

PRESS RELEASE ON PEACE PROCESSES IN ASSAM

20-01-2011

Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples North East Zone (ICITP-NEZ) and United Peoples' Federation of Assam (UPFA) through this press release welcomes the recent releases of all the jailed ULFA leaders on bail. This is a good gesture shown both by the government which will not only help confidence building but also will smoothen the pathways to much awaited negotiated peace processes in Assam for the best interest of Assam and its people. ICITP-NEZ and UPFA also welcomes the recent unification move of the Boro Indigenous People to pave the way for peace in Boro dominated areas of Assam.

ICITP-NEZ and UPFA, since the day one of our inception not only been appealing and advocating but also facilitating various pro-talks militants groups in the region to come forward for truce and subsequent peace negotiation for amicable political solution. We are happy to see that at least the Government and the various militant organizations have realized the genuine aspiration of the people of the region and call for much awaited peace in the region, particularly in Assam. **However, ICITP-NEZ and UPFA strongly feel that only show casing of cease fire, mass surrender ceremonies and release of jailed leaders will not bring the real peace on the ground until and unless meaningful negotiated peace settlements comes through from such processes fulfilling the genuine political aspirations of various militant groups and people of the region in true sense.**

We therefore, urge the Government of India to expedite the peace process with ULFA unconditionally and immediately and reciprocate to unilateral ceasefire announced by NDFB (Ranjan faction) by releasing all their jailed leaders as soon as possible to enable them to facilitate the peace processes and by engaging a **political interlocutor**.

We also reiterate our demands to the Government of India to expedite the peace negotiation with NDFB (P), DHD, KNLF and others who are already on ceasefire to solve their problems politically.

We have visited the victims in the relief camps of the on-going ethnic violence between Garo and Rabha Indigenous Communities in the Assam-Meghalaya boarder areas on 8th of January for good will mission and shocked to learn on the ground that some militants organizations are behind the ugly design of flaring up tensions between two communities who had been co-existing peacefully since time immemorial in those areas as good neighbours. We appeal both the communities to refrain from indulging in further violence and to sit together to workout indifferences for restoring mutual trust and confidence and emotional integration for peace and harmony. We also appeal concerned governments to rehabilitate them in their respective villages by providing adequate compensations to the victims of the violence and relief materials to the inmates in the camps without any discrimination.

We also reiterate our demand to the Government of India to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) of 1951 for Assam taking the base line of 1951 and to develop an effective transparent mechanism for identification, detection, detention and deportation as per the manner provided by the foreigners act of 1946, for which we have filed a PIL in the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court on 23rd of August 2010. Through this Press Release ICITP-NEZ and UPFA jointly would like to warn the Government that under no circumstances, the Indigenous and ethnic communities of Assam will allow their soil to be used as dumping ground of illegal immigrants and to threaten their survival in peace, dignity and honour. We also warn people and organizations who are working against the interest of the people of Assam and favouring the legalization attempt of the Government to legalise the illegal immigrants to be citizen of the state without the prior informed consent of the people of Assam. It is most unfortunate to observe that some people and organizations of Assam are working as agents of illegal immigrants for reason best known to themselves ignoring the sentiment of the sons of the soil. It is time for the people of Assam to identify, isolate, detach and remain vigilant from such vested interest groups and persons and their activities to safeguard the state and its people in true sense.

We appeal the people of Assam that we must not live in the "Fool's Paradise" any more but to act genuinely for the cause of the state and its people. The Government and the agents of illegal immigrants will be responsible for any unpleasant situations in future if they failed to fulfill the sentiment of the Indigenous and ethnic communities of Assam in updation of NRC 1951 of Assam. We also appeal the Indigenous and ethnic communities of Assam to use their conscience vote in the ensuing election to safeguard the genuine interest of the state and the people of Assam.

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