

To

Hon'ble Home Minister,

Government of India

New Delhi

Subject: Immediate intervention on the atrocities instigated upon peaceful women agitators by Assam Rifles personnel

Sir/Madam,

We like to bring the case of brutality upon the peaceful women agitators by the personnel of 43rd Assam Rifles (AR) at Kangpokpi on the 6 September 2011 for your consideration and immediate action.

1. That, the people of Sadar Hills have been agitating against the indifferent attitude of Manipur State Government for the declaration of Sadar Hills as full-fledged district, which was due under the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971 of the Parliament of India. Subsequently, the agitators have been imposing an economic blockade along the NH-39 and NH-53 to put pressure on the state government since then (various representation to the state and central government by SHDDC enclosed).
2. That, on 6 September 2011 at around 4:30 pm, the AR personnel led by their Commanding Officer escorted about 30 civilian trucks which they claimed as carrying Army/AR supplies. However, those goods-laden trucks rather belong to the merchants, which are prohibited under the ongoing economic blockade called by the Sadar Hills District-hood Demand Committee. The AR escorted the trucks in exchange for money collected from the transporters.
3. To prevent the passage of the trucks, the women agitators gathered in large numbers and blocked the road. In order to breach the road forcibly through the agitated crowd, the AR personnel began to unleash unprecedented terror. The unarmed and defenceless women were indiscriminately rifle-butted, booted, blow on the face, stoned on the head, beaten with rod by the armed personnel

(photos attached). When the agitated women overwhelmed the AR personnel, they abandoned the scene leaving the goods trucks behind.

4. As a consequent to the act of barbarism committed by the AR personnel, 60 (sixty) women were seriously injured including broken arms and legs, head injury, and so on; twenty (20) of them were in critical condition. They were immediately rushed to the Mission Hospital, Kangpokpi and Civil Hospital, Kangpokpi. Four (4) of them were later shifted to Regional Institute of Medical Science, Imphal, as their condition becomes deteriorated.
5. Notwithstanding the brutality committed at Kangpokpi, the same AR personnel later, in blatant disregard to the rights of women and in complete violation of their position as protectors of the civilians, **abused, harassed and molested** the innocent young girls of Changoubung Village (near Kangpokpi) on their way to Imphal. The molested young girls are now in psychological and physical trauma due to the army atrocities.

In the light of the above facts we, the undersigned, on behalf of the Kuki communities in Delhi humbly appeal for immediate intervention and demanded that:

- i. Immediate and fitting punishment must be initiated to the Commanding Officer of 43 Assam Rifles.
- ii. To institute a “Judicial Inquiry” over the blatant violation of human rights against the peaceful women agitators.
- iii. To pressurize Manipur State Government in declaring Sadar Hills as full-fledged autonomous District immediately to avoid such, yet another incident in future.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Lamtinthang Haokip

President

Sd/-

Joshep Paotinthang Sauntak

General Secretary

Kuki Students Organization, Delhi

Copy to;

1. National Commission for Women
2. National Human Rights Commission
3. Chairman, Minority Commission
4. Guard file

Post-script:

Atrocities at Keithelmanbi on 9 September 2011

On 9 September 2011, at around 5 pm, the same group of armed Assam Rifles personnel took with them ten (10) commercial trucks towards Imphal. They were again stopped by the women agitators at Keithelmanbi village. The same act of brutality again went on in the darkness of the night. Again, the defenseless women agitators were mercilessly beaten up: rifle-butted, stoned, booted, blow on the face, and beaten up with the rods. The scuffle went on through the night. As a result of the same instrument of barbarism in which fifteen (15) of the women folks were seriously injured. The hapless women were neither permitted first-aid treatment in the hospital nor were the entry of ambulance in the village allowed during the whole night. Five of the critically injured women were taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Science, Imphal only the next day, the 10 September.