the world are being recognized by the many International standard departments viz. ISO, ISO 15924, ISO 10646, ISO 15919, Unicode Standard, ALA- LC Romanization table etc. Unfortunately, the Assamese language and script are consistently denied by all these organizations whether this script was founded on 554 A.C in Assam. People of Assam now dispossessed in seeking their own encode for safeguarding their language and their identity.

Therefore we request the International community ask the govt of India and request and pressurise them for these Indigenous peoples can live a meaningful and respected lives.

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