

MSAD Activities

After successfully circulating the third issue, MSAD is presenting the fourth issue of MSAD-Newsletter. MSAD received various suggestions as well as inspiration from various quarters. The editorial team is hopeful that this issue, as the earlier one, will be welcome by all our readers.

(Continued in page 2)

SIPHRO-NPMHR Joint Memorandum

To,

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: Stop Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project

(Continued in page 4)

India letter from the United Nations



Nations Unies

Haut Commissariat Aux Droits De l' Homme

United Nations

High Commissioner for Human Rights



Address: Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneve 10

Reference: TS/JDV/JF
15 August 2008

(Continued in page 6)

(Continued MSAD Activities . . .)

We would like to remind our readers that Publication of MSAD-Newsletter is a step to bring to the fore interaction between MSAD Executive Committee and the wider public. The Newsletter carries at least one article on every issue to engage with questions concerning various issues of democracy, rights and grassroots politics, students' movement and welfare. MSAD is of the opinion that we need to have an ambience for having talks on these issues. MSAD-Newsletter is just one small step toward this.

30-08-08: MSAD attended the 23rd Annual Fresher's Meet cum Get-together organised by the Hmar Students' Association, Jt. Hqs., Delhi at Railway Board Community Centre, Laxmibai Nagar, Delhi. MSAD presented *Singju* and MSAD Newsletter as mark of fraternity and appreciation.

01-09-08: MSAD received a complain on alleged fraud admission case submitted by a Manipuri women working in Delhi. MSAD could not take up any procedure due to lack of proper evidence but counselled her with appropriate suggestions.

06-09-08: A group discussion was held on 50 Years of AFSPA at Buddha Park, University of Delhi (North). The discussion mainly dwelled upon the following topics: geopolitics of AFSPA; AFSPA and state terrorism; trends of the movement against AFSPA and why do we need to fight against AFSPA.

11-09-08: MSAD participated in the march from Mandi House to Parliament Street organised under the theme of "Violence of the Invisible 9/11" against 50 years of atrocities under AFSPA.

15-09-08: MSAD attended the Launch of Human Rights Watch report on Manipur and Round Table Discussion on Road Map to Peace in Manipur organized by Manipuri Women Gun Survivors Network at Conference Hall No 1, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi.

21-09-08: The Annual Fresher's Meet cum Social Gathering under the theme of APUNBANA YAIFARAE was organised by MSAD. The function open with a bilingual song comprising of Zemei and Meetei languages composed exclusively for the event. The opening song was followed by a sequence of thrilling events; introduction of freshers and present of gift to the freshers, speeches, talent show, quiz, cultural and entertainment programmes, felicitation of siroy lily award, meritorious award, documentary film show, selection of Mr. & Miss Fresher, circulation of resolution on Indo-Manipur Shillong Accord on 21 September 1949, launch of MSAD website and lunch.

25-09-2008: Due to unethical negligence by the officials of Delhi University Th. Boneson, a blind student was refused admission in BA (Hon.) English. But after the righteous intervention by MSAD, Boneson finally got his due.

27-09-08: There was an attempt of molestation on a Manipuri woman, MSAD intervened and took matters in hand, by making the accused write an undertaking of not to repeat such an act and at the same time make an apology to the victim.

28-09-08: MSAD attended the 17th Fresher's Welcome Cum Annual Get-together organized by United Kakching Students (UNIKAS), Delhi at Kirori Mal College auditorium.

05-10-08: The Election Committee (MSAD) 2008-2009 was constituted. The following individuals were nominated to the respective posts mentioned against each names; Malem Ningthouja (Chairperson), Nongmaithem Manichandra (Returning Officer), Homen Thangjam (Member), Chongtham Gunamani (Member), Naorem Bijju (Member), Ningombam Krispa (Member), Kshetrimayum Dayabati (Member), Thongam Chinglenkhomba (Member), Moirangmayum Sanjoy (Member), Elangbam Amitkumar (Member) and Salam Nelson (Member).

07-10-08: Auditing of the finance report of the MSAD Executive term 2007-2008 was held at the office of the General Secretary (MSAD). The auditing team sought for more explanation from the executives on expen-

diture and requested the advisors to proceed faster with the process of auditing and invite for final auditing as soon as possible.

18-10-08: MSAD attended the Annual Fresher's Meet cum Social Gathering organized under the theme Nine Hills One Valley organized by Manipuri students of Jamia Milia Islamia at CRI House, Masihgarh, near Escort Heart Institute.

18-10-08: MSAD attended a protest demonstration organised by Tamil Students at Jantar Mantar and expressed solidarity to the demands for; withdrawal of the Indian security personnel deployed in Sri Lanka, putting an end to the training of Sri Lankan soldiers on Indian soil, safety of the Indian Tamil fishermen, etc.

19-10-08: The Election Committee dissolved the Executive Committee (2007-2008), nominated Mr. N. Manishwar as caretaker of MSAD and delivered farewell bid to the outgoing executives.

(Continued SIPHRO-NPMHR Joint Memorandum)

Sir,

The proposed Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project conceived to generate 1500 MW of hydro electric power by damming the two rivers of life – Tuiruong (Barak) and Tuivai – in Churachandpur district, Manipur, is being doggedly pursued without considering the consent of the indigenous peoples who are severely threatened by the project.

On July 28, 2008, the Government of Manipur passed a resolution to militarise the mega dam site by deploying Central and State security forces and opening of security posts at seven kilometer intervals along the 99 km stretch of Mon Bahadur road in Manipur for movement of materials required for the construction of the controversial dam. The indigenous peoples strongly opposed the ongoing militarisation on their land.

Moreover, the absence of any democratic process while pursuing the proposed project is also reflected in the public hearing. The “public

hearings” that were supposedly held were conducted under official armed surveillance with hand-picked participants who were promised with jobs, compensation and contracts. There was no free, prior and informed consent of the people who would be affected. The staged public hearings violates the national and international environmental, developmental and human rights protocols and every democratic norms.

Today, on September 18, 2008, the Expert Appraisal Committee on River Valley and Hydro Electric Projects of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) is meeting at New Delhi to issue Environmental Clearance for the Tipaimukh Mega Dam project. Such act, pursued without consulting the affected peoples, is unconstitutional and undemocratic. It may also be mentioned that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations), in its letter dated August 15, 2008 re-questioned “the imminent construction of the mega dam in Tipaimukh without free, prior and informed consent of the affected communities that endangers their traditional lifestyles.”

Since the inception of the project, the insensitive approach of the Government of Manipur and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) to forcefully build the mega dam over the rivers of life has been strongly resented by the indigenous people in Manipur.

In the interest of the indigenous people, our land, our rights, our existence, our dignity, our culture and identity, and our continuity and future as a people, who, otherwise, are threatened by the proposed project, Sinlung Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights Organisation (SIPHRO) and Naga Peoples’ Movement for Human Rights, Delhi (NPMHR) appeals for your intervention to:

1. Withdraw and stop militarisation and all efforts to ruin indigenous peoples’ lives and their land by constructing the proposed Tipaimukh Multipurpose Hydroelectric Project in Churachandpur district, Manipur.
2. Stop the government of Manipur and NEEPCO from annexing indigenous peoples land and rivers in Tipaimukh.
3. Stop the Government of Manipur and NEEPCO from further denying indigenous peoples of their rights and dignity.
4. Stop the State as well as Non-State Actors from intervening in indigenous peoples land in the name of development, which is both

anti-people and anti-human.

5. Stop the MoEF from issuing the Environmental Clearance, which would inevitably empower the Government of Manipur and NEEPCO to negate indigenous peoples of their rights and their land and forests.

Sincerely,
(LALREMLIEN NEITHAM) (NINGREICHON TUNGSHANG)
Secretary Convenor,
SIPHRO NPMHR (Delhi)
Dated: *September 18, 2008*

Copy to:

1. Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF), Govt. of India.
2. Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Govt. of India.
3. Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (mDoNER), Govt. of India.
4. Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.
5. Expert Appraisal Committee on River Valley & Hydro Electric Projects.
6. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, OHCHR-UNOG

(Continued India letter . . .)

Excellency,

You will recall that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at its 70th session held from 19 February to 9 March 2007, considered the fifteenth to nineteenth periodic reports of India and adopted concluding observations in relation thereto (CERD/C/IND/C0/19).

Pursuant to Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and Article 65 of the Committee’s rules of procedure, as amended, the Committee requested in paragraph 34 of its concluding observations that your Government provide information on the way it has followed up on the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 15, 19 and 26 within one year.

To date, the Committee has not received any information from the State party in this respect. On the other hand, the Committee has been made aware of the imminent construction of the Tipaimukh dam in Manipur, the Lower Subasiri dam in Arunachal Pradesh and other dams on indigenous territories, allegedly without the free prior informed consent of the

affected indigenous communities, resulting in the forced resettlement and endangering of the traditional lifestyles of those communities. In this regard, the Committee recalls paragraph 19 of its concluding observations, in which it recommended that the State party “seek the prior informed consent of communities affected by the construction of dams in the Northeast or similar projects on their traditional lands in any decision-making processes related to such projects, and provide adequate compensation and alternative land and housing to those communities.”

Moreover, the Committee has received information according to which no steps have been taken to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958, as recommended in 2005 by a special Review Committee set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs, or to release the report of the Review Committee.

H.E. Mr. Swashpawan SINGH
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue du Valais 9 (6^{eme} etage)
1202 Geneve
Fax: 022 906 86 96

In light of this information, the Committee would like to refer to paragraph 12 of its concluding observations, in which it had urged the State party “to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act and to replace it ‘by a more humane Act,’ in accordance with the recommendations contained in the 2005 report of the above Review Committee.”

In light of the above, and with a view to continuing a constructive dialogue with your Government, the Committee requests the State party to submit comments with respect to the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 19 of its concluding observations, in particular with respect to the measures taken by the State party to safeguard the rights of indigenous communities whose territories and traditional lifestyles are threatened by projects such as the Tipaimukh and Lower Subasiri dams, as well as the continued application of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. The Committee also

reiterates its request for the State party to provide comments with respect to the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 and 26 of its concluding observations. The Committee wishes to receive such comments no later than 31 December 2008.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the Committee’s wish to pursue a constructive dialogue with your Government and underline that the Committee’s requests for information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation, of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah
Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

** The two documents were reproduced in the original format.*

MSAD EXECUTIVES (2008-2009)

Nongmaithem Bonney Meitei (General Secretary),
Moirangthem Bimol Singh (Cultural Secretary)

MSAD EXECUTIVES (2007-2008)

Manishwar Nongmaithem (General Secy.), M. Bimol Singh (Finance Secy.), I. Ibungo Singh (Organisation Secy.), Ksh. Daniel (Public Relations Secy.), M. Bobby Meetei (Academic & Magazine Secy.), L. Sanju Singh (Sports Secy.), A. Bikramjoy Singh (Culture Secy.)

Issue Editors: Praem Hidam & M. Bobby Meetei

Published bimonthly by MSAD from A-37 R/N. 8, Christian Colony, Patel Chest, Delhi-7. E-mail: msad.manipur@gmail.com