



Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network

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Arrest of activist Jiten Yumnam

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The Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network (APIYN) is shocked to learn the alleged arrest of Mr. Jiten Yumnam, a member of our Co-ordinating Committee from Imphal airport in India's North East state of Manipur. He had been picked up today afternoon as he made preparations to fly to Delhi enroute to Bangkok to attend a United Nations meet on Climate Change.

Jiten Yumnam is a founding member of the APIYN and has been responsible for motivating youth to engage in constructive dialogues with Governments in the backdrop of development aggression and extreme forms of militarization experienced by the people of India's North East. Jiten has also demonstrated great wisdom and boldness while raising public awareness against construction of Big Dams, besides his indepth knowledge of the way International Financial Institutions (IFIs) design and fund mega projects in the name of climate change mitigation.

The APIYN expresses serious concern over the safety of our member and demands the Police and Law Enforcement to take the issue with utmost seriousness. India is known to have used Federal and State legislations to charge activists in attempts to immobilize processes that will embarrass Governments.

The police and those responsible for his arrest have an obligation to provide protection to his life and provide a fair hearing if there exist allegations against him.

The APIYN expresses serious concern due to the impunity with which citizens of that region, irrespective of affiliations considered detrimental to the existence of the State, have been eliminated.

We demand that the Government of India ensure that its federal unit (Manipur):

- 1. Ensure the surfacing of Mr. Jiten Yumnam and provide safety and return to his family**
- 2. Ensure he be given the opportunity to speak and defend himself**
- 3. Retract from the policy of "cutting-off" activists individually and systematically**

Sd/

APIYN Secretariat