



Pan-Tribal Confederacy of Indigenous Tribal Nations

The Only Multi-Racial Worldwide Indigenous Confederacy In Existence

ABOUT MANIPUR

'Manipur' is the ancestral territory of the 'Manipuri' people. It is situated in the northeast corner of India and is bounded in the east by Myanmar (Burma). The present territorial area is 22,327 sq. km. A fertile alluvial valley extends north-south in the middle and it is surrounded on all sides by hill ranges forming a part of the eastern Himalayas.

After the Anglo-Manipur war of 1891, Manipur then a kingdom, lost its sovereign independence to the British Empire. It regained independence when British rule in South Asia ended in 1947. Manipur became a constitutional monarchy when a State Assembly was democratically elected and a popular government was installed in 1948.

However, it has been a controversial part of India since 15th October 1949 as a result of the 'Manipur Merger Agreement' which was signed under duress by King Bodha Chandra and a representative of the dominion government of India on 21st September 1949.

Armed opposition groups fighting against India to regain Manipur's Sovereign independence hold the 'Merger of Manipur with India' to be an illegal annexation.

The Indigenous people of Manipur are Mongoloid in ethnicity and are culturally distinct from the dominant Indo-Aryan people of India. There are 1.5 million Indigenous Manipuris in Manipur struggling to cope with 1 million illegal immigrants brought in from India to colonize the region.

Human Rights abuses have been the main problem effecting Manipuris under the illegal Indian occupation since 1949. The Indian Government deploys a large number of military forces in Manipur that impose an exclusively military 'legislation' called the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA).

India has 350 military bases to combat the indigenous 'Armed Opposition Groups' (aka Freedom Fighters). There is one Indian soldier for every 15 Manipuris in Manipur.

The creation of Indian social structures and institutions that deprive indigenous Manipuris of their rights, respect, identity, culture, religious values and economic resources is the root cause of the continuing violence up to the present day. The annexation disguised as a 'Merger Agreement', the imposition of the ASFPA and orchestrated invasions of foreign settlers from India - only make the problems more acute.

The Hindunisation process which started in the early 1700's with the burning of Indigenous Manipuri Holy Books (known as Puya Meithaba in Manipur history) and the superimposition of the foreign Hindu religion and culture resulted in a cultural dichotomy.

The process created different social structures and institutions predominated by the Hindu caste system with its 'untouchables' concept - which is totally alien to Manipuri culture.

Over the last 40 years, in the name of 'counter insurgency operations' to eliminate armed opposition groups, Indian military forces have been committing gross human rights violations - massacres, extra judicial killings ('killed while attempting to escape' - is the official excuse), abductions and disappearances, rapes, torture, arson, plunder, forced labour, internally displaced persons caused by the indiscriminate shelling of indigenous villages etc.

PEOPLE'S PROTEST

The indigenous people of Manipur have no option but to resist by any and all means the illegal and merciless Indian occupation of their country in order to survive. This has ranged from peaceful street demonstrations by all ages and genders, sit in protests, mothers nude protests against rapes by Indian soldiers, economic blockades, general strikes, effigy burning, hunger strikes - to self immolation and armed resistance.



Manipur mothers nude protest in 2004 over Indian military rapes in Manipur

In the Summer of 2004, Manipur witnessed a people's uprising against the draconian AFSPA and the regime of suppression. Mothers shed their robes parading nude in protest in front of the the former Manipuri Royal Palace (the Kangla) - which was at the time occupied by a unit of the Indian Military forces. Eventually the Indian military occupation of the national Palace of the Manipuris was ended, but the AFSPA has not been repealed and remains like a recurring nightmare for every Manipuri.

PROPOSAL AND PEOPLE'S OPINION

Article 51(c) of the Indian Constitution underlies - Promotion of International peace and security - that shall endeavor to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organized people with one another; yet in a move that blatantly undermined the international mechanisms - the Indian Government flatly rejected the main Armed Opposition Group - the United National Liberation Front - for resolving the the Manipur-India conflict through a peaceful, legally valid (by International standards) and democratic process of a Plebiscite.

The UNLF had put forward a very reasonable 4 point proposal as below:

1. Plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations to be held in Manipur.
2. Deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Manipur.
3. United National Liberation Front to deposit all of its weapons to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force, and India in turn to withdraw all of its military and para-military forces from Manipur.
4. The transfer of all political power in Manipur in to the victorious entity accordance with the outcome of the democratic Plebiscite.