

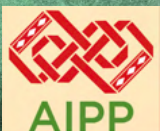
ASIA INDIGENOUS OBSERVER

LAND RIGHTS
NOW

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We Stand For Peace and Justice

LAND RIGHTS NOW



LOVE FOR FREEDOM

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HUMAN RIGHTS RADAR: SOLIDARITY MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY- GENERAL TO THE LUMAD PEOPLE OF ANDAP VALLEY

In the light of the alarming spate of human rights violations across Asia due to State repressions on Indigenous Peoples, AIPP has critically analyzed a pattern of accusations, disinformation mechanisms, and discrediting of resistance movements.

The root of these human rights violations is the shrinking of civic spaces and erasure of democratic rights.

Escalation of attacks on the Lumad People of Andap Valley is accompanied by insidious State-sponsored narratives which project them as anti-development, anti-government which is conflated with being anti-Duterte.

AIPP has pledged to echo the voices from the ground in solidarity with the Lumad People defending their lands and territories in the face of increasing crackdowns on indigenous activists, allies, intellectuals, and dissenters opposing the destructive march of extractive industries on their ancestral lands.

In the lead up to this year's UN theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on the 9th of August, which is to focus on the right to self-determination and the need for a new social contract, it is critical to mainstream this agenda by amplifying the ground realities leading to a strong movement building.

We are inspired by their resistance which is a symbol of our common struggles in our right to self-determination.

VICTORY TO YOUR LAND!

VICTORY TO OUR LANDS!!

Mr. Gam A. Shimray

Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

You can watch the full video message [here](#)



It is learned that another Lumad child was allegedly taken by soldiers, branded as ‘child warrior’. Before the Lianga massacre, there was frustrated killing and abduction in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

On June 14, 2021, in the afternoon, 3 families (18 individuals) were startled and in panic run through different directions after soldiers from 8th Special Forces Company (SFC), Philippine Army opened fire at them wounding two individuals. A 15-year-old girl lost consciousness due to panic attack and was left in the site of incident without any of the family knowing. The incident happened in the corn farm in Sitio Marang, Brgy. Mabuhay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur in the Philippines where 3 families were tending their farm. Of the 18 individuals, 12 were children (3 toddlers).

[Source: Save Our Schools Network. https://www.facebook.com/saveourschoolsnetwork/](https://www.facebook.com/saveourschoolsnetwork/)



[An Indigenous Woman gang-raped in Tangail, Bangladesh](#)

A Koch Indigenous woman was allegedly raped on 11 June in Tangail, the plain land of Bangladesh. A case was filed on 13 June 2021 with Sakhipur Police Station against three men over raping her. The accused perpetrators are Dina Sarkar, 33, Montu Sarkar, 30, and Sobdul Miah, 28 -- all from Hatibandha union in Sakhipur upazila, Tangail district. The three accused forcibly took the woman to a deserted place near her house and physically attacked her while raping her. The criminals fled the scene when locals came to her rescue after hearing her scream for help, said a relative of the woman. She was given primary treatment after she was taken to Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex. She was later admitted to 'One Stop Crisis Centre' at Tangail General Hospital the same day. Finally, the police arrested the accused perpetrators.

Another rape case was filed against a house old employer who allegedly raped his house servant, an indigenous woman (40) on 9 June 2021 in Sherpur district of Bangladesh. Jiko, a Bengali man, son of Haji Shorafat Ali in Shreebardi, Sherpur, who was the employer of the victim, raped the indigenous woman forcibly when she came to his house.

[Source: Woman gang-raped in Tangail | The Daily Star](#)



A regional training of Trainers (ToT) for lead IPHRDs focal organizations on follow-up project activities was held virtually on July 6-8, 2021. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) hosted this event under the project titled “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network in Asia for Advancement of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” funded by European Commission.

The overall objective of the project is Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders (IPHRDs), including women IPHRDs, and their organizations are effectively advancing the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly their lands, territories, and resources.

A total of 21 participants (Male 11, Female 10) from 8 focal IPHRD organizations of 8 countries- Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Thailand joined the online workshop. From the workshop, the participants have updated the knowledge and skills of the EIDHR project of the IPHRD focal organizations on follow-up the project activities, sharing the achievements, challenges and mitigation process of the human rights activities and improve understanding among the participants, sharing the new log frame, and updates of AIPP’s strategy plan, following up the IPHRDs monitoring, human rights case documentation, updating on Human Rights Database and strengthening evidence-based and credible advocacy of IPHRDs, etc.

Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General of AIPP, Shohel Chandra Hajong, Frederic Wilson, Dharmodip Basumatary, Programme Officers of Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy (HRCPA) Programme of AIPP conducted and facilitated different sessions where Kittisak Rattankrajangsri, Chairperson of AIPP has given the opening remarks and AIPP’s two EC members, Maslah Rompado & Chandra Tripura have given their closing remarks.

GROUND REPORT: ESCALATION OF BRUTAL ATTACKS ON INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS IN THE PHILIPPINES



On May 22nd a group of indigenous activists led by Kakay Tolentino, an indigenous woman human rights defender and 39 persons including drivers and helpers set out to provide relief materials consisting of medicines, foods and pre-owned clothes, aiming to provide help to 150 families totalling more than 300 individuals of Rizal province in the Sierra Madre mountains, ancestral lands of the indigenous Dumagat.

The escalation in violence has corresponded with infiltration on the ground. Tolentino was informed about military operations on the ground in the events leading up the March 7th massacre of indigenous activists.

It has been reported that after Bloody Sunday a series of intimidations and mass meetings were convened where many youths were interrogated. There have also been concerns about infiltration of a more sinister nature aimed at forced surrenders from those redtagged.

Read the full report [here](#)





GLOBAL ADVOCACY

AIPP conducted a series of side events for HLPF.

Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic- How does it look like from the perspective of the Indigenous Peoples in Asia. You can check out the full event here

Why reporting on SDG land related targets matters to secure rights of Indigenous Peoples in the post COVID 19 recovery, in “building back better”?

You can check out the full event here

A Joint Statement to the 14th session/ Regional meetings of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was made by the Secretary General of AIPP, Gam A Shimray on behalf of Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus.

A Draft Report on “efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Self-Determination” was also submitted.



Another [Draft Study](#) and Advice on the Rights of the Indigenous Child under the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child was presented by Miss Cleopatra Tripura on behalf of Asia Indigenous Peoples' Caucus. You can access the video presentation [here](#)

An EMRIP Side event entitled: "How can the right to self-determination be realized for the Indigenous Peoples in Asia; assessing challenges and exploring enabling conditions" was conducted virtually. You can access it [here](#)



"We also call upon to the Member States, particularly Member States from Asia, the Temporary Committee and the UN Bodies to initiate dialogues on enhanced participation at the regional level with full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. "

Gam A. Shimray, Secretary General of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Statements were read at the HRC Roundtable Discussion on the Enhanced Participation organised by UN Human Rights Council UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland by Mr. [Gam A. Shimray](#) Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and by [Mr Shankar Limbu](#), LAHURNIP, Nepal



have any sound with the speaker. Perhaps we can come back to Asia Indigenous Peoples

CLIMATE WATCH

THE HUAY EE KHANG MODEL: Emerging Idea of “Indigenous Women’s Forest” to Embrace both People and Wildlife





Huay Ee Khang Village in Mae Win Sub-district of Mae Wang District in Chiangmai is piloting an effort to use its community forest of 60 rai (9.6 hectares) to become an “Indigenous Women’s Forest” emphasizing varieties of plants for herbal medicine, dying cloth, and food crops. This idea aims to create a natural classroom for Indigenous Knowledge transmission amongst Pgakenyaw girls and women and to generate supplementary income in the future.

Noraeri Thungmueangthong, a village chief and prominent leader of the Indigenous Women's Network of Thailand (IWNT), has initiated this project with the idea of creating a forest for Indigenous Women. This was inspired by the Pgakenyaw traditional classification of forest as Keu Neu, which categorizes two types of forest: Keu Neu Mue (hill evergreen forest or Women's Forest), and Keu Neu Pha (rainforest or Men's Forest). With this interpretation, Noraeri has in mind to create a living Indigenous Women's Forest accessible to housewives and young girls in particular. This particular Indigenous Women's Forest of 60 rai is located about 2 kilometers from the village. On July 1st 2016, additional plants were introduced into the Forest for the first time. Later on, more indigenous species were added every year. These practices allow for easier and more convenient access for the gathering of non-timber forest products (NTFP), such as, sappan wood used for traditional cloth dying.

You can read about the village's revivalist methods [here](#)

GENDER LENS

SUBMISSION OF GENERAL RECOMMENDATION ON THE ISSUES OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS



The Indigenous Women's Programme facilitated five sub-regional consultation with IW organizations in South Asia, South East Asia, East Asia and Mekong region for their inputs on the General Recommendations. A separate consultation with the consortium of IW organizations in Nepal was also conducted in order to have more intersectional perspectives in the submission. The successful submission to the CEDAW committee for General Recommendation in the Indigenous Womens and Girls Issues was followed by the oral intervention in the Day of General Discussion. Following the submission, Ms. Kakay Tolentino made the oral intervention prepared by the Indigenous Women's Programme on the day of General Recommendation on 24th June 2021. The written submission and statement can be read in the OHCHR [website](#)

The key issues raised were

- ✓ Legal recognition of Indigenous Women
- ✓ Right to land
- ✓ Access to water, natural resources, and food security
- ✓ Cultural rights
- ✓ Access to justice
- ✓ Gender-based violence
- ✓ Indigenous Women human right defenders
- ✓ Militarization and armed conflict
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Right to health
- ✓ Right to education

Access the full written submission [here](#)



Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Girls

Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic startled the world with its uniqueness, reach and impact. As an X-ray displays illness, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the ugly consequences of existing socio-economic, civil and environmental inequalities of women, already subject to various forms of discriminations. While women in general are facing new challenges like the massive loss of jobs in informal sectors, increased domestic violence, rising poverty, hunger and inequalities etc., the difficulties of women with double and multiple-discrimination are inexplicable. This is apart from the deaths and illness which have been caused due to the virus. Women from the indigenous communities, women from communities discrimination based on work and descent (DWD) communities, women with disabilities, elderly women are going through the ordeal, which needs to get the central attention of the policy makers.



This global report on Leave No Women Behind (LNWB) has been prepared as part of GCAP's Faces of Inequality Campaign. AIPP has contributed to it highlighting the intersectionality of gender-identity of the indigenous communities, women from DWD communities, women with disability and the similar during and post- pandemic period. The study consists of four papers.

First is the global overview describing multiple discrimination and exclusion women from various marginalized groups faced during the pandemic. The second paper deals in detailing the inequalities, indignity and violence the women from DWD communities across the world faced. The third paper details out the problems of women with disabilities in Africa. And the fourth paper delves into the condition of women from the indigenous communities from Asia who were not only wrenched in poverty but also various kinds of human rights violations including violence by the state. The focus of study is: social protection floors of the government - accessibility and realization, and violence against women by the state and non-state actors during the pandemic. The study gives sets of recommendations for “building forward better”.



Indigenous communities have unique cultures, forms of social organization, livelihood strategies, practices, notions of poverty and wellbeing, values, and beliefs. While the discrimination faced by Indigenous Women in Asia is manifested at an individual, inter-personal level, its main driver is the underlying structural discrimination by virtue of being indigenous.

The harsh socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous Peoples across the world has further exacerbated the existing inequalities and discrimination faced by Indigenous Women within and outside their communities. The main underlying causes are their disadvantaged position in the labour market, high levels of poverty, limited access to infrastructure and public services, including water and sanitation, and enhanced vulnerability to climate change. Hunger has been a common experience of Indigenous Women persons with disabilities and older persons during the pandemic. Preexisting socioeconomic, health and environmental vulnerabilities have exacerbated risk, intensified stigma and discrimination and generated violence.

Read the full report [here](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN BANGLADESH





Training for Indigenous Women on Regional and International Instruments, Processes and Mechanisms

23-24 June 2021 ■ CBCB Center, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Organized by
Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network (BIWN)

Supported by
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
AIPP and Kapaeeng Foundation

A Training for 30 Indigenous Women on Regional and International Instruments, Processes and Mechanisms in Bangladesh was conducted. The topics ranged from Human rights situation of IW in Bangladesh and the role of the women's network in international lobbying and advocacy; Women development policy and submission process of CEDAW; Women Peace and security resolutions 1325: IWR to Peace and protection; Indigenous navigator and SDGs importance in lobby and advocacy for IW; CSW why it is important IW and international process related to Indigenous rights.



