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REFERENCE: GH/ST

2nd September 2011

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 79th session, the Committee considered information on the situation of indigenous peoples in the North East India, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, in light of information submitted by a non-governmental organization.

The Committee expresses its concern about information according to which persistent and intensified discriminatory acts and omissions are continuing to occur in the State party. The Committee is particularly concerned about the reportedly signature, on 23rd April 2010, in New-Delhi, of a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of the Tipaimukh dam in the district of Manipur despite a reported massive public opposition and condemnation of all indigenous communities. The Committee is also concerned about the reported extension of the application of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for another one year, despite its recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 19 of its concluding observations on India of 2007 (See CERD/C/IND/CO/19) while violence, arrests, killings, torture and displacement of indigenous peoples are reportedly still occurring with impunity in Manipur.

The Committee is further concerned about information according to which security forces were being deployed in Manipur to counter insurgency and continued to occupy schools (since 1998) preventing classes to take place in school sittings.

The Committee regrets that the State party has not yet provided follow-up replies on the implementation of recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 19 of its concluding observations (See CERD/C/IND/CO/19). The Committee also notes that the Human Rights Committee addressed similar issues in recommendations contained in paragraphs 18 and 19 of its concluding observations on India, in 1997 (See CCPR/C/79/Add.81), as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples did in its report (See A/HRC/15/37/Add.1, 15 September 2010, paras. 201-239).

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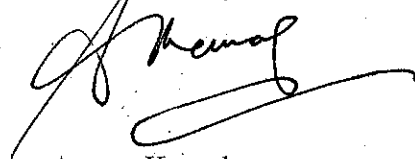
H.E.Mr. Gopinathan Achamkulangare
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The Committee requests the State party to provide information on the situation of indigenous peoples in the North East of India and measures taken to implement the recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations of 2007 (See CERD/C/IND/CO/19, paras. 12 and 19). The Committee also requests the State party to provide its replies to those issues in its 20th-21th periodic reports to be submitted, as quickly as possible, and which is overdue since 4 January 2010. The Committee will consider such replies during the dialogue with the State party on its next periodic reports.

In accordance with Article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee would be grateful to urgently receive information on all of the issues and concerns as outlined above, before **31 January 2012**.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of India, with a view to provide it with assistance in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anwar Kemal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anwar Kemal

Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial
Discrimination