



सूचना के जन अधिकार का राष्ट्रीय अभियान

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLES' RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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Mr. Amit Shah
Minister
Ministry of Home Affairs
New Delhi

June 30, 2021

Dear Mr. Shah,

Subject- Concern regarding intimidation of people exercising their Right to Information in Manipur by NSCN(I-M)

We are writing to you regarding the reported intimidation of people exercising their Right to Information in Manipur by NSCN(I-M). It has been brought to our notice that the NSCN (I-M) has been intimidating and issuing death threats to RTI users in Senapati District of Manipur forcing them to go into hiding. As per information provided to us by concerned citizens, the life of these four persons is under serious threat-namely (i) Kh. Inoch S/o Mr.Khulu of Phaibung Village, Senapati District, Manipur (ii) Mr. P. Johnson Samo S/O Late Pazii, Taphou Phymai Village, Senapati District, Manipur, (iii) Mr. S.P. Benjamin S/o Mr. Simthar of Ngari Raidulomai Village, Senapati District, Manipur and (iv) Mr. P.R. Amose S/o Rozii of Khabung Khunou Village, P.O. Karong. All four belong to Scheduled Tribes of Senapati District of Manipur and are residents of the hill district.

These persons had filed applications under the RTI Act seeking information on progress of development works and utilisation details of welfare funds allocated under various programs. In their cases, the matter reached the State Information Commission of Manipur which ordered the disclosure of information along with issuing show cause notice for initiating penalty provisions under the RTI Act. Based on certain information obtained by them, complaints were also filed to the Office of the Lokayukta, Manipur for seeking inquiry into allegations of corruption and misappropriation of funds.

As a result of these endeavours to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public funds, the four have reportedly been threatened and intimidated by the faction of NSCN (I-M) to withdraw their applications. The intimidation has allegedly been happening since March 2020. As per accounts shared by local residents, there have been attempted abductions of these RTI users and also of others from their villages who spoke out in their support. [According to media reports](#), in January, Mr. Inoch was abducted by the NSCN (I-M) and allegedly tortured for several days. Reportedly, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Benjamin are hiding

at Imphal while the others are residing at their village though under some form of enforced house. With regard to ensuring the safety of these RTI users, Mr. Joykumar Wahengbam has also petitioned the NHRC (diary number 5898/IN/2021).

We urge the MHA to immediately take appropriate action to ensure the safety, security and well-being of above named RTI users of Manipur. Government of India has been negotiating cease fire agreements with the NSCN (IM) for the last several years.

We are further constrained to note the 'ban' imposed by the NSCN (I-M) on people filing applications under the RTI Act vide their 'order' dated March 16, 2020 (enclosed). We urge the MHA to immediately take up this issue and ensure that common people are able to exercise their fundamental right to information without fear of reprisal.

Thank you,

Anjali Bhardwaj, Nikhil Dey, Venkatesh Nayak, Rakesh Dubbudu, Pankti Jog, Pradip Pradhan, Dr. Shaikh, Joykumar Wahengbam, Ajay Jangid, Amrita Johri, Kathyayini Chamaraj, Rolly Shivare, Bhaskar Prabhu

(On behalf of the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information)

Copy to:

The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF NAGALIM
Office of the
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SHEPOUMARAMTH REGION, GPRN.

ORDER

The 16th March, 2020

As per the directive of the Kilo Kilonser GPRN, no individual/ group will be allowed to file RTI to the Indian Government in any matter.

Whereas, any issue / dispute within the jurisdiction of Nagalim shall be re-solved through Naga Customary Law (Court).

It is therefore, directed to withdraw all the RTI submitted to the Manipur Government on or before 18th March, 2020 and submit it to the Region Office.

Failing to comply shall invite stern action as per the Government Ahza.



Capt (Retd). RICKSON

CAO

Shepoumaramth Region, GPRN.

Central Administrative Officer
Shepoumaramth Region
NSC/GPRN