

AFSPA unleashes its brutality

June 9, 2015

Morung Express News

Kohima | June 9

"That very night, I thought I was dead. I thought I will never come out of the camp alive," recalls 30 year old Limatoshi. On June 7, Sunday evening Limatoshi and his two cousins, Imlisunep Yaden and Supongwati Jamir had gone to visit the newly opened Kohima Night Bazaar. They were buying eatables at the market when an Assam Rifles Gypsy with personnel in civilian clothing arrived, followed by a truck full of Jawans. Around 20 to 30 soldiers surrounded them and dragged them to the truck. "They tied our hands and blindfolded us," says Limatoshi, who sustained multiple bruises on the cheek and temple, and swelling in the hands, forearms and back.

29 year old Supongwati suffered from bruises with skin abrasion, flank abdomen, lacerated cut injury and a broken tooth.

The three civilians were in a Red Bolero. The AR claimed that according to intelligence reports, 5 NSCN (K) cadres were crossing Kohima in a red bolero with the plan to plant bombs. On mere suspicion, the AR nabbed the three civilians.

Meanwhile at around 7:00pm, 27 year old Mudotozo and 31 year old Vetasho were walking towards Phoolbari area, completely unaware of the incident, when they crossed the same bazaar. They were also apprehended by the AR. "They beat us up till we reached the Camp," states 27 year old Mudotozo. Mudotozo's medical report states that he sustained injury near the eyebrow and swelling at the paraspinal region caused by the rifle butts and boots.

Vetasho's Medical report indicates that he had a 'lacerated cut injury above the brow, swelling, ecchymosis on both eyelids and bruises on both knees.' "They asked us what tribe we belonged to and which faction. They didn't allow us to sleep. They would come and warn us not to sleep so we did not sleep," they said.

During interrogation, the Army asked them if they were cadres. "When we said no, they beat us up," recalls Imlisunep Yaden. Yaden suffered from bilateral conjunctival congestion. They were kept blindfolded the whole night and released the next day at noon.

Limatoshi further alleged that the AR personnel threatened to kill them. "They didn't allow us to sleep neither did they offer us any food." The five victims were all blindfolded and tied in the same room but were made to keep a distance from each other. It was only in the morning that they were offered red tea and roti.

The five victims were held for almost 19 hours in the camp. On June 8, the severely injured civilians were released only after they were made to sign a bond and a 'No objection medical certificate.'

There is no indication that the security forces responsible for these atrocious acts will be held accountable and the state government has also maintained silence till date. Sunday's incident provides a grim reminder of the horrors that are enabled by the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Naga Hoho, NSF, MSUK condemns

The Naga Hoho, Naga Students Federation (NSF) and the Merangkong Students Union Kohima (MSUK) have condemned the incident.

A team from the Naga Hoho led by its president P. Chuba Ozukum took up Sunday's incident with the interlocutor of the Indo-Naga Peace talks, RN Ravi on Tuesday. The Naga Hoho further apprised Ravi that villagers in Chandel are on the run "for fear of atrocities meted out to the innocent citizens." "While upholding the true spirit of peace process and the ceasefire agreement, the enforcement of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in torturing the innocent students and youths on mere suspicion speaks volumes on the rightful demand of the Naga people to revoke the draconian law,"



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JAMSTUDIO11

B khel Lane 1, Behind Council Hall, Diphupar, Dimapur, Nagaland, India, Dimapur 797115
+918794578766 / (03862)- 242468

the Naga Hoho stated in a press note. It further stated that the National Human Rights Commission should take cognizance of the incident and initiate disciplinary action against the Assam Rifles.

The NSF in a press note questioned the “mendaciousness of the AR as to why innocent public are time and again harassed and tortured so inhumanely without any reason but just on mere suspicion.” NSF cautioned that it would not remain mute spectators “when law enforcement agencies are functioning as terror group and the public are made to suffer for no wrong doing.”

The MSUK meanwhile stated that “such action only intensifies the tension of the society and make the men in uniform more of a dreaded force than a peace-keeping force.” Terming the incident as “highly intolerable,” the MSUK expected the “men in uniform to take their actions based on facts and reliable information rather than assumptions and instincts.”

NE activists urge safety of civilians during Army ops

NEW DELHI, JUNE 9 (MExN): A group of activists from the North East has urged the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju to ensure the safety of civilians in Chandel district of Manipur, following the recent ambush on Indian Army personnel, which left 20 dead. The activists included David Boyes, Binalakshmi Nepam, Alana Golmei and Zuchamo Yanthan, who submitted a memorandum urging presence of civil police, and women’s representation in all military combing operations. It called for deployment of state Police including women police officers and setting up of booths in those areas to coordinate with the army while carrying out operations. The memo further asked for an immediate fact finding mission comprising of political parties, civil workers, both men and women. It also urged combing operations remain peaceful without violating human rights. It further asked the Minister to ensure the involvement of women in any peace process in the North East.

[Share this post..](#)



Related Post

MoEF ADG visits Tragopan Centre

June 11, 2015



Kohima, June 11 (MExN): The Additional Director General (Wildlife) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest...

[Read the full article →](#)

Union Minister takes note of pending SARDP project

June 11, 2015



Kohima, June 11 (DIPR): Minister, National Highways and Mechanical Engineering, Nuklutoshi met Nitin Gadkari, Union...

[Read the full article →](#)

‘Technical know-how’ key to agri productivity

June 11, 2015

Agriculture Department holds first ever review meeting Kohima, June 11 (DIPR): The first ever...

[Read the full article →](#)