



Forest Peoples Programme

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Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

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RE: Urgent request on the human rights situation of indigenous women and girls in North East India

Summary

1. This report is respectfully submitted to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (“the Special Rapporteur”) to call attention to persistent and widespread violence in against indigenous women and girls in North East India. It is submitted by two North East Indian organisations, the United NGOs Mission Manipur, a network of 103 indigenous peoples’ organisations and Women Action for Development (Manipur), and by the Forest Peoples Programme, an international organisation based in the United Kingdom (“the submitting organisations”).

2. Though women in North East India are perceived as having a high social status in society, they are increasingly vulnerable to the numerous conflicts involving both Indian State and non-State actors in the region. North East India’s population is primarily comprised of indigenous peoples, thus the women affected by the situation are in a large proportion indigenous. They suffer from two layers of discrimination because of gender and ethnicity.

3. This report stresses that indigenous women in North East India are particularly affected by the persistent and widespread violence in the region. It submits that the Indian government has failed and continues to fail to adequately protect the rights of women, notably by not repealing the 1958 *Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act* (“AFSPA”) and by not implementing the *Domestic Violence Act*. It also submits that India routinely fails to adequately prevent, investigate and punish cases of rape and other types of violence against women in the North East. Moreover, this report highlights that indigenous women in North East India are disproportionately subject to trafficking. Finally, this report denounces the use of tonsure of women’s head by armed paramilitary and irregular underground groups as a degrading and inhumane punishment (see para. 24 below).¹

Widespread violence and its impact on women

4. Women in North East India are affected by the frequent and heavy bombings and fighting taking place in the region, which involve both Indian State forces and their paramilitary clients, and non-State actors such as underground armed groups. Many women and girls are injured or killed as a direct result of these frequent acts of violence.² Women victims of

¹ Tonsure is the “act of cutting the hair or shaving the head.”

² See Annex 3 on women made victims of bombings and fighting in North East India

violence also suffer from the lack of health care. The case of Haikhohat Samte, who was shot in the spine during a fight and lost the use of her legs, is one example among many.³

5. Women in North East India often take part in political rallies and demonstrations and for this reason are vulnerable and exposed to violence. The State continues to use brutal force to quell non violent protests by women as in the case of women demonstrators being tear-gassed while at a rally against the construction of a dam and the expansion of Imphal, Manipur airport.⁴

6. Violence against women in Manipur is often perpetrated by the State. This is confirmed in a 2008 Human Rights Watch report which documents widespread and massive human rights violations perpetrated by the security forces in each of the North East states. With regard to Manipur, for example, it explains that “Human rights violations by security forces engaged in counterinsurgency operations in Manipur have occurred with depressing regularity over the last five decades. Torture, which includes beatings, electric shocks, and simulated drowning, is common. Arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial executions continue.”⁵ The report also makes clear that the vast majority of the victims are indigenous persons, and that indigenous women and children suffer disproportionately.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

7. AFSPA, which only applies to North East India, grants special powers to the armed forces. In this respect, the Human Rights Committee found that AFSPA has essentially created a 50 year-long, undeclared state of emergency.⁶ The powers conferred by this law are wide ranging, undermine the rule of law, and, as discussed below, contravene India’s international legal obligations, including as they pertain to violence against women.

8. Section 4 of the AFSPA, for instance, permits forcible search and arrest without a warrant in cases where the security forces believe that a person has or may be about to commit an offence; the destruction of homes and any other structure or dwelling if security forces are of the opinion that an attack has been made or may be made or that a structure may be used as a hideout; and the use of force, including killings, if the security forces are of the opinion that such force is necessary, including if persons are carrying items, such as farm tools, that are “capable of being used as weapons.”⁷ It is important to note that under Indian criminal law the penalty for violating an order prohibiting the assembly of more than five persons is one month’s imprisonment. In the North East, however, persons may lawfully be killed for the same act.

9. Section 6 adds that no “prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding” may be brought except with permission of the Central Government in relation to any act done under authority of AFSPA. As noted by both CERD and the Human Rights Committee, this legal immunity also extends to complaints brought before India’s National Human Rights Commission because Article 19 of its enabling legislation specifically prohibits complaints against members of the armed forces.⁸

10. In 2004, after months of sustained protest in Manipur, India appointed a five persons committee headed by former Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy to review the AFSPA (“the Reddy

³ See Annex 3: “Desperately seeking Samte”

⁴ See Annex 2: women injured in rallies and non violent protests

⁵ *Getting Away With Murder. 50 Years of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.* Human Rights Watch, August 2008, at p. 10. Available at: <http://hrw.org/backgrounder/2008/india0808>.

⁶ *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: India. 04/08/97.* CCPR/C/79/Add.81, para. 19.

⁷ The full text of the *Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act* is in Annex 1 hereto.

⁸ *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: India. 17/09/96.* CERD/C/304/Add.13, at para. 16 – “Clause 19 of the Protection of Human Rights Act prevents the National Commission on Human Rights from directly investigating allegations of abuse involving the armed forces. This is a too broad restriction on its powers and contributes to a climate of impunity for members of the armed forces;” and *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: India. 04/08/97.* CCPR/C/79/Add.81, para. 22.

Committee”). At that time, the Prime Minister stated that the “government would consider replacing the Act with a more ‘humane’ law that would seek to address the concerns of national security as well as rights of citizens.” The Reddy Committee held a number of hearings in the North East and submitted its report to the Indian Government in June 2005. Its report, which has yet to be made public, observes that the AFSPA, “for whatever reason, has become a symbol of oppression, an object of hate and an instrument of discrimination and high-handedness,” and concluded that it is “highly desirable and advisable to repeal this Act all together.”⁹

11. A year later, the Indian Government’s Second Administrative Reform Commission (“SARC”), a body established by the President of India, also recommended that AFSPA be repealed. Its fifth report, submitted to the Government on 25th June 2007, stated that the AFSPA should be repealed so as to remove the feeling of discrimination and alienation among the people of the North East states. India, however, has chosen to disregard the detailed conclusions and recommendations of the Reddy Committee and the recommendations of the SARC, and has refused to repeal AFSPA. For instance, on 26 June 2007, in a speech delivered at Dimapur, Nagaland, the Minister of Defense, the Hon. A.K. Anthony, explicitly rejected the SARC’s recommendations stating that the time has not come to scrap the “anti-terror law”.¹⁰ India has also chosen to retain AFSPA despite recent and ongoing massive public protests against the continued application of the legislation.¹¹

12. UN treaty bodies and Special Procedures, NGOs and many others have all concluded that AFSPA has facilitated widespread and systematic violations of non-derogable and other basic human rights in northeast India. The Human Rights Committee, for example, expressed its concern about “the continuing reliance on special powers under legislation such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act ... and at serious human rights violations, in particular with respect to articles 6, 7, 9 and 14 of the Covenant, committed by security and armed forces acting under these laws...”¹² These violations, given the racial and ethnic composition of this region, disproportionately and primarily affect indigenous peoples, and are perpetrated with *de jure* and *de facto* impunity. The Committee on the Rights of the Child further confirms that children in the northeast have also suffered serious abuses.¹³

13. Amnesty International concluded in 2005 that the AFSPA “has facilitated grave human rights abuses, including extrajudicial execution, ‘disappearance’, rape and torture by bestowing sweeping powers on the armed forces...”¹⁴ In an August 2008 report, Human Rights Watch states that “The AFSPA gives the armed forces wide powers to shoot to kill, arrest on flimsy pretext, conduct warrantless searches, and demolish structures in the name of ‘aiding civil power.’ Equipped with these special powers, soldiers have raped, tortured,

⁹ “Repeal Armed Forces Act: official panel”, *The Hindu*, 8 October 2006, available at: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/08/stories/2006100806130100.htm>

¹⁰ ‘Antony holds up flag in favour of AFSPA’, *The Sangai Express/PTI*, New Delhi, 26 June 2007. Available at: <http://www.e-pao.net/epRelatedNews.asp?heading=12&src=270607>.

¹¹ See ‘Human Rights Activists to Protest AFSPA in Manipur’, *Merinews*, 10 September 2007. Available at: <http://www.merineews.com/catFull.jsp?articleID=126286>; and ‘India: Repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act Law Provides Impunity for Human Rights Abuses, Fuels Cycles of Violence’, *Human Rights Watch*, 10 November 2007. Available at: http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/11/20/india17381_txt.htm.

¹² *Id.* at para. 18.

¹³ *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: India, 23/02/2000*, at para. 63 -- “The Committee is concerned that the situation[s] in areas of conflict, particularly Jammu and Kashmir and the north-eastern states, have seriously affected children, especially their right to life, survival and development (art. 6 of the Convention). In the light of articles 38 and 39, the Committee expresses its very serious concern at reports of children who are involved in and are victims of these conflicts. Moreover, it is concerned at reports of involvement of the security forces in disappearances of children in these conflict areas.” See also *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child: India, 26/02/2004*, para. 68-9.

¹⁴ Amnesty International, *India: A Briefing on the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958*, AI Index: ASA 20/025/2005, at p. 1. Available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/025/2005>.

'disappeared,' and killed Indian citizens for five decades without fear of being held accountable.¹⁵

14. Five UN human rights treaty bodies have called on India to repeal the AFSPA, as has the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. In 2000, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recommended that AFSPA be reviewed: "in consultation with the Human Rights Commission of India, the National Commission of Women and civil society, so that special powers given to the security forces do not prevent the investigation and prosecution of acts of violence against women in conflict areas and during detention and arrest".¹⁶ This did not happen and acts of violence against women continue to be common place in the North East.

15. The Human Rights Committee found that the prohibition of unsanctioned legal action under Section 6 of AFSPA "contributes to a climate of impunity and deprives people of remedies to which they may be entitled in accordance with article 2, paragraph 3, of the Covenant."¹⁷ It recommended that:

the requirement of governmental sanction for civil proceedings be abolished and that it be left to the courts to decide whether proceedings are vexatious or abusive. It urges that judicial inquiries be mandatory in all cases of death at the hands of the security and armed forces and that the judges in such inquiries, including those under the Commission of Enquiry Act of 1952, be empowered to direct the prosecution of security and armed forces personnel.¹⁸

16. The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in 2007 also noted with concern that India has not implemented the recommendations of the B.P. Jeevan Reddy-led Committee to Review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. CERD found that AFSPA disproportionately affects indigenous peoples because they are the predominant population of the northeast. It recommended that India repeal the AFSPA in accordance with the recommendations of the Reddy Committee.¹⁹ On 15th August 2008, CERD adopted and sent a letter to the Ambassador of India under its early warning and urgent action procedures requesting that India provide information on the measures taken to repeal the AFSPA. India failed to respond and CERD again considered this situation under its early warning and urgent action procedures in February 2009.

17. Most recently, in May 2008, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its 40th Session also recommended the State Party to consider repealing the AFSPA. While India refuses to repeal AFSPA, violence, including killings, rape and torture, and impunity for the perpetrators, continues unabated.²⁰ Philip Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, has transmitted letters of allegation to India in relation to a number of recent incidents, including killings of unarmed

¹⁵ *Getting Away With Murder. 50 Years of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.* Human Rights Watch, *supra*, at p. 5.

¹⁶ *Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: India.* 04/02/2000, A/55/30, para. 72.

¹⁷ *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: India.* 04/08/97. CCPR/C/79/Add.81, at para. 21.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: India.* 05/05/2007. CERD/C/IND/CO/19, para. 12.

²⁰ See *Submission of the Committee on Human Rights (COHR) Manipur on the Human Rights Situation in Manipur (India) to the OHCHR concerning the Universal Periodic Review of the Government of India at the UN Human Rights Council in April 2008*, Annex 15, 'Some Selected Case of Human Rights Violations perpetrated by the Indian Army under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 Manipur from October 2003 – October 2007' (detailing a number of cases of serious human rights violations against indigenous peoples in northeast India). See, also, *Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Special Edition: Militarisation and Impunity in Manipur.* Vol 5, No. 6, December 2006, p. 13-26 (containing testimony of victims) & p. 38-47 (containing descriptions of recent violations). Available at: <http://www.article2.org/pdf/v05n06.pdf>.

civilians.²¹ He expressed his view that AFSPA “violates non-derogable provisions of international human rights law;”²² and reiterated his prior recommendation that India “consider either repealing the (Special Powers) Act, 1958 or ensuring that it and any other such future legislative measures comply fully with international human rights and humanitarian law treaties to which India is a state party....”²³ He further noted that India did not respond to his letters of allegation and thus failed to cooperate with his mandate.

18. Effective protection of indigenous and other women in the North East against violence by the Armed forces cannot occur unless AFSPA is repealed.

The non implementation of the Domestic Violence Act

19. The rate of domestic violence is growing in North East India. A specific *Domestic Violence Act* was enacted in India in 2005²⁴ but is not being implemented in the region as there are no officials to provide protection and other services, such as shelters for women victims of domestic violence. Sensitisation and services to address domestic violence issues are still very much needed.²⁵

Cases of impunity for rape and other violence against women

20. The government of India routinely fails to prevent, investigate and punish rape and violence against women in the North East, as shown by the various cases annexed to this report. In the few instances where prosecutions have gone forward, the reported set of cases shows patterns of gender discrimination in the prosecution or sentencing.²⁶

21. The Manipur Women’s Commission reports that most of the cases of rape and violence against women which come before it involve individuals serving in the security forces such as the: “Indian army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indian Reserved Battalion (IRB), and the police.”²⁷

Trafficking

22. Trafficking is also a significant and ongoing problem for indigenous women in North East India. In 2001, the former *Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences*, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, submitted a report in which important concerns were raised regarding the issue of trafficking of women and girls in India.²⁸ Many recent cases of trafficking were reported to the submitting organisations and some are annexed to this report.²⁹

23. In some cases, victims of trafficking escape their oppressors and after transiting through refugee camps or shelters, they return home. The returned women are then often in need of psychological and physical health services and require help for social reintegration. For example, in October 2008, two of the submitting organisations transmitted a communication to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children regarding the case of five indigenous women between the

²¹ *Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Execution to the UN Human Rights Council, Philip Alston*. UN Doc. A/HRC/4/20/Add.1, p. 138-40, at 140.

²² *Id.* at p. 139. See, also, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Execution to the UN Human Rights Council, Philip Alston*. UN Doc. E/CN.4/2006/53/Add.1, p. 75-82 (discussing AFSPA and detailing a series of allegations of killings in Manipur).

²³ UN Doc. A/HRC/4/20/Add.1, *id.* at p. 140.

²⁴ *The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act*, 2005.

²⁵ See Annex 4: Domestic Violence Act not implemented

²⁶ See Annex 5: Impunity and police inaction for violence against women

²⁷ “50 women related complaints taken up by women’s commission in past year and half”, *IMPHAL*, Jun 5, available at: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=42365&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=9e97c423ebe6fd5b974f3c738e872a7f

²⁸ *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy*, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/45 E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.2, 6 February 2001

²⁹ See Annex 6: Trafficking

ages of 18 and 26. These women had escaped from the traffickers after a period of severe physical abuse and were living in a shelter for victims of trafficking in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The women have recently returned home, but are in need for health and social services, services that are not currently provided by the Indian State.

Tonsure as cruel and degrading punishment

24. There is a specific pattern of violence against indigenous women that is inflicted on them by representatives of the Revolutionary Peoples Front (RPF), one of the armed groups active in the North East. Women found to be involved in the commerce of *meetha mana* (betel leaves), a plant known for its antiseptic and stimulating medicinal properties, are being punished by the tonsure of their head. Numerous cases are reported and some are annexed to this report.³⁰ Tonsure is hereby denounced as a degrading punishment contrary to international human rights standards.

Conclusion and Request

25. To conclude, India has committed to protect the human rights of women and girls by becoming a party to a range of international instruments, including CEDAW in July 1993, CERD in December 1968, and the International Covenants in April 1979. India has failed to comply with these obligations with regard to indigenous women and girls in the North East who are subject to extra-ordinary legislation that grants wide and arbitrary powers to the Armed Forces. These powers are abused with impunity to the detriment of indigenous women and girls who are subject on a daily basis to, inter alia, rape, torture, killings, harassment and destruction of their property.

26. The large number of women and girls who are reported injured at the hands of both the Armed Forces and the underground groups shows that there is a consistent pattern of individual abuses which, in turn, demonstrates a general failure to prevent abuses. India's refusal to repeal the AFSPA despite widespread international condemnation is another example of this failure and an aggravating factor that underlies many of the abuses. There is also ample evidence that India routinely fails to prevent, investigate, and punish violence against women by not registering or adequately investigating rape cases, and by not implementing the *Domestic Violence Act*. The significant and largely unaddressed problem of trafficking of women and girls – a problem that disproportionately affects indigenous women and girls in the North East – and the degrading practice of tonsure as punishment are other manifestations of the Indian government's failure to prevent and eliminate discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls.

27. In light of the preceding, the submitting organisations respectfully request that the Special Rapporteur urgently considers the situation of indigenous women and girls in North East India so as to avoid further irreparable harm and to assist India to ensure that their human rights are fully recognised and respected in law and practice. In particular, the submitting organisations request that the Special Rapporteur:

- a. urges India to take immediate and effective measures to ensure the safety and security of all women and girls in the North East and ensure that adequate resources are provided towards this end. These measures should be designed and implemented with the meaningful participation of women and girls.
- b. transmits an urgent letter expressing her profound concern over violations of indigenous women and girls' rights in relation to AFSPA, and recommending that India repeal that legislation without delay;
- c. urges India to adopt immediate and effective measures to provide effective remedies to victims of violence against women, among others but not exclusively:

³⁰ See Annex 7: selected cases of women tonsured.

- i. to provide sufficient human resources and services to implement the *Domestic Violence Act 2005*;
 - ii. to provide adequate mental and physical health services for women and girls who have been victims of trafficking
- d. Calls on India to take all necessary measures to eradicate all form of discrimination and violence against indigenous women and girls, and to take effective measures to abolish the use of tonsure as punishment;
- e. Urges India to ensure that rape and other acts of violence against women and girls in the North East are investigated and prosecuted, and that those responsible are punished accordingly;
- f. Consistent with the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee,³¹ and CEDAW³² recommends that India immediately begin a process of political dialogue with the armed groups, indigenous peoples' freely chosen representatives and civil society in the northeast in order to seek a peaceful and sustainable solution to the violence in a manner that fully respects the right to self-determination and the political and other rights of the indigenous peoples of the northeast.

³¹ *Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: India. 04/08/97. CCPR/C/79/Add.81, para. 18* (stating that, "bearing in mind the provisions of articles 1, 19 and 25 of the Covenant: ... the problems in areas affected by terrorism and armed insurgency are essentially political in character and that the approach to resolving such problems must also, essentially, be political...").

³² *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women: India, 01/02/2000, at para. 72* – "... The Committee recommends that women be given an opportunity to make their contribution to peaceful conflict resolution."

ANNEXE 1 : THE ARMED FORCES (SPECIAL POWERS) ACT, 1958
Act 28 of 1958, 11th September, 1958

An Act to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon members of the armed forces in disturbed areas in the State of 1[Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura]. Be it enacted by Parliament in the Ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. Short Title and Extent – (1) This Act may be called² [The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958]. ³(2) It extends to the whole of the State of ⁴[Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura].

2. Definitions – In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "armed forces" means the Military forces and the air forces operating as land forces, and includes any other armed forces of the Union so operating;

(b) "disturbed area" means an area which is for the time being declared by notification under section 3, to be a disturbed area;

(c) all other words and expressions used herein, but not defined and defined in the Air Force Act, 1950 (45 of 1950), or the Army Act, 1950 (46 of 1950) shall have meanings respectively assigned to them in those Acts.

3. Power to Declare Areas to be Disturbed Areas – If, in relation to any State or Union territory of which the Act extends, the Governor of that State or the Administrator of that Union territory or the Central Government, in either case, if of the opinion that the whole or any part of such State or Union territory, as the case may be, is in such a disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil powers is necessary, the Governor of that State or the Administrator of that Union territory or the Central Government, as the case may be, may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare the whole or such part of such State or Union territory to be a disturbed area].

4. Special Power of the Armed Forces – Any commissioned officer, warrant officer, non commissioned officer or any other person of equivalent rank in the armed forces may, in a disturbed area-

(a) if he is of opinion that it is necessary so to do for the maintenance of Public order, after giving such due warning as he may consider necessary, fire upon or otherwise use force, even to the causing of death, against any person who is acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in the disturbed area prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons or the carrying of weapons or of things capable of being used as weapons or of fire-arms, ammunition or explosive substances;

(b) if he is of opinion that it is necessary so to do, destroy any arms dump, prepared or fortified position or shelter from which armed attacks are made or are likely to be made or are attempted to be made, or any structure used as a training camp for armed volunteers or utilised as a hide-out by armed gangs or absconders wanted for any offence;

(c) arrest, without warrant, any person who has committed a cognisable offence or against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he has committed or is about to commit a cognisable offence and may use such force as may be necessary to effect the arrest;

(d) enter and search without warrant any premises to make any such arrest as aforesaid or to recover any person believed to be wrongfully restrained or confined or any property reasonably suspected to be stolen property or any arms, ammunition or explosive substances believed to be unlawfully kept in such premises and may for that Purpose use such force as may be necessary.

5. Arrested Persons to be made over to the Police – Any person arrested and taken into custody under this Act shall be made over to the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station with the least possible delay, together with a report of the circumstances occasioning the arrest.

6. Protection to Persons acting under Act – No persecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted, except with the previous sanction of the Central Government, against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this Act.

7. Repeal and Saving – [Repealed by Amending and Repealing Act, 1960 (58 of 1960), First Schedule, sec. 2 (26-12-1960)]

ANNEXE 2 WOMEN INJURED IN RALLIES AND NON VIOLENT PROTESTS

Two Apunba Lup members detained, women hurt in attempt to take out rally

The Imphal Free Press

IMPHAL, May 11: At least two active members of the Apunba Lup were rounded up while many women were left with bruise marks as the police today foiled a mass rally cum public meeting against violence in Manipur planned by the Working Committee of the Apunba Lup in Imphal. The Apunba Lup blamed the state chief minister for trying to suppress the people's call for peace and warned of launching an agitation if the two active members of the Apunba Lup, Waikhom Ananda and Angom Mahesh were not released.

The Working Committee of the Apunba Lup had planned to organize a mass rally today in the streets of Imphal from THAU ground to Hatta Kangjeibung. The organizing body said that they planned a mass rally to end violence for peace in the state on three themes :to stop the killing of people without trial, putting false charges on the people after killing them by both militants and security forces and bringing an end to the insurgency problem in the state through political dialogue.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=42091&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=8c5095a4b7d48392d7a7dd29abc06ec3

12 anti-NIT women protestors hurt in lathicharge by police

The Imphal Free Press

IMPHAL, Feb 23: At least twelve women sustained injuries when women police and IRB lathi-charged them for intervening and attempting to disturb government officials from demarcation of land for establishment of National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Langol in Imphal west on Saturday. The state government's decision to construct NIT in Langol area has received strong opposition from residents of the area as the residential land was affected by the construction of the same.

Today officials of the state settlement office along with officials of the Imphal west deputy commissioner who came to measure land for NIT were given strong resistance by womenfolk of Langol Lai Manai area who converged at the spot. The womenfolk confronted the IRB men posted in the area and women police there. IRB and women police lathi charged to dispersed them. At least 12 women were hurt and hospitalized at Shija hospital. Two of them were seriously injured in the action of the IRB and police. The Langol residents have also vowed not to accept any compensation from the government, and reiterated their demand that the NIT should be shifted to another place of Manipur immediately.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=41250&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=43e14ef709cc412b14c48933ca310677

Airport expansion: Cops fire tear gas to control situation, Protestors bid to storm airport foiled

The Sangai Express

Imphal, March 14: Intensifying the ongoing agitation against the Government move to acquire more land for expansion of the Tulihal Airport, a large number of women protestors coming from Ningombam area today charged toward the airport prompting the police to fire tear gas canister, water cannon and lathi-charge in an effort to disperse them. At first, the slogan shouting women protestors were stopped by the police. But as the pitch of the slogan shouting picked up, the women protestors, some of whom were seen shedding tears, tried to break through police barricade leading to a confrontation with the security personnel. As the situation was getting out of control despite the joint effort of the OC of Lamphel Police, OC of Singjamei Police Station and personnel of Imphal Police Station and MR to stop the protestors, water cannons were used to disperse them. Undeterred by the police action, the

women protestors ran through the nearby paddy field and charged toward the Airport prompting the security personnel to fire tear gas canisters and baton-charged them. In the ensuing melee one of the women protestors reportedly fainted and she was later hospitalised.

Source: <http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=150308>

Three striking women injured in clash with police

The Imphal Free Press

IMPHAL, Jul 8: At least three women general strike supporters blocking a road were injured when they confronted the police who dispersed them at Kwakeithel area along the Tiddim road Tuesday as the Manipur bandh called in protest against the extra-judicial killing of a youth entered the second and last day today.irate protestors burnt down the effigy of state chief minister O Ibobi Singh denouncing the act of the police while also alleging that the government was encouraging state-terrorism.

The 48-hour bandh which commenced from midnight of July 6 ended this midnight. It was called by a local joint action committee, JAC, to register a strong protest against the shooting to death of a youth hailing from Haobam Marak in Imphal west district named Langpoklakpam Bimolchandra by a combined force of Imphal west police commandos and 21 Maratha Regiment at Changangei near the Imphal airport on July 4 morning.

Today morning, strike supporters, mostly womenfolk, took to the streets along the Tiddim road (NH-150) and other by-lanes in and around the Kwaketihel area and blocked the traffic by burning tyres and piling logs. While they were disturbing the traffic flow police fired several rounds of tear gas and riot control ammunitions towards them in a bid to restore normal traffic. During the police action, three middle-aged women suffered injuries when hit by the tear gas and riot ammunition shells.

Among them, one who was hit by riot ammunition at the left thigh was hospitalized at RIMS hospital while the remaining two suffered minor injuries and were discharged after first aid. The injured women were 45-year old Laorembam Nganbi, Takhellambam Memton, 50, and Ksh Kamala, 45.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=42656&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=6a65c8a7e743f3aac283e021da654e7a

Girls arrested on charge of being UG cadres to be produced before CJM today

Thingbaijam Dhamen

IMHPAL, Jun 1: The two girls who were arrested in the raid on a hideout of the KCP(MC) on May 26 operation at the hills near Sangaithel village, 19-year old Sanjenbam Bidiya and 18-year old Pratima, will be produced before the chief judicial magistrate tomorrow.

It may be recalled a strong team of the Imphal west police commandos, later backed by Central security forces, busted a hideout of the KCP(MC) at a hill near Sangaithel village and killing one militant. In the raid`s immediate wake, the two girls were arrested by the police from their home.

In the case report registered at the Patsoi police station, the charges against the two girls is of their being active members of the KCP(MC) ladies wing.

Their mother Shanjenbam onghi Shakhitombi of Sangaithel who this reporter chanced upon at Sangaithel bazar located some 30 kms away from Imphal today wept bitterly for her two daughters. Shakhitombi while recounting the incident of her daughters` arrest, said that they were arrested by male policemen and also beaten up in front of her which she could not bear seeing.

How can a mother tolerate seeing her young teenage daughters being beaten up in front of her, she cried.

"My two daughters are neither militants nor were they nabbed from the militant camp. They were picked up while they were returning home from a place of worship," she said. On further enquiries the mother said, "My daughters are innocent and they were picked up on the way back from Konthoujam Lairembi where a Lai Haroaba is in progress." Sakhitombi can only rely on fate for the release of her daughters as she and her husband have no acquaintance with any powerful man who could free them. She insists her daughters were not militants, adding that they were not arrested from the militant camp but from Sangaithe bazar, a small market in the village, while returning from worship at Konthoujam Lairembi temple. She, however, admitted that the militants used to come to her house and frequently took meals. But they never stayed at her house on any occasion, she said. As she lives in the house along with only her two daughters and her eight-year old son "we could not say anything to them (militants)," she added.

She went on to say that her elder daughter was studying BA and the younger one was in Standard 10. Both went to study Hindi language at Nambol and their exam was completed a day before they were picked up by the police in the morning, she said.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=42313&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=9e97c423ebe6fd5b974f3c738e872a7f

ANNEXE 3 WOMEN MADE VICTIMS OF FIGHTING AND BOMBING IN NORTH EAST INDIA

Blood soaked Yaoshang winds up, many including 4 women killed Four including 2 girls killed in firing at Thabal Chongba venues

The Sangai Express

Imphal, March 26: Shoot-outs at two different Thabal Chongba venues on March 24 evening claimed the lives of four including two young girls in their 20s as another person suffered injuries. In the first firing incident that took place at Heirok part-II Laikon maning at around 10.30 pm the two young girls were killed at the spot as four shawl-wearing unidentified persons who reportedly came on two motor cycles opened fire.

Another male youth who suffered injuries and was undergoing treatment at Shija Hospital succumbed at around 4.30 pm today. A young girl also suffered bullet wounds in the same incident. The deceased have been identified as Thokchom Premila (20) daughter of Mohon of Heirok part-I Heituppokpi, Laishram Nirmala (20) daughter Thambou of Heirok Pt-I Maning Leikai and Thokchom Romesh (23) s/o Khomdon of Heirok Pt-II Bazar. Bodies of all the three are still lying at the RIMS morgue as family members have refused to take custody of the corpses. On the otherhand, the injured girl undergoing treatment at Shija Hospital is said to be one Wairokpam Rebika (18) d/o Inaobi of Kairen-bikhok. Other decisions taken at the public gathering included staging protest rallies in various parts of the state, apprising State authorities to issue arms' license to protect themselves from disruptive elements, set a deadline of 48 hours for producing the killers by authorities concerned failing which the bodies would not be claimed and instead launch democratic form of agitation, prohibit entry of all UG cadres in Heirok area, ostracise/banish family/families from Heirok in case UGs are provided shelter, ban all forms of entertainment programmes till tomorrow as a mark of solidarity to the bereaved families, cease economy related activities and submit a memorandum to the Chief Minister on the JAC demands.

Source:<http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=270308>

Houses of Heirok firing suspects set on fire by angry locals, Surviving girl could lose eyesight, say doctors

The Imphal Free Press

Mar 27: In the escalating protest against the shootout on March 24 night which claimed three lives including two girls and leaving one girl seriously hurt at Heirok part-II, at least four houses belonging to suspects behind the shootout were torched Thursday even as the underground PREPAK group owing responsibility for the deaths tendered apology for the unfortunate incident. The condition of the lone surviving girl has improved but she could lose her eyesight, according to doctors.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=41566&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=18df871cf8d8e446aebfcbe3a7ab3f32

Rally to protest Chandel killings

The Imphal Free Press

Mar 29: An emergency meeting of the Chandel People`s Action Committee (CPAC) on the merciless killing of PS Snowy Anal of Anal Khunou and Lh Esther of Charongching village was held today at CNPO office Chandel district headquarter. The meeting strongly condemned the inhuman killing of the two girls belonging to Anal tribe by gunmen on March 24 night at Thoubal Khekman village.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=41587&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=18df871cf8d8e446aebfcbe3a7ab3f32

Bomb attack on peaceful protestors against extortion; 12 hurt, three serious, many including KYKL, UNLF express dismay

The Imphal Free Press

Imphal, Jun 26: At least 12 persons including two minor girls were hurt in a bomb blast after suspected militants hurled a grenade at some protestors staging a dharna against demands made by an underground group at the Ningthoukhong bazar under Bishnupur police station around 11.45 am this morning. The incident occurred when shop owners and vendors of Ningthoukhong bazar were holding a sit-in protest in connection with a demand made on every shop owner of Ningthoukhong bazar to provide two mobile phone hand sets each to a particular underground group. All shop owners and vendors of the areas had shut down their shops from 8 am this morning and were participating in the protest. During the course of the protest at the bazar, at around 11.45 am, three persons who came riding a Pulsar motorcycle and a NV scooter, suddenly hurled a hand grenade at the protestors which exploded after rolling into a roadside drain resulting in injuries to 12 persons.

The injured persons were immediately evacuated to the nearby Bishnupur district hospital. They were identified as RK Surchandra, 45, son of RK Thmabalsana of Ningthoukhong ward No. 3, Khundrakpam Tomba, 40, son of Kh Bira of Ningthoukhong ward No. 2, RK Kerani, 28, son of Gulapsana of Ningthoukhong Gopinath Leikai, RK Anupama, 7, daughter of Lembi Devi of Ningthoukhong Ward No. 2, Khwairakpam Brojamohal, 42, of Ningthoukhong ward No. 4, Thokchom Akupi, 10, daughter of Ibungo Singh of Ningthoukhong bazar, Laishram Bashi, 37, son of Thambalngou of Ningthoukhong ward No. 2, Wairokpam Sureshkumar, 45, son of Ningthoukhong ward No. 12, Thokchom Bheigyachandra, 45, of Ningthoukhong bazar and Thokchom Inaocha, 32, son of Mani of Ningthoukhong ward No. 2.

Both the minor girls, RK Anupama and Thokchom Akupi, were hurt when they came out to the bazar with their mothers while the rest of the injured were among the protestors at the sit in-protest at the bazar.

Source: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=42528&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=777bdb509dc2f60a91999cf8a1bc19fe

497 deaths reported in 2008 Source: Hueiyen News Service / Thingbaijam Dhamen

Imphal, January 02 2008: WITH 497 deaths recorded till December 31 in the state, fatalities in 2008 have surpassed the 408 deaths in militancy-related fatalities in 2007. The fatalities figure also put Manipur in the top in the vortex of violence in the states of India's Northeast, Assam with 384 in the second while with 201 deaths Nagaland in the third position. With 408 deaths in the year 2007, Manipur remains the second most conflict ridden State in the northeast, behind Assam with 437 fatalities. Fatalities in 2007 have already surpassed the 285 militancy-related fatalities that occurred in Manipur in 2006. Now the fatalities in 2008 have surpassed the previous year 2007 by 89 . On the other hand even though fatalities have increased among all categories in the last eight year since 2000, in the just year 2008 militant fatalities have increased among other two categories, fatalities of the civilian and security force. According to the compiled data of the insurgency related killings in Manipur maintained by the Union ministry of home affairs till December 22, a total of the 484 people died in militancy-related fatalities in Manipur, out of which 131 were civilians, 13 were security force personnel while 340 were militants. Apart from this a total of eight people which police claimed to be militants killed in the span of nine day from December 23 till today. The number includes the killing of the army chief and commander of highway task

force of the proscribed KCP identified as Akoijam Shyambi alias Kokai Meitei in a shoot out took place at Koirengei in Imphal east last night by the government force. As per the MHA data the fatality in 2000 in 246 (93 civilian, 51 security force and 102 militants), 256 in 2001(70 civilian, 25 SF and 161 militants, 190 in 2002 (36 civilian, 53 SF and 101 militants), 198 in 2003 (27 civilian, 23SF and 148 militants, 218 in 2004 (50 civilians, 41 SF and 127 militants), 331 in 2005 (138 civilian, 50 SF and 143 militants), 285 in 2006 (107 civilians, 37 SF, 141 militant), 408 in 2007 (150 civilian, 40 SF and 218 militants and 484 in 2008 till December 22, 2008 (131 civilian, 13 SF and 340 militant). With 58 deaths (29, civilian, 1SF and 28 militant) March month recorded highest in deaths while August month with 22 (2 civilian, 3 SF and 17 militant) recorded the lowest in militancy-related fatalities. Month-wise fatalities indicates 24 (14 civilian, 10 militant) deaths in January, 42 in February (14 civilian), 1 SF and 27 militant), 58 in March (29 civilian, 1, SF and 28 militants, 40 in April (10 civilian, and 30 militant, 22 in May (3 civilian, 2 SF and 22 militant), 50 in June (12 civilian), 2 SF and 36 militant) 45 in July (7 civilian, 38 militant), 22 in August (2 civilian, 3 SF and 17 militant, 50 in September (7 civilian,1 SF and 42 militant), 47 in October (18 civilian, 3 SF and 26 militant), 38 in November (9 civilian and 29 militants and 34 in December (till 22 Dec) (6 civilian and 28 militant). Some important militancy-related fatalities are— December 8: Five suspected PREPAK cadres are shot dead by Thoubal District Police at Langathel Thongkhong under Kakching Police Station. December 1: Three suspected KCP cadres are shot dead by a combined team of Thoubal District Police and personnel of Assam Rifles during an encounter at Yairipok Pechi Junction under Yairipok Police Station. November 26: Around five to six militants force six contractor workers out of their vehicles and open fire on them, killing five, when they were engaged in collecting soil near the Maphou dam site in Nongdam Tangkhul. The Masphu dam is being built over the Thoubal River at the tri-junction of Imphal East, Senapati and Ukhrul Districts. November 21: Three militants are shot dead by a team of Assam Rifles and Police at Nongren in the Imphal East District. November 17: Three suspected militants are shot dead by the Assam Rifles personnel during an encounter at Sajik Tampak under Kakching Police Station limits in the Thoubal District along the India-Myanmar border. October 23: Five cadres of the Military Council faction of the KCP and PULF are shot dead by a combined team of the Imphal East District Police commandos and personnel of 39 Assam Rifles during an encounter at Heingang Heibimakhong Ching under Heingang Police Station. October 21: At least 18 persons are killed and over 30 persons injured when a bomb fitted to a motorcycle explodes near the high security Ragailong gate in capital Imphal. The explosion site is very close to the rear headquarters of 20 Assam Rifles and the Manipur Police commando complex. The Military Council faction of the KCP claims responsibility for bomb blast. September 24: Three suspected cadres of the Military Council faction of the KCP are shot dead by a joint team of Imphal West District Police and Assam Rifles of the Red Shield Division at Thangjing Chiru under Patsoi Police Station. September 10: Three persons are shot dead by the suspected militants at Pangong Wangma near a suspension bridge on the Iril River under Porompat Police Station in the Imphal East District. September 8: Five suspected PREPAK militants are shot dead by SFs during an encounter at Ngakrapat in the Bishnupur District. One woman is also wounded in the crossfire. July 19: Three children are killed and two others sustained injuries when a bomb explodes at a playground in the Phaisanjang village under Moreh Police Station in Chandel District. July 1: Three suspected KYKL militants while attempting to set ablaze a hijacked school bus are killed by Imphal East District Police during an encounter at Langol Games Village zone-III under Lamphel Police Station. Three suspected PREPAK cadres are shot dead by the Imphal East District Police during an encounter at Laphupokpi. June 12: Three KNA cadres are killed during a factional clash with the KRA at Molkon village under Saikul Police Station in the Senapati District. One India Reserve Battalion personnel, Paokholun Lhungdim, is reported to have been killed in the crossfire. June 11 & 12: Four militants belonging to the Azad faction of the PULF, including one 'District commander' Altab Ali alias Sana, are killed when a combined force of Imphal East District Police and troops of Assam Rifles neutralise a hideout of the outfit at the foothills of Urup Kangthak village under Irilbung Police Station. Three other slain militants are identified as Mohmmmed Sadam, Mohammed Amubi alias Feroz Khan, and Mohammed Dilip. Meanwhile, nine militants manage to escape from the hideout. June 9:

Two KNA cadres and one KRA cadre are killed during a factional clash between two outfits at Molkon village under Saikul Police Station in the Senapati District. One KRA cadre was injured in the clash. May 1: Two Assam Rifles personnel, Rifleman R.K. Trichi and Rifleman B.T. Barbar, are killed while four others sustained injuries when the UNLF ambushed troops travelling on security convoys at two places in the New Somtal area in Chandel district. While one attack occurred at an unspecified location between Phairengkot and Hrengkot villages, the other occurred at Molcham. April 24: Three suspected militants were shot dead by Manipur Police at Langol Games Village under Lamphel police station in the Imphal West district. According to police sources, all the three slain militants belonged to the Muslim community. Two 9-mm pistols with four live rounds and six empty cases were recovered from their possession. April 14: Three militants – two from the NSCN-K and one from the rival NSCN-IM – are killed in a factional clash. The incident occurred when armed NSCN-IM cadres 'raided' a place near Tousem GHS in the Tamenglong district where some NSCN-K cadres were hiding. The slain NSCN-K militants are identified as Seilor of Tisimpuikam village in Nagaland and Duamthaolung of Theulam village in the Tamenglong district of Manipur. 'Lance corporal' Wangsili of NSCN-IM were also killed in the clash. March 24: Three persons, including two girls, were killed by the PREPAK militants in the Thoubal district. March 18: Unidentified militants kill seven non-local labourers and injure two others. While five persons were killed at Thumbi foothill in the Kangla Sangomsang area of Imphal East district, two others were shot dead at Kakching in Thoubal district. Many of the non-locals abducted by the militants escaped death after they were rescued by the locals. March 18: The president of the Kuki Revolutionary Army-Unification (KRA-U), Seitnmang Chongloi, along with three others, who were allegedly involved in the murder of KRA founder member and commander-in-chief K Hangsing in New Delhi in November 2007, are killed by the KRA militants at Saikhul in Senapati district. The slain persons include Bungkhohal Chongloi, who contested in the Assembly elections twice from the Kangpokpi constituency and was also a retired jailer, Paochang Chongloi and Nehjahan Chongloi. March 17: At least seven non-Manipuris are shot dead by unidentified militants at Mayang Imphal Hanglun in the capital Imphal. The victims were sellers of tobacco products, which were banned by the PLA. February 22: Five KRA militants, including an old man and four child recruits, are abducted and subsequently killed by suspected militants of the KLA at an unspecified place along the road leading to Thangal Surung from Ekou Bazar under Saikul police station of Senapati district. The slain militants are identified as Hanpau Chongloi, Public Relations Officer of the KRA, Pouginal Hangsing, Lamgoumang Louvum, Jangmilal Hangsing, and Seigoulen Khongsai. A vehicle hijacked by the slain militants is also set ablaze by the suspected KLA cadres in the incident site.

Women killed in New Samtal blast

The Sangai Express

Imphal, February 04: In a tragic incident three women were killed when a bomb exploded while they were working under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme programme at New Samtal area in Chandel district today at about 12 noon, said a highly reliable source. The incident took place while the women were clearing the road. The three victims have been identified as Lhingkhonem (45), Hoikim Guite (45) and Paumeng Haokip (43). Many others were injured in the bomb blast, said the source.

Source:<http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=050208>

Desperately seeking Samte

The Imphal Free Press

Moreh, Sep 21: Imagine having to be confined to bed for one year and two months and counting. Imagine searing pain assailing your body that cannot be moved without somebody's support and parts of your body rotting away because of bed sores that are spread over your back and legs. For 25 year old Haikhohat Samte who grew up in Khangtung village, situated close to the border with Burma, this is a living reality. The eldest of five children, Haikhohat grew up learning how to forage for food from the nearby woods and forests, collecting firewood and rearing poultry. She never had any expectations that she would get

an education or that she would live a better life but nothing prepared her for the way that her life would take a turn.

The first rumblings came in the form of a directive in November 2006 to move out from their village in the wake of fortified armed clashes between a valley based underground outfit and the Army in Khengjoi area and its vicinity. The Samte family was one of the many that had to move from one makeshift camp to another. Their first destination was Laijang where they lived as refugees till March 2007. Uprooted from all things familiar also meant that the family could barely make ends meet. "There were many other families living in groups with no avenues for taking up cultivation. We had decided on coming to Moreh where we at least had relatives but armed groups bundled people in trucks and said they were taking us inside Burma," says Holkhothang, the girls' father recounting the events that led to his daughter's present condition. The Samte family among some others did not fit into the trucks and were instructed to follow the rest on their own. "We chose not to follow them and instead came towards Moreh," said the father. With no regular job at hand, life was difficult to get by in the family of five children and the family decided that 24 year old Haikhohat would go back to their village, collecting whatever remained of their home that they could sell off. "We sent her because it was too risky for any male to be moving along the border. If you came across any armed group, it meant being shot and total disappearance of your body. It was July (2007) the season for bamboo shoots to be collected. "His daughter reached her village on July 6, trekking alone from the Burma side into India and was caught in a deadly crossfire between the Army and a UG group on July 9. A bullet ripped through her spine and got lodged in her shoulder blade leaving her paralyzed.

The only support the family received from the Government was in the form of a monetary support of Rs. 30,000 given by the Chandel MLA while the girl was recuperating in a private hospital. No other Human right organizations or bodies ever approached the family to help them seek compensation from the Government. "We are grateful to the few organizations that extended their support: the Moreh Town Council and KCC from Deulaland besides the village Chiefs of Khangtang and Laijang."

The Samte family currently stays with Haikhohat's maternal aunt under mounting debt and with total resignation to the fact that the young girl will never walk again. Each day, she writhes in pain while her family watches helplessly unable to buy pain killing injection shots or even enough money to buy bandages, cotton and ointments for the dressing of her open wounds. Her father cannot venture out long hours in search of daily work as his ailing daughter cries out in pain as the rough inexperienced hands of her mother or siblings helps turn her body from one position to another.

The blankets that cover her help keep away the smell of foul pus smell wafting around but cannot hide the condition of the family. Unable to even feed the family of 7 members, the girl has to make do with a transparent regular plastic pipe fitted into her urinary tract instead of a catheter that peters off into a mineral water bottle container instead of a euro bag. Her feet and legs are all swollen indicating that her liver and kidneys could be damaged. Her bed sores have eaten way into her flesh gaping so badly that her bones show.

Haikhohat stays in bed day in and day out with her injury eating her body slowly. The pain makes it difficult to speak. It's hard to imagine how she finds the courage to get through it all as her eyes wait in desperation for help. "We have no hope left that her condition will improve but it is inhuman to watch her like this. I don't know how far she can carry on like this," says the father who now regrets sending his daughter into the thick of battleground.

Source: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=43460&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=79aabb48a30a4adb104b8493b68544fc

ANNEXE 4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Act has failed to deliver

Source: The Sangai Express

Imphal, March 09: Even as the rate of domestic violence has been growing, the Domestic Violence Act is being implemented in Manipur just for name sake. It remains far from effective, stated former Manipur Human Rights Commission member Kh Chonjon. Chonjon was speaking as chief guest in a consultation programme on "Effective Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act" organised by the Women Action for Development at Youth Centre, Khuman Lampak today. Even though the Act is crucial to protect women from different forms of domestic violence such as mental harassment, physical assault and sexual abuse, officials directly responsible for implementation of the Act like protection officers and service providers exist only nominally in Manipur, he observed. Though the Act clearly laid out that victims of domestic violence should be provided shelter, medical treatment etc, the State Government has abjectly failed to fulfil these provisions. He called upon the NGOs to take up the responsibility of implementing the Act in letter and spirit by creating awareness among the mass about the Act and urging the Government to enforce the Act. Speaking at the occasion, Women Development Officer of the Social Welfare Department SA Shishak informed that protection officers have been appointed to enforce the Act. But the Department is still unable to recruit service providers for Senapati, Ukhrul, Tamenglong and Bishnupur districts. Despite many cases of domestic violence reported in the State, there are still some women who do not realise that they are victims of domestic violence. On the other side, a large number of women continue to suffer domestic violence silently for fear of bringing disgrace to the family once the tales of domestic violence are disclosed to the society, observed SA Shishak.

Source:<http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=100308>

ANNEX 5: IMPUNITY AND INACTION OF POLICE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Rape court martial takes statements of accused jawans

The Imphal Free Press

IMPHAL, Apr 19: The Army court martial constituted in connection with the Veitung rape incident, in which a 18-year old local girl was allegedly raped by personnel of the AR from the Kotlien post on March 13 last year at Veitung Khullen village near Kotlien, took the statements of the main accused R/M Ngamthui Gangmei, 38, of the AR along with two other AR jawans today. The official hearing of the court martial began on April 17 at 32 Assam Rifles camp at Keithelmanbi headed by the 32 AR Co, Col. Deepak Sharma and the statement of the victim, Negneikim Haokip, 18, daughter of Thehmang Haokip of Veitung Khullen village has already been taken on the first day of hearing on April 17 at the 32 AR camp.

The next hearing of the court martial is scheduled to be held on April 25 at the same Ar camp, a reliable source said. It may be recalled that the KSO and various Kuki civil society bodies in the state have been demanding justice in the rape case and have been quite satisfied with the positive response from the AR authorities who have constituted a court martial in the general interest of the Kuki people and other down trodden communities of the state.

Source: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=news_archive_result&Idoc_Session=97942d7d08e76b9c8fad2324d560447

Former Manipur minister faces molestation charge

The Imphal Free Press

New Delhi, Mar 18 : A former Manipur minister was arrested, but later released on bail, for allegedly trying to molest his Congress party colleague in her south Delhi home. Biren Singh, 46, was arrested from near a bus stop in the Mehrauli area early Saturday, where he was waiting for a taxi to go to Delhi's domestic airport to board a flight to Manipur capital Imphal. The police said Singh had twice been minister of public works department (PWD) in the northeast state. According to the police, the incident occurred on night between Friday and Saturday at the victim's Chattarpur Enclave home, where she had invited Singh to dinner. "The victim, 33, who claims to be the general secretary of Youth Congress in Arunachal Pradesh, alleged in her written complaint that Singh forced her to drink alcohol and then tried to molest her," a police officer told IANS.

The former minister was arrested under section 354 IPC (assault or use of criminal force with intent to outrage a woman's modesty), which is a bailable offence. Singh was taken to the Mehrauli police station. He was later released on bail after Vivek Raj, a legislator from Manipur, stood surety for his bail with a personal bond of Rs.30,000.

Source: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=41529&typed=1&Idoc_Session=18df871cf8d8e446aebfcb3a7ab3f32

Rape victim's family airs plight

The Sangai Express

Imphal, August 21: Even though reports have published of an Assam Rifles jawan terminated from service and sentenced to two years imprisonment for raping a teenage girl the victim's family are not convinced that punitive action had been processed/initiated against the perpetrator. The jawan belonging to the 38 Assam Rifles namely Namthui Pou Gangmei has been charged of raping then 18-year-old Nengneikim Haokip of Veitung Khullen on March 13 last year while the accused was posted at the Kotlien post of the AR unit. Mention may be made that an official report was conveyed to the media on May 21 this year of the accused

being court martialled and sentenced to imprisonment. In spite of the official report conveyed to the media by the PRO IGAR (S), the victim's father Thehlang Haokip during an interacting with newsmen at the Manipur Press Club today contended that punitive action, if any, is not convincing as with the exception of newspaper report the family is yet to receive official document on the matter from Assam Rifles authorities. Recounting that he along with his wife had taken part in the court martial proceedings which began on March 17 and had stayed overnight at the Keithelmanbi post while recording their statements, Thehlang opined that case action had been initiated against the accused jawan related documents should have been handed to the family. He also highlighted that as the AR authorities had not yet handed over any related documents approaching State Government for compensation is arduous and futile due to lack of documentary evidence. The father also maintained that his victim daughter had been suffering from signs of mental trauma besides developing deformity in her lower limbs. Conveying gratitude to functionaries of Kuki Students' Organisation, general headquarters for their untiring effort and assistance to take the case to its logical and justifiable conclusion, Thehlang further reposed faith upon the student body to cooperate further for the sake of justice

Source: <http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=220808>

Women's body charges IO of trying to let off rapist

The Imphal Free Press

IMPHAL, Sep 20: The Manipur Women's Social Reformation and Development Samaj (Nupi Samaj) has charged the investigative officer of a rape case at Heingang police station of trying to twist the case in collusion with the alleged rapist. The body has made public its doubts in the investigation process of a rape case involving a 18-year old girl by her master on July 4 this year at Mantripukhri area under Heingang police station.

Taruni, president Nupi Samaj speaking at a press conference held this afternoon at its office at BOAT, Palace Compound said that they have been remaining silent on making the incident public as they had high expectation that justice would be provided by the court as well as the police in the rape case.

But, she added the recent attitude of apparent attempts by the alleged culprit in collusion with the concerned IO of the case in submitting a report to the court charging the victim girl as suffering from mental disorder has made them suspicious of the law giving agencies.

"It is a very unfortunate thing," she said announcing that Nupi Samaj would fight at any level to get justice for the victim girl.

She said a girl named Khundongbam Miss (name changed), 18, of Heirok Part-III who was serving as helper for around five years at a rented house at Mantripukhri jointly owned by Khwairakpam Notin Singh, 40, of Ningthoukhong bazar who is a local contractor and Lukram Tarun Singh, 55, of Sagolband Tera was allegedly raped by the latter person on the evening of July 4 last. The girl was allegedly raped by Tarun taking advantages of the absence of all members of the house who went out for witnessing Kang festival. She was again raped for the second time last month by the same person.

After these incidents, the accused person often molested her at the night time in the absence of family members. Because of the repeated sexual harassment, the victim made complaints to the accused's wife Sharmila earlier last month. But her plea went in vain as Sharmila made a counter charge on her that she tried to snatch her husband and started ill-treatment of the girl.

She finally made her decision to leave the house on August 26 last and since then she has taken asylum at Konung Mamang after she met with the members of the women's body. Members of the women's body found her while she was loitering around after she lost her way. Taruni further mentioned that while the victim girl was in their custody she narrated the whole story of how she was treated inhumanly by the alleged accused Tarun Singh. Later, she made a formal complaint to Heingang police station on August 27 and police also registered a case under FIR. No. 97(8)08 Heingang P/S U/S 376 IPC.

She was medically examined on the same day at RIMS Forensic Deptt where the doctors suggested sexual harassment of the girl. Taruni went on to say that the alleged accused

Tarun was arrested by the police and sent to jail after the statement of victim girl was taken before the JMIC.

But later, a written report was submitted to the court by the IO charging that the victim girl was suffering from mental disorder. The victim girl was also produced before the media persons during the press conference and she narrated the inhuman acts meted out on her by Tarun while she was serving as helper in the house.

Source: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=43449&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=8c5095a4b7d48392d7a7dd29abc06ec3

ANNEX 6 : TRAFFICKING

State girls rescued from human traffickers

The Sangai Express

Imphal, July 24: Nagaland police have rescued five Manipuri girls, who were being lured for jobs in Singapore by human traffickers, from Chumukedima check gate near Dimapur. The girls, who hail from Imphal, were held yesterday while proceeding towards Guwahati on way to Singapore with the help of touts in search of job for domestic help, police said. Many groups, involved in human trafficking, operate in the region. The girls had been handed over to the Women Cell of police in Dimapur. No case had been registered against them. The Dimapur police had contacted their Manipur counterparts and the latter would take them back to Imphal. Child trafficking, specially the girl children from North East, has become a serious issue. For many years hundreds of such cases had been detected by the police.

Source:<http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=250708>

Dimapur police rescues 17 Manipuri girls

The Imphal Free Press

Kohima, Sep 18: In a suspected case of human trafficking, Dimapur police rescued 17 girls and one boy who were sent by an agent from Manipur to Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Those girls were sent back to Manipur by Dimapur Police on Tuesday. According to a report carried in a Dimapur newspaper in the Wednesday's edition, on receiving information from Manipur about suspected trafficking of minor girls and a request to stop them, Dimapur police team stepped up frisking operation at Chukumedima Check Gate in the outskirts of Dimapur and intercepted a bus coming from Manipur carrying those girls, who were immediately detained and brought to women cell of the police.

Dimapur police sources said that most of the girls were minors, while 3 or 4 of them might be above 18 years of age. The newspaper reported that during the interrogation, the girls revealed that they were being sent to Chennai by an agent from Manipur promising jobs at some industry. However, the concerned persons failed to produce any documents about the authenticity of the factory/industry where these girls were supposed to be employed. Dimapur police even contacted Chennai and Manipur to inquire about the same, but they did not get any satisfactory reply and informed the Manipur Government, NGOs about the development, according to the newspaper report. Dimapur police escorted the girls back to Manipur till Mao Gate, where they would be handed over to officials of the Government, NGOs, Mao Public Organization and other organizations.

Source:http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=43422&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=8c5095a4b7d48392d7a7dd29abc06ec3

Local girl escapes traffickers in Malaysia, local recruiting agent arrested

The Imphal Free Press

IMPHAL, Sept 24: The escape of a teenage girl from Manipur from the custody of an organisation which poses itself as job recruiting agency based in Singapore has exposed what might be a organised human trafficking racket with international dimension spreading its tentacles in the state. It is also now evident, the recruiting agency Abel & Leo Private Ltd, has a strong presence in the Northeast, including in Manipur.

The account of the escaped girl, revealed that in all four teenage girls including her (all names and particulars of the girls are now known), belonging to remote villages in the Tamenglong district, had been lured by a local recruiting agent, allegedly one Philip Gangmei, and taken abroad, first to Singapore, and then to Malaysia.

Philip Gangmei, against whom a first information report, FIR, had been lodged on September 22 with the Tamenglong police by the districts child welfare committee, has since been arrested in Imphal, where he had come to appear for the current MPSC examination for

MCS and MPS posts. According to the Nandini Thokchom, director, child and gender unit of the Forum for Indigenous Perspectives and Action (FIPA), efforts are now being made by NGOs working against trafficking for the safe repatriation of the girls.

It may be recalled another five village girls who were taken by the same organisation were intercepted on the way to Singapore at Dimapur in August 2008. The public fear now is, these developments may only be the proverbial tip of the iceberg. In the current case, a group of four young girls were taken to Singapore by a group of employers promising them employment and a reasonable salary in January 2008.

One girl who managed to escape, said she was kept as a domestic helper at an Oriya family's (Indian) house in Singapore for some time. However, all four were taken to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by Abel & Leo Private Ltd. According to the escaped girl, who is now taking refuge in the Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, the said agency came over and convinced the Oriya family that she needs to be taken elsewhere on medical grounds.

However, the girl said she was given a different explanation. They told her that she would be given a more decent job and that such jobs are available only in Malaysia.

She protested that she did not want to leave Singapore but they insisted and forcibly took her there along with her other three friends. At around 9.30 pm (Indian Standard Time) on 7 August, 2008 (Sunday) the girl called up Achungmei Kamei, a social worker in Manipur, from a public telephone booth and informed her how she has been taken to Kuala Lumpur. Achungmei was informed that she was severely tortured. She was beaten on her legs which were swollen badly. She also informed that she wants to come back home safely.

She informed that on arrival in Kuala Lumpur they were kept in a shady hall and their passports were also taken away. She got suspicious of the whole affairs and protested. Later, because she was defiant, she was isolated from the rest of the group and kept in a separate room. She further narrated that a few men came to her room and misbehaved with her and tried to take advantage sexually.

She fought back but she was over powered and beaten up brutally. They left her alone after sometime. It was the same day in the evening when no one was around that she managed to escape. She took a taxi and sought help at the Indian High Commission. The staff at the High Commission contacted Pastor Jeyabal David who is now providing her all the necessary support. She has contacted her other abducted friends over the phone and they informed that they were still being kept at the same place. The so-called agency has also contacted her over her mobile phone and is persuading her to come back on the ground that she would be given a good job. A late report by Pastor David said two more girls escaped. All their passports have been taken away by the human traffickers. These young girls are in danger and needs immediate physical and legal protection as they are in a foreign land without legal documents.

According to a plea to the IG intelligence Manipur, by Kinderson Pamei, chairperson, child welfare committee, Tamenglong, at least 150 indigenous female children and young women, majority of them of the Zeliangrong Naga community were recruited with promises of jobs to Singapore by a Singapore based NGOs Abel and Leo Private Ltd. under the leadership of Ricky Ho.

The letter said Ho's men are spread over India, Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines.

In India, his men are scattered around penetrating to village level at Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam and West Bengal in particular, the letter said.

Source: http://www.kanglaonline.com/index.php?template=headline&newsid=43490&typeid=1&Idoc_Session=8c5095a4b7d48392d7a7dd29abc06ec3

ANNEXE 7 : REPORTED CASES OF WOMEN TONSURED FOR SELLING BETEL LEAVES

Meetha mana woman tonsured

The Sangai Express

Imphal, January 22: In the ongoing drive against intoxicants, the Central Bureau of division-IV of the banned group Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF) has today pulled up a woman for selling meetha mana (betel leaves) and zarda. This was informed to media in a press meet organised by the Assistant Chief, Department of Communication and Public Relations at a place in Senapati district. The woman has been identified as Makamayum (O) Meerjaan (55) w/o Nezab Ali of Yairipok Tulihal, now staying at Dewlaland on rent. She has been tonsured for doing the bussiness despite knowing that it is banned by the organisation and will be handed over to her family after giving warning, a spokesperson of the outfit informed.

Source: <http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=230108>

Mithamana traders tonsured as penalty

The Sangai Express

Imphal, February 02: In continuation of its drive against tobacco products, the central bureau of the Division-VI of the proscribed RPF/PLA has pulled up and tonsured heads of two women who were trading in Mithamana on the sly. The two women who were penalised and subsequently released after giving proper advice against selling tobacco products in future are identified as Laishram Ongbi Inaotombi Devi (30) w/o Ibomcha of Thinungei Makha Leikai and Laishram Ongbi Rasheswori Devi (38) of Ningthoukhong Mathak Ward no. 3 . A spokesperson of the group has also asked Moirangthem Marconi of Ningthoukhong Oknarel Leikai who is also allegedly involved in trading Mithamana and other tobacco products along with Inaotombi and Rashewori as well as Seitamala and Shanti, who run eateries at Ningthoukhong Bazar and sell tobacco products supplied by the duo to surrender to the outfit within five days from today.

Source: <http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=030208>

Drive against tobacco products RPF tonsures six women as penalty

The Sangai Express

Imphal, April 23: In connection with its drive against selling and consumption of tobacco products, the proscribed outfit RPF today destroyed a large quantity of the banned substances seized from various places by setting them on fire and tonsured the heads of six women who were selling tobacco products as punishment for defying its diktat. The destroyed tobacco products have been seized during a drive launched on April 22 at different places of Thoubal Tata area. The six women who were pulled up for selling tobacco products and later tonsured their hairs as punishment have been identified as Soraisam Roma Devi (32) w/o Deepak, Akoijam Maipak Devi (57) w/o Amu, Lourembam Nungsitombi Devi (35) w/o Braja, Koiyam Inaobi Devi (48) w/o late Parijat, Ningombam Baruni (52) w/o Shyamjai and Akoijam Jibanlata Devi (40) w/o Deban. All of them are residents of Thoubal Wangmata Bazar area. Parading all six of them before mediapersons somewhere in valley area today, a spokesperson of the department of communication and publicity of RPF said that the heads of the six accused women have been tonsured as punishment and their shops have been shut down for a period of six months. Furthermore, the spokesperson asked nine other women identified as Okram Shanti Devi, Akoijam Bina Devi, Kakchingtabam Inaobi Devi, Akoijam Phajabi, Akoijam Purnimashi, Akoijam Indira, Akoijam Prema, Yanglem Aruna and Akoijam Chaoba Devi, all residents of Thoubal Wangmata to surrender to the outfit within five days from today. On the other hand, tobacco products seized by volunteers of MPAL, Bishnupur district from Ningthoukhong area this morning have been set on fire later during the day. The destroyed tobacco products have been reportedly seized from the possession of two women Pan Dukan operators identified as Ksh Mema Devi w/o Sundra of Ningthoukhong

Kha Khunou and Oinam Prema Devi w/o Marjit of Ningthoukhong W/N 1 . Source: <http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=240408>

Woman penalised by RPF

The Sangai Express

Imphal, May 19: A woman who escaped from the custody of the proscribed RPF after being pulled up with mitha mana surrendered to the outfit today. For her offence of dealing in banned mitha mana and running away from the outfit's custody, the woman was penalised by cutting off her hair. The woman identified as Sudha Tamang (26) who runs a shop at Leimakhong Bazar was produced before media persons at a location in a valley district today. Source: <http://www.e-pao.net/epArcDisplay.asp?src=200508>