

# ASIA INDIGENOUS OBSERVER



LOVE FOR FREEDOM





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# TOP STORY

## 9 Indigenous Leaders Killed by Philippine Police in 'Massacre'

On 30th December 2020 when the holiday season was just beginning, 9 individuals were apparently extrajudicially executed, shot at point-blank range in their respective houses, and 17 were arrested and detained after having gone missing for 5 days. Reports from the community states that cellular phones were confiscated to restrain people from taking photos and videos of the summary execution. In one case the family members were forced out of their house and in other cases the military forcibly entered their homes and shot the leaders while they were sleeping.

Among the identified victims of the Tumandok massacre are Roy Giganto, Chairperson of the Tumandok IP Organization and member of KATRIBU's National Council of Leaders and Councilor of their community; Mario Aguirre, former Chairperson of Tumandok and Councilor of Barangay (village unit) Lahug, Tapaz; and Reynaldo Katipunan, Village Councilor of the same village. Out of the 17 arrested and detained, 6 of them are Indigenous women who are active members of Anggoy (an Indigenous women's organization in Panay island).



Those killed were recognized leaders in their respective barangays. They were civilians and not armed combatants. These Tumandok communities have consistently opposed militarization and human rights violations in their localities and have advocated for the protection of their rights as an Indigenous People. These communities were active and vocal in resisting the construction of the Jalaur Mega Dam in Calinog, Iloilo and the Pan-ay mega dam in Tapaz, Capiz. The leaders and members of these Tumanduk communities have been red-tagged and accused by the military as members and supporters of the CPP-NPA (armed opposition group) because of active assertion of their rights. Just last month, the community leaders of Barangay Lahug and Tacayan sought the help of the Commission on Human Rights because their residents were being threatened by the Philippines Army and Philippines National Police (PNP) deployed in these barangays.

AIPP and 121 human rights organizations including members of civil society signed a joint statement that deadly operations through coordinated police and military actions on Indigenous Peoples under Duterte's regime in the Philippines must stop.





## Garo (Mandi) People of Madhupur Garh, Bangladesh Fear Eviction from their Land

To press home the demands, around 22 organisations, led by Bangladesh Adibashi Forum, formed a human chain with the slogan 'stop the eviction of ethnic minority people from ancestral land in Madhupur forest' in front of the National Museum, Shahbagh.





The protests cannot help but unearth the memory of Piren Snal and Cholesh Richil, two young men who sacrificed their lives to protect his ancestral lands at the Madhupur Forests. Piren Snal became a symbol of ethnic minority communities' protests to protect their lands. In 2003, the Forest Department, without any consultation, began constructing a three-meter-high wall around the Madhupur Sal Forest, to create an eco-park to protect the forest, obstructing different ethnic community forest dwellers' main access routes to the forest.

You can read the full story [here](#). A joint statement by various student and human rights organizations including AIPP was issued expressing support for the Garo indigenous communities. You can read the full statement [here](#).






# HUMAN RIGHTS RADAR

Human Rights Violations and Business Practices  
(AIPP's Briefing paper on BHR and reports/  
statement on annual forum on BHR 2020)

## Annual BHR Forum, 16-18 November 2020

The UN Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights took place from 16th to 18th November 2020 virtually. AIPP with the collaboration of Coalition for Tenure Justice in Indonesia (CTJI) and Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) published a paper on [“UNDER THE COVER OF COVID: New Laws in Asia Favor Business at the Cost of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Land and Territorial Rights”](#) in three languages ([English](#), [Bahasa](#), and [Tagalog](#)).

This brief discusses legislative developments during COVID-19 in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines that undermine sustainable human-environment interactions and IPs' and LCs' [broader enjoyment of their rights over their customary territories](#). While India, Indonesia and the Philippines have yet to ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (ILO 169), all three countries have ratified the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Each of these countries has also promoted national-level tenure reforms over lands and forests, though [their implementation has been weak](#).



In this brief, we first introduce the context to COVID-19 in each focus country. Legislative processes presented here are occurring alongside each country's pandemic response, including state-led lockdowns, which provides important context. Then, we summarize legislative developments through three themes, which at times overlap:

1. Opportunistic advancements in controversial legislative processes that pre-date COVID.
2. Corporate stimulus and compensation.
3. Top-down pandemic solutions that undermine IP and LC rights.

We find that in India, the Philippines and Indonesia, government initiatives are continuing pre-COVID developmental agendas that have increased the likelihood of vector-borne diseases such as COVID-19 to proliferate and [enter human hosts](#). These activities have undermined global agendas for addressing climate change and the collapse of biodiversity, and will continue to do so if people-centered responses to the pandemic are discarded in favor of environmentally destructive trajectories.

“The pandemic has led to a decline in the enforcement of land rights laws on the books, an increase in land-grabbing, and criminalization of IPs and LCs fighting for their fundamental rights over the socio-ecological systems they steward”- AIPP.

AIPP also submitted its [statement](#) to UN Forum on BHR during the forum and also initiated to publish a briefing paper on [Briefing Paper on Business and Human Rights 2020](#).

Beside these activities, AIPP with other stakeholders, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs; Forest Peoples Programme, Peace Brigades International (PBI), Indigenous Peoples Rights International, Oxfam and Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation (DOCIP), in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights organized a session on Preventing abuses of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the business context: a key issue for responsible business and sustainable development in BHR forum.

AIPP's Secretary General, Mr. Gam A. Shimray and AIPP's Human Rights Programme Coordinator, Ms. Guangchunliu Gangmei spoke at the session.



Picture: AIPP's Human Rights Programme Coordinator, Ms. Guangchunliu Gangmei



Picture: AIPP's Secretary General, Mr. Gam A. Shimray

26th November, Webinar Series: Strengthening the protection of Indigenous People in Asia. 2nd - Situation of indigenous human rights defenders in the Asian region and the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights.

In light of the 2020 UN Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, the 2nd session of the webinar series focused on "Situation of indigenous human rights defenders in the Asian region and the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights".

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and OHCHR Bangkok are launching a webinar series to discuss how to strengthen the protection of indigenous peoples across Asia. The virtual events will offer a platform for indigenous representatives to engage with the Special Rapporteur, exchange information about the situation of their communities and identify strategic interventions required to advance the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The webinar series follows the launch of the Special Rapporteur's report on the regional consultation held with indigenous peoples. The report was presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2020. For the full report, [click here](#).

Bangladesh: Protect the Indigenous Mro People from Forced Eviction.





Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact (AIPP), Thailand and International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Denmark with the [endorsement](#) of 82 organizations and 106 individuals from all over the world, including UN Experts, human rights activists, academician and others, appealed to the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina MP and the Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing MP, Ministry of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh on 1st December 2020, to support the Indigenous Mro Peoples in their struggle for their rights. The letter expressed deep concern and solidarity with the Indigenous Mro communities, who right now are facing eviction from their ancestral lands as well as other human rights violations because of the construction of a five-star hotel in their territory. This letter has been sent by email, fax and post by the AIPP and IWGIA.

**WE DEMAND  
JUSTICE  
FOR  
LAKINGME**



Lakingme was in the seventh grade and had just turned 14 years and 10 months old on 5th January 2020 when she was abducted from her village home (Shilkhali Chakma Para) in Cox's Bazar. Five abductors (aged 22-28) led by a Bengali Muslim man, Ataullah (aged 23) of Cox's Bazar, allegedly abducted her from her house. Lakingme's mother and elder sister had gone to work in the betel leaf garden, and her father had gone to sea to fish. She was alone. Some children, including Lakingme's younger brother (11 years old), were playing in the yard and witnessed the incident. A number of people who were attending afternoon prayers at a local Buddhist temple also witnessed the kidnapping as they heard cries from a three-wheeler coming from the direction of Lakingme's house.

Lakingme was held by Ataullah in different places around Cox's Bazar. On 11 January 2020, she was taken to Cumilla district where, on 21 January, she was forcibly converted and married to Ataullah at a registrar's office, a false birth certificate being produced to show her age as 18.



A Chakma girl in Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh was abducted, converted and murdered. The police, allegedly took no action upon Lakingme's father's reporting but rather helped the abductors.

After 11 months and six days of abduction, on 9 December 2020, the police called Lakingme's father to identify his daughter's body in the Cox's Bazar hospital morgue. Ataullah's mother claimed that Lakingme had committed suicide by drinking poison. However, a civil society-led fact-finding team investigated the case from 27-29 December 2020 and stated that "the law enforcers must investigate whether she killed herself or was murdered, because we have found many examples that she was instigated to commit suicide." Allegations include that she was frequently tortured by Ataullah and forced to work as a sex worker. These gruesome occurrences led Lakingme to believe that she may not be accepted back into her family and society ever again.

AIPP released a [statement](#) asking for justice for Lakingme.

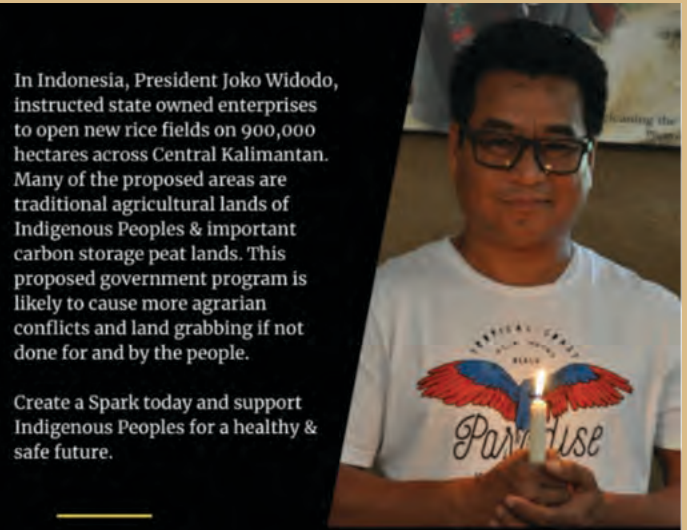
# Rite of Prolonging the Life of Sanian-Salai Watershed Area and Land Rights Now Campaign



We are the Defenders of our **Rights!**  
We are the Defenders of our **Lands!**  
We stand for **Peace and Justice!**  
Defend the Land Rights Defenders  
**Stop Criminalization of Land Rights Defenders**

#CreateASpark

SUPPORT THE GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST  
Secure land rights. save our shared planet.



In Indonesia, President Joko Widodo, instructed state owned enterprises to open new rice fields on 900,000 hectares across Central Kalimantan. Many of the proposed areas are traditional agricultural lands of Indigenous Peoples & important carbon storage peat lands. This proposed government program is likely to cause more agrarian conflicts and land grabbing if not done for and by the people.

Create a Spark today and support Indigenous Peoples for a healthy & safe future.

#CreateASpark

SUPPORT THE GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST  
Secure land rights. save our shared planet.



This year Land Rights Now held a digital week of action and mobilization on December 2-9 to shine a light on secure land rights for IPLCs. As a response to this call AIPP reached out to members and partners and inviting them to show solidarity by action.

AIPP together with 7 organizations co-organized an event themed “Rite of Prolonging the Life of Sanian-Salai Watershed Area: Developing Mechanisms and Workplan for Natural Resource Management by the Communities and Observation of Land Rights Now Campaign” on 5-6 December.





# Thailand - World Heritage case





Pictures courtesy: Karen Women's Organization

The Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation has applied for Natural World Heritage site status for the Kaeng Krachan Forest complex (KKFC) since the year 2011, with the World Heritage Committee listing this site on its Tentative List on 19 December 2013 – citing its significant importance in the conservation of biodiversity.

However, the World Heritage Committee has not yet considered approval due to the continuing and unresolved conflict in the area, especially the government evacuation of the Karen inhabitants from the villages of Jaipaendin and Upper Bangkloi to Lower Bangkloi Village. In addition, there has been insufficient participation of the Kaeng Krachan communities in the process, with the Department not successfully resolving this problem as recommended by the United Nations OHCHR in 2014.

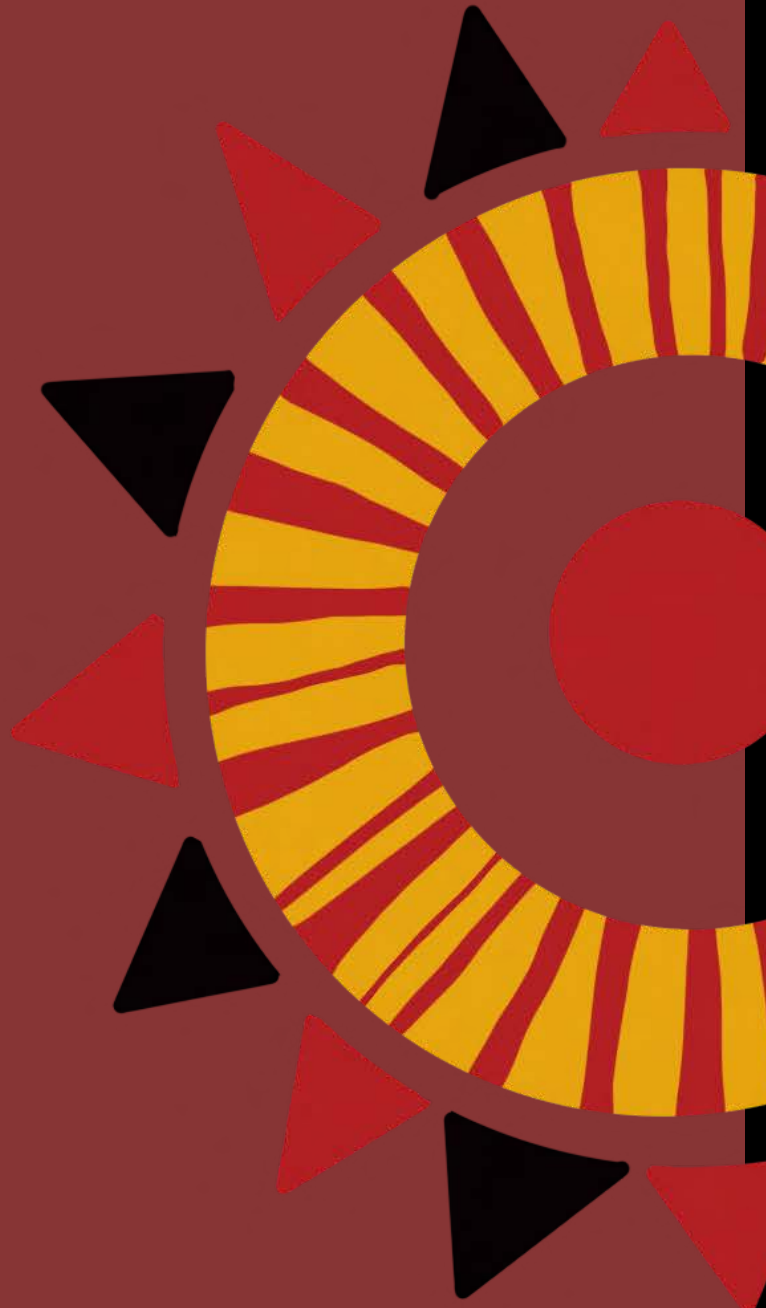
Therefore, The Council of Indigenous Peoples' in Thailand together with the Karen Network for Culture and Environment (Tanaosri region), which has closely followed these developments throughout, would like to invite the mass media, non-government organizations, and relevant partners to monitor and examine the Thai government's actions in addressing the problems cited and recommendations made by the OHCHR as well as the recommendations of the Karen communities suffering the impact of those problems to ensure that the registration of the Kaeng Krachan area as a World Heritage site is founded on the genuine participation of the affected communities in all respects.

You can read the full statement [here](#)

# AIPP PRESENTS

It took hundreds of years of struggle to set international agenda on the issues of Indigenous Peoples. And we have managed to set the UN standard on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) through rigorous negotiations. Yet, our battle is far from over.

States in Asia have failed to demonstrate their commitment despite the call by the UN to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Every year, the number of human rights defenders killed are highest amongst Indigenous Peoples. And during this pandemic, we have seen that several states in Asia have become even more repressive. COVID-19 has been used as a trojan horse to intimidate, arrest, plan false charges and conduct military campaign. It has also been used to weaken or suspend safeguards and rights regarding Indigenous Peoples. It will not be surprising if we see more attacks on Indigenous human rights defenders and plunder our resources in the name of economic recovery for the sake of national interests following the pandemic.







Pictures: Indigenous activists express solidarity with Indigenous Peoples movements

In observation of this symbolic day, [AIPP organized a three days webinar series](#) to assess and reflect about Indigenous Peoples' situation in Asia. It was attended by more than a thousand participants from across the globe which shows that we are growing in strength. The following are the pertinent conclusions drawn from the webinars.

The rise in extreme right-wing populism and authoritarianism in the region has severely curbed the civic space. As a result, the ability of CSOs to use political institutions to resolve conflicts and to access justice have become ineffective. Therefore, deepening of democracy that accounts for Indigenous Peoples' conception of self-government has become more urgent than before.

UNDRIP encapsulates self-determination as an essential condition for groups of individuals whose lives are tightly integrated to determine for themselves how their collective life develops. This requires not only collective decision making, but also the ability to make that decision making effective – a point about practically managing interdependence. This implies that every member in the community is counted, especially the women who have been partially denied of their rights, including decision making. But we are proud that women's leadership is growing and by being inclusive, Indigenous Peoples' movement will be strengthened by many folds. Therefore, "Indigenous women's power is Indigenous Peoples' power."



## EMRIP statements

4 joint statements prepared by AIPP and its partners in submission to the 13th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Issues covered in these statements are: Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Impact of COVID-19 on Civic Space and the rights of Indigenous Peoples under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Challenges faced by the Indigenous Peoples during the COVID-19 pandemic and good practices adopted by the states and Indigenous Peoples; Opportunities and ways forward, Militarization on Indigenous Peoples territories particularly during COVID-19 and its impact on the Indigenous Peoples in Asia.

Please find the statements here

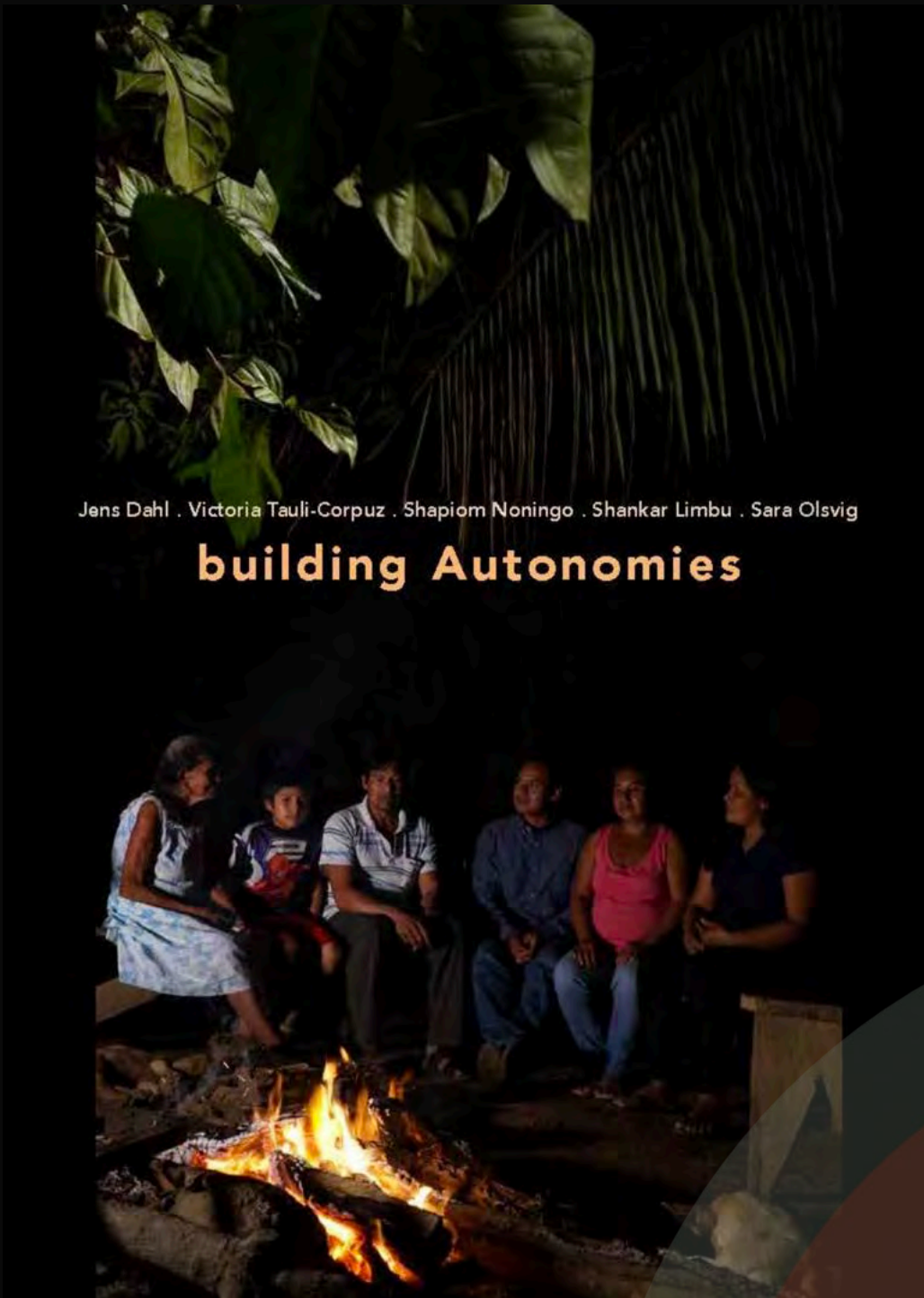
<https://aippnet.org/emrip12-joint-statement-of-bangladesh-indigenous-peoples-forum-and-kapaeeng-foundation-to-the-12th-session-of-the-expert-mechanism-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/>

<https://aippnet.org/elementor-5026/>

<https://aippnet.org/emrip12-joint-statement-to-the-12-session-of-the-expert-mechanism-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples-on-conservation-and-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/>

# CONNECTIONS

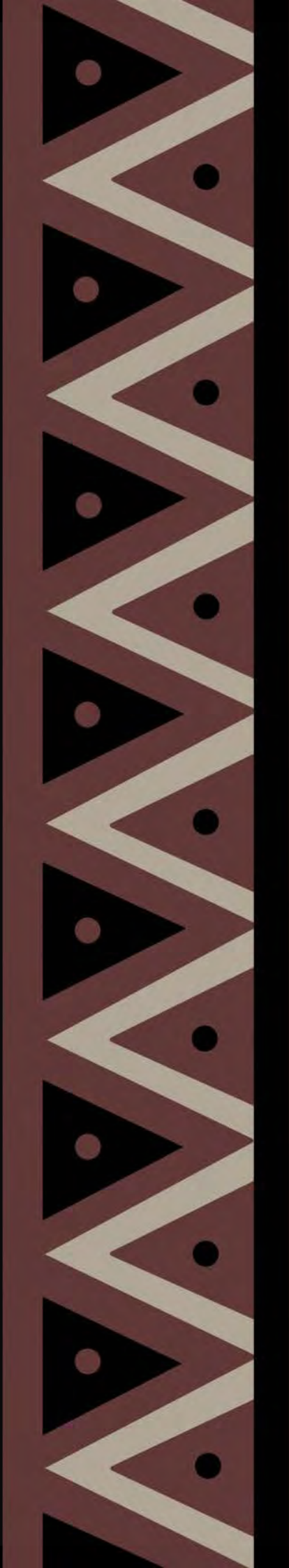
4th November: Building Autonomies



Jens Dahl . Victoria Tauli-Corpuz . Shapiom Noningo . Shankar Limbu . Sara Olsvig

## building Autonomies

A virtual event on “Advancing the right of Indigenous Peoples to autonomy and self-government” on November 4 at 3pm (Copenhagen time) was organized by IWGIA.



This event launched IWGIA's publication "Building Autonomies" and continued the vital dialogue with international human rights mechanisms around why it is crucial to advance in the recognition and exercise of the right of IPs to self-determination, under the protection of international human rights instruments.

The seminar promotes the implementation of recommendations given by the United Nations (UN) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on how to advance in operationalizing the right to autonomy of IPs.

# GROUND REPORT

Country Report on detrimental laws and human rights situation of IPs impacted by state and non-state actors during this COVID-19 pandemic and collecting data on human rights cases.

## Nepal

As a country composed of 125 castes and ethnic groups, Nepal struggles to address the rights and needs of the indigenous peoples. According to the 2011 census, the Indigenous nationalities (Adivasi Janajati) of Nepal comprise 36% of the total population out of 26.5 million. However, organizations of Indigenous peoples claim a figure of more than 50% .

Although Nepal has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ratified ILO Convention 169, the incidents recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic raise questions on the seriousness of its implementation. The country experienced human rights violations inflicted on Indigenous people (IP) in the hands of the state and the society. According to the 2011 Census, the Indigenous populations comprised of 125 caste and ethnic groups, including 63 Indigenous Peoples; 59 castes, including 15 Dalit castes; and three religious groups, including Muslim groups.

Throughout the country's history, Indigenous populations have been vulnerable due to exclusion on state policy, lack of employment opportunities, and absence of decent livelihoods etc... The vulnerability has been exacerbated with disasters such as earthquake, floods, and landslides pushing the IP communities to even more dire situations economically, and socially. COVID-19 pandemic was no exception and while Nepali State can claim that it has affected entire population in Nepal, few incidents highlighted in this report says otherwise.

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous peoples with disabilities.

The chairperson of Nepal Indigenous Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN), Pratima Gurung states that people with disabilities from IP communities have difficulty receiving relief funds and materials; they are also unaware of the information on COVID-19 safety measures and its preventions. Nepal has 1.3 million Indigenous people with disabilities.

They are not familiar with the COVID-19 associated terminologies such as self-isolation, sanitizer, quarantines etc. It has become much more difficult for people with disabilities as the information provided by the government is not disability-friendly (e.g. sign language), and as most of the announcements/ information are in Nepali or English language and not in the local language, IP community cannot understand it.

One must have either citizenship and/or disability card to receive relief packages. There are people in IP communities who have neither. The sudden decision of the government to impose lockdown made it difficult for people with disability to return home, especially for wheelchair users. Overcrowded public vehicles forced them to remain in the cities where they had to deal with shortage of food, water, and other basic needs.

Please read the full report [here](#).

## Bangladesh

There are more than 50 small indigenous ethnic groups living in Bangladesh. The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) has the most-dense settlement of indigenous peoples as compared to the plains. According to the 2011 census, the population of the indigenous people in the country is 15,86,232. Of these, 845,541 are in the CHT and 740,691 in the plains. However, the indigenous peoples think that their population will be at least 4 million.

The poverty rate among indigenous peoples is much higher than the national average of 20.5 percent. The poverty rate among the indigenous peoples in the plains is nearly 80 percent while in the CHT, it is around 65 percent. The indigenous population of the country has been living in a state of perpetual marginalization and poverty due to various factors. Their lives and livelihoods have become highly vulnerable due to the increasing dispossession of land and resources caused by conflict, land grabbing, climate change and various development interventions, as well as the prevailing systemic discrimination.



The situation of the indigenous peoples of the country is becoming more and more critical due to the food crisis and unemployment caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and above all the fear of being infected with the deadly virus. According to research by IPDS, 62% of the indigenous peoples have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic. Most of them used to work in shopping malls and beauty parlors. Besides, they were also involved as housemaids, drivers, day laborers, and security guards in many national and international organizations. The same study revealed that the income of the plains indigenous peoples has decreased by 92%.<sup>5</sup>

2 Coronavirus lockdown: food assistance sought for ethnic minorities, April 14, 2020.

3 <https://www.iwgia.org/en/news-alerts/news-covid-19/3814-kapaeeng-covid-19-ra.html>

4 Still left behind: Covid-19 and indigenous peoples of Bangladesh, Trimita Chakma and Pallab Chakma, The

Daily Star, August 9, 2020

5 COVID-19 pushes 62% of Indigenous to extreme poverty: IPDS, The Daily Star, August 27, 2020.

Soon after the government declared a country wide shutdown to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 on 26 March 2020, the indigenous people living in rural areas started facing a crisis of food shortage. This was followed by an unprecedented crisis of food insecurity spreading across other remote villages all over the country, impacting millions of vulnerable indigenous communities.

You can read the full report [here](#).

## Innovative initiatives on COVID-19 in Mokokchung district, Nagaland, India

On the backdrop on the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and a national level lockdown, the people of Mokokchung district in the state of Nagaland, India came together with the support of the district administration and the church on how to deal with the ongoing pandemic. Though there were no cases reported in the district, the communities decided to come together and prepare themselves for the worst. They came up with the following innovative activities to deal with the situation.

1. A Core team on essential commodities was established to focus on catering to the needs of the people of Mokokchung district and the adjoining districts who depended for the supply of essential commodities. The core team also coordinated with the sourcing markets located in the neighbouring state of Assam. People were able to buy and sell products only after obtaining an approval from the core team who monitored prices, co-ordinated with the buyers and sellers. They also ensured that people did not hoarding essential commodities and enough was available for the general population.



## Core Committee on essential commodities helping the citizens of Mokokchung



2. The Mokokchung cart an android app was launched with the support of the local government where people could order essential commodities including medicines online during the lock down. Ever since its launch, the app has been successful in helping and providing essential commodities and medicines on order especially to those people who stay far from the main town. On an average the app receives a total of 103 orders per day. Apart from delivering essential commodities and medicines, Mokokchung cart delivered fresh vegetables to the customers. With many farmers unable to sell their produce in the market due to the lockdown, Mokokchung Cart came to the rescue by contacting farmers from twenty villages and collected their vegetables directly from the villages. In extension of the goodwill service, the Mokokchung Cart Home delivery service also donated fresh vegetables and pulses to over a hundred needy families in Mokokchung Town by delivering it to their doorsteps. The Mokokchung cart is available for download for free from Google play store.



Mokokchung Cart delivery officers at work



Vegetables from the farmers at the inventory



3. The Good Samaritan Project which was initiated by the church with a vision to help the most effected people like daily wage earners, stranded students, the sick and poor households who were affected by the pandemic. The project received donations from several well-wishers and supported over 70 families with financial assistance and also with food supplies. The project also collaborated with the Central Reserve Police Force in Mokokchung in providing free packed food to over eight hundred needy people. The initiative also collaborated with the District Level Centre for Women (DLCW) during the Mother's day celebration by identifying widows and struggling mothers living in Mokokchung town by distributing to nutritious food and hygiene kits.



Volunteers from the Good Samaritan project distributing packaged food



Face Masks being sterlized and vacuum packed at FAC Volunteers from different Self Help Groups stitching masks.

4. Washable cotton face masks for all campaign was launched by the district administration task force on COVID-19 where the initiative brought together Indigenous Women from various churches across the Mokokchung district to stitching cotton masks. The campaign aimed to produce over 200,000 washable masks so as to ensure every individual in the district received at least one mask. Efforts were made to spread the idea within the community on the campaign which resulted in almost fifty villages volunteering in mask making and more than 1000 volunteers working towards the face mask campaign.



5. Local incinerator to tackle waste was developed locally and places across all the quarantine centers and hospitals as it was important to ensure where the waste from these places was being disposed off. The innovative incinerators were made with the use of locally available materials. The joint idea of the administration and the local innovators has made it possible for Mokokchung to bring out innovation that will further help in fighting against COVID-19 and also in taking safety measures to contain the spread of the virus. All together eight incinerators had been made and it is placed at different quarantine centres and also at the COVID-19 hospital.



6. Sensitization programmes and radio services on COVID-19 - A massive sensitization programme on COVID-19 was undertaken by the Mokokchung district task force which covered all the village council members, church leaders, teachers, etc. The campaign was also launched with the use of the radio as a means of communicating and making people aware on the pandemic. A total of 17 episodes has been aired where COVID related issues were aired. Some of the series included living with COVID-19, pregnancy and other related issues during the COVID- 19 pandemic, pet care during the pandemic, market scenario & Self-reliance post COVID etc. The radio series can also be listened in the official you tube channel of the All India Radio, Mokokchung.



The detailed case study can be read [here](#)

## Good practises: Food exchange in Thailand



Following the incidence of Covid-19, the phenomena of reciprocal commodities takes place among Indigenous Peoples of Thailand. This happens especially between the Indigenous Karen in the North and the sea peoples in the South, including the Northeastern peasants with altogether more than 10,000 kilos of their products. This is an exceptionally successful incidence leading to reciprocal sustainability. At the same time, this indigenous cooperation can foster their fight against the second round of Covid-19 and also promote food exchange, both at the time of crisis and during normal times. Such practices have been piloted as a project among six communities in Thailand.

The article "Further Reciprocal Rice for Fish: An act of Indigenous Peoples against Covid-19 recurrence" is jointly prepared by AIPP and Indigenous Media Network (IMN), Thailand. The article is accessible [here](#)



## POINT OF VIEW

Picture courtesy: The Daily Star

Bangladesh is experiencing an epidemic of violence against women and girls. Access to justice has long been a challenge in Bangladesh, particularly for this type of violence. On many occasions these cases were dismissed as unsolvable and were simply ignored. The Lakingme Chakma case is no different from these other examples of violence against women and girls. We are also forgetting this case like the previous cases without taking further action to bring justice for her. Lakingme case has been also ignored, mostly because she is from an indigenous marginalised group. Indigenous women and girls are one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the country's population. They are typically deprived of basic human rights, including lack of access to education at all levels and types, healthcare, economic and political participation and control over material and immaterial resources.

AIPP's Human Rights Programme Officer, Shohel Chandra Hajong's opinion column urging the public not to forget Lakingme was published in Bangladesh's leading newspaper, The Daily Star. You can read the full op-ed [here](#).



# GENDER LENS

16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, 2020 Campaign

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Land grabbing and militarization has resulted in the increased violence against Indigenous Women and Girls. Culture of impunity and corruption should be tackled first to prevent violence Indigenous women and girls.



-CHANCHANA CHAKMA  
Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network

[WWW.AIPPNET.ORG](http://WWW.AIPPNET.ORG)

[@AIPPNET](https://twitter.com/AIPPNET)



“

Intersectionality and climate change cumulative escalate Indigenous Women's vulnerability. Demystification of intersectionality of Indigenous Women should be the starting point for integrating reform at all levels.



-CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN:  
Urgency and Way Forward  
An AIPP Report

[WWW.AIPPNET.ORG](http://WWW.AIPPNET.ORG)

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Indigenous women face various forms of structural violence, both systemically and systematically. While it's crucial to understand the gendered forms and gender effects of violence, Indigenous People's context and realities should be taken into consideration while developing effective strategies to address this issue. And, state and non-state actors must be involved in redressing issues related to gender based violence.



CHANDA THAPA MAGAR  
Deputy Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

[WWW.AIPPNET.ORG](http://WWW.AIPPNET.ORG)

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Indigenous women have been always marginalised and vulnerable in Nepal. There's an alarming rate of rape cases and violence on young Indigenous girls and women. Injustice and discriminatory law, influenced by wealth, power and politics are huge challenges for the fight against violence against women. We indigenous women have not been able to exercise basic human rights. The government should implement legal policies and laws at local, provincial and national levels. There should be effective awareness raising campaigns for young vulnerable Indigenous women from grass root levels to mitigate sexual violence, abuses and human rights violations.

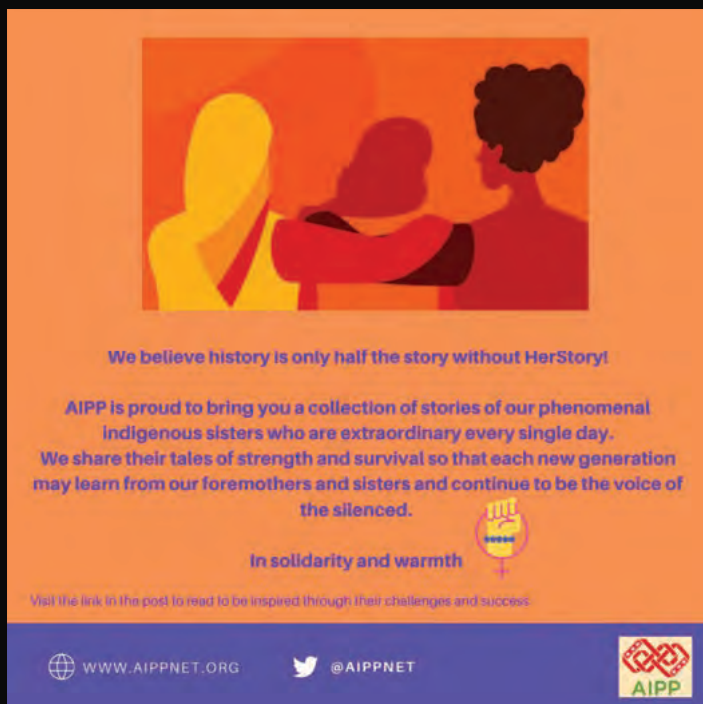


-SABITRA CHEPANG  
Research and Communication National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF)

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As part of the global campaign, AIPP launched a digital campaign to show the triple discrimination based on ethnicity, gender and class against Indigenous Women. This has always intensified in the humanitarian settings like the recent global pandemic of Covid-19 context. Lack of access to culturally appropriate information, general health services including reproductive and sexual health rights, intensified racial discrimination, criminalization, and human rights violations are some of the common issues faced by Indigenous Women, Indigenous Women with Disability across Asia during Covid-19. Several Reports submitted by Indigenous Women's organizations and networks in Asia also confirmed spike in gender-based violence during the pandemic.

The UN System's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence activities, from 25 November to 10 December, took place under our 2020 global theme: "Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!"

A [joint statement](#) of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation and Networks of Indigenous Women in Asia was also released that drew attention to silenced issues of violence against Indigenous Women at the time of COVID Pandemic.

NK Keny from NE India winning the India Inspiration Women Award Social Service for Child and Woman Empowerment.

NK Keny represents the Sumi Tribe of Nagaland in this network which is also a part of the Indigenous Women Forum Northeast India (IWFNI) which is a member organization of AIPP. She has been a focal person for Nagaland in this platform and contributed immensely for the cause of Indigenous women. She has contributed in the research for the Human Trafficking in India for and with the support from Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). She also participated in number of programs in different Asian countries with support of AIPP. In 2020 she was offered the India Inspiration Women Award Social Service for Child and Woman Empowerment.



“I will not rest on my laurels. To me the award is a call... a challenge to commit and dedicate more to my work. The best award will be when it comes from above,” Keny said, as reported in [Morung Express](#) and [The Better India](#).

Old Flash update: <https://aippnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Flashupdate-4-FINAL.pdf>



