

Intervention of Mr. P. Pradhan, Chairperson, GSIPIF

UN commission on human rights
Sub-Commission on the promotion and protection of the Human rights
23rd Session, 18-22, July, Geneva
Agenda item 4 (a), General Debate

Mr. Chairperson,
Greetings from the 'Khasi People' of Bangladesh
Human rights violation in the Khasi hills of the Northeastern Part of the country becomes a regular incident.

The Khasi are the original inhabitants of their ancestral lands and are the rightful owner of these lands.

This Matrilineal society has their own system of 'cultivation' through preserving the nature.

The Khasi preserve and conserve the nature by their own way of 'communal ownership'
The multinational Development Banks and agencies are invading their ancestral land in the name of 'Protected areas' by establishing 'National Park' and 'Eco Park' in the Khasi habitat areas, under the protection of Govt. agencies.

Besides, deforestation, logging, implementing of the commercial plantations in the 'Khasi area' by the forest department of the Govt., encroachment of lands by outsiders, leads to the situation to 'human rights' violation.

Mining by the International Oil companies in the forest area is also an issue of grievance concern for the Khasi people.

The Gas explosion in 1997 near Magurchara (a Khasi village) caused a massive social, economic and environmental hazard to the entire Khasi community of that very area. Which resulted in huge loss of the Khasi people. The Khasi families were being evacuated from their village for the period of six months at that time to avoid the risk of danger, which is still existing.

Now its time for the Govt. to set aside its colonial attitude and the way of governing the Indigenous peoples.

We, seek your assistance at the United Nations level to bring in account the 'human rights' violation in the Khasi hills. Thank you very much for your kind attention.