

Press Release
15/01/2011

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR

ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS VISITED INDIA

Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders came to India for 10 days official visit w.e.f 10th to 21st January 2011. Apart from visiting other parts of the country she also visited North Eastern India who came to Guwahati on 14th January and held meeting with the regional Human Rights Defenders at Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli, Guwahati, Assam



She along with three accompanying colleagues arrived at 2:00 pm in the Conference Hall of Don Bosco Institute who was traditionally welcomed warmly by the Human Rights Defenders of the North Eastern region and held meeting for 2 hours.

Mr. Yambem Laba, former Chairman of Manipur Human Rights Commission, chaired the meeting while Mr. Babloo Loitngbam, Executive Director of Human Rights Alert welcomed the visiting team. Mr. Henri Tiphag, National Convenor, All India Network of Individuals and Organizations working on NHRIs (AiNNI), gave the introductory speech. Altogether 75 regional Human Rights Defenders from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland participated in the meeting including 25 Human Rights Defenders from Assam representing Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples North East Zone (ICITP-NEZ), Dimasa Peoples' Council (DPC), United Peoples federation of Assam (UPFA), Bodo Women's Justice Forum (BWJF), Manab Adhikar Sangram Samittee (MASS), All Dimasa Students' Union (ADSU), All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam (AASAA), All Rabha Students' Union (ARSU) National Democratic Front of Boroland (P), Dima Haram Daogah, United Liberation Front of Assam (Pro-talk) and others.



Every speaker spoke for 3 minutes interventions along with submission of their notes and memorandums on their various Human Rights situations. Most of the Human Rights crusaders demanded the removal of Armed Forces Special Power Act, Stopping of Militarisation of the North Eastern states, Implementation of UNDRIP, Ratification of ILO-Convention 169, Protection of the life and properties of the Human Rights Defenders, Ratification of UNCAT, Stopping of brandishing the Human Rights Defenders to be pro-militants, antinational, terrorists etc and to stop, arbitrary arrests and unlawful detention, torture and atrocities, extrajudicial killings of the Human Rights Defenders and harassing their family members. Ms. Margaret Sekaggya gave a patient hearing with serious note on the situations of the Human Rights Defenders of the region and assured them for immediate urgent help and measures to enable them to continue their work fearlessly to ensure better democracy, justice and Human Rights for all. She collected all the documentary evidences of Human Rights violations with the Human Rights Defenders of the region and informed that house that she would sit with the government of India the next day to discuss on the serious issues confronting with the Human Rights defenders in the region.