

Some Selected Case of Human Rights Violations perpetrated by the Indian Army under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 Manipur from October 2003 – October 2007

Source: Committee on Human Rights, Manipur (COHR)

1) 4 October 2003: Rape of Miss Nandeibam Sanjita Chanu by personnel of 12 Granadier Rifles at Uchathol, Jiribam, Manipur

Miss Nandeibam Sanjita Chanu (18), resident of Jiribam, Manipur was raped by three personnel of 12 Granadier Rifles at Uchathol, Jiribam, Manipur on 4 October 2003. She was raped on her way to deliver food for her father and brother in law, both working in a rubber farm. She later committed suicide unable to bear the harassment of the Indian army. The Press Information Bureau (defense) in a release shortly after the incident denied of any of its army personnel involved in the rape. The Sanjita Death Inquiry Commission, formed after stern public agitation and investigating the incident has neither made the findings of the inquiry public nor has the army personnel involved in the rape incident prosecuted till date.

2) 11 July 2004: Rape and Murder of Miss. Thangjam Manorama Chanu of Bamon Kampu, Imphal East District, Manipur by 17 Assam Rifles, Kangla, Imphal.

Personnel of 17 Assam Rifles based at Kangla, Imphal arrested Miss Thangjam Manorama Chanu (32) of Bamon Kampu, Imphal East District without any female army or police personnel from her home on the night of 10 July 2004. The next day morning, she was found murdered with multiple bullet injuries, many of them in her private parts. Before taking her away from her home with an arrest memo issuance, she was already tortured in her room. Family says she was sexually harassed while torturing in her room by the Assam Rifles as the family members were forbidden any entry with threat. There were signs of torture marks in her body, more so in her private parts. The killing provoked massive outrage and protest in Manipur, which ultimately led the Central Government forming the Justice Jeevan Reddy Review Commission of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. The report of the Judicial Enquiry formed to investigate the extra judicial execution of Thangjam Manorama remained concealed to the public and the Assam Rifles personnel has not been prosecuted.

3) August 21, 2004: Intimidation of villagers of Sapermeina by 14 Assam Rifles to organize rally on Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 on 21 August, 2004.

In the early morning, the 14 Assam Rifles posted at Lairou and Motbung of Keithelmanbi in the Senapati District, Manipur summoned village Chairperson of the surrounding villages at Sapermeina and asked them with force to hold a public march in support of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1948 (AFSPA). The threatened marchers were forced to display placards with slogans such as “We Love AFSPA” etc.

4) October 24, 2004: Extra Judicial Execution of Mr. Nekhogin Kipgen (30), son of Lunmohen Kipgen of Kipgen Veng near Tuibong village by 14 Assam Rifles, based at IT road of Churachandpur District, Manipur

In the morning of 24 October, 14 Assam Rifles personnel of I.T Road post handed over to the police the dead body of Mr. Nekhogin Kipgen (30), son of Lunmohen Kipgen of Kipgen Veng near Tuibong village of Churachandpur District. The AR alleged that he had been killed in an encounter. However, his family members and residents of Kangpokpi said that Nekhogin had been picked up at 10.00 p.m, the night before by the Assam Rifles from a place in between Keithelmanbi and Kalapahar, which are about 3 or 4 kilometers to the west of the Kangpokpi Police Station.

5) November 13, 2004: Injury of Civilians from Bomb dropped by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Western Gate of Kangla, Imphal

A hand grenade exploded amid tight security arrangements at Imphal within just 100 meters towards the western gate of Kangla, Imphal, heavily guarded by the 17 Assam Rifles. Sixteen person sustained injuries. People around the explosion site as well as the State Home Department said that the grenade had fallen off from a CRPF vehicle that entered the Kangla regularly.

The injured persons include:

- a) Mrs. Mangshatabam Heitombi (40), w/o Mr. M. Mohon of Khurai Nandeibam Leikai, Imphal East District, Manipur
- b) Nameirakpam Kerani (50), s/o Late N. Mera
- c) Nameirakpam Leishemba
- d) O. Ingocha (44), s/o O. Jila of Thangmeiband Lairenhanjaba Leikai, Imphal, Manipur
- e) Mr. Ngangom Inaocha (53) of Thangmeiband Laishram Leikai, Imphal
- f) Md. Habibur Rehman (20), s/o Atou Rehman of Mayang Imphal Bengoon, Imphal West District, Manipur
- g) Nongmaithem Krishnamohon (25), s/o Late Khongnemba of Palace Gate, Imphal
- h) Laishram Sundar (19), s/o Gouro of Langthabal Kunja Awang Leikai, Imphal West District, Manipur
- i) Khumukcham Subeda (29), d/o Khumukcham Biswanath of Khuyathong, Imphal
- j) Sorokhaibam Nichola (38), s/o Mani of Singjamei Mayeng Leikai
- k) Md. Abungton (18), s/o Md. Alam of Khumidok Umang Leikai
- l) Y. Meghajit (50), s/o Late Apabi of Wangkhei Meihoubam Leikai
- m) Md. Daulakhan (34), s/o Late Lalmuhammad of Khabeisoi
- n) Nepali Choudhuri (40), s/o Adalat Choudhuri, Uttar Pradesh, India

6) November 17, 2004: Extra judicial Execution and torture of villagers of Bungte Chiru Village, Bishenpur District by 28 Assam Rifles.

The 28 Assam Rifles Personnel killed a 75 year old man at night at Bungte Chiru Village, Bishenpur District on 17 November, 2004. The man, Rengtuiwan Chiru, a retired teacher, was shot dead when he came out from his house on hearing some neighbors being beaten. His wife, Mrs. Thangmuchim (60) received a bullet injury in her right thigh. Other villagers William (40) Achon (35), Wachung (40) were also brutally tortured. No investigation on the incident has been taken up and none of the Assam Rifles personnel involved are prosecuted.

7) January 10, 2005: Extra judicial execution of three youths by 24 Assam Rifles at Bongbam Khullen, Thoubal District, Imphal.

Three youths including a student and a civilian were shot dead by 24 Assam Rifles at Bongban Khullen near Nongpok Keithelmanbi which is about 18 kms, to the North East of Yairipok Police Station at Thoubal District. The incident took place at about 11.00 a.m.

The deceased were (1) Shaikhom Shamungou (20), s/o Late Amuyaima of Nongbram Leikai, (2) Sanasam Ngongo (15), s/o Sanasam Naba of Nongbram Makha Leikai, Manipur. Family says the youths had left home the previous morning after lunch to look for a buffalo that has failed to return home the previous day.

8) January 17, 2005: Sexual Harassment of Mrs. Kongbrailatpam Kiran of Phubala Awang Leikai, Bishenpur District by 11 Grenadier Rifles.

Personnel of 11 Grenadier Rifles molested a 22 year old mother, Mrs. Kongbrailatpam Kiran, w/o Kongbrailatpam Bimol Sharma of Phubala Awang Leikai of Bishnupur District, Manipur on 17 January 2005. The army personnel, a member of a patrolling party, went to the women's house under the pretext of drinking water and molested her.

9) January 18, 2005: Extra judicial execution of a young girl and a man of 132 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force at Wangoo Nungai Sabal Nongyaikhong Mapal, Thoubal district, Manipur.

Following an alleged attack on a patrolling party of 132 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force by some unidentified persons at Wangoo Nungai Sabal Nongyaikhong Mapal of Thoubal District, Manipur at about 8:30 a.m, three persons were shot dead by the Central Reserve Police Force on 18 January 2005. Soon after the first incident, the CRPF, reinforced with many more personnel, indiscriminate open fire about an hour. They fired upon and killed two civilians and a suspected insurgent. The civilians killed were Miss Thokchom Puspa (11), d/o Late Thokchom Bhimjao and L. Maipak (55), s/o Late Moirangningthou, both hailing from Wangoo Nungai, Thoubal District.

10) January 20, 2005: Torture of two brothers of Sagolmang, Imphal East, Manipur by 19 Assam Rifles.

19 Assam Rifles posted at Sagolmang, Imphal East surrounded a house at 2 a.m and started launching a search operation till 6 a.m in the morning. They forced the family members to stay outside but the family members requested a family member to include in any search in the family. They let Boicha accompany them, but when they went to search in the room, the Assam Rifles personnel did not allow Boicha to witness the search of his elder brother Romi's room. Then the 19 Assam Rifles allegedly claim that a 9 mm pistol and 3 bullets have been found under Romi's pillow and the two brothers, Boicha (25) and Romi (27) were taken away to their camp and tortured them.

11) May 5, 2005: Extrajudicial Execution of Two women and a young girl by personnel of 14 Assam Rifles at Saitu Village near Kangpokpi (Senapati District), Manipur

Personnel of 14th Assam Rifles posted at Lairouching, Senapati District shot dead 2 women and one young girl at Saitu Village near Kangpokpi (Senapati District). The deceased are all from the same family. The victims include:

- a) Linkholane Haokip (50) w/o Jashao, Saitu Village, Kangpokpi, Manipur

- b) Lalneithen Haokip, w/o Seitilane (daughter in law of Linkholane Haokip), Saitu Village, Kangpokpi, Manipur
- c) Hoineichoung (1), d/o Laneithen (grand daughter of Linkholane Haokip)

A troop of 14th Assam Rifles in civil dress rushed in a gypsy at Saitu village on May 5, 2005 around 11:30 a.m. As soon as they reached the village, they started firing indiscriminately for around 30 minutes. The Assam Rifles claimed that the firing took place in an encounter that armed youths fired at them but the villagers refuted the army allegations as baseless and malicious and that there were no armed youths at the time of firing.

12) May 22, 2005: Torture of O. Kunjabihari of Nambol, Imphal West District, Manipur by 22 Maratha Light Infantry stationed at Nambol Maibam Lokpa Ching

Personnel of the 22 Maratha Light Infantry posted at Nambol Maibam Lokpa Ching, Imphal West District, arrested O. Kunjabihari of Nambol near Nambol along the State Highway towards Churachandpur town on 22 May 2005 and severely tortured him in their brief custody. The victim had slightly mental problems and was later released in the same spot where he was arrested. Both of his knees were broken due to excessive torture.

13) June 21, 2005: Extra Judicial Execution of Mr. Pheiroijam Keshorjit (35), s/o, Pheiroijam Babu of Nongada under Lamlai Police Station, Manipur by 19 Assam Rifles posted at Yaingangpokpi, Imphal East District

Personnel of 19 Assam Rifles posted at Yaingangpokpi, Imphal East District arrested Pheiroijam Keshorjit (35), s/o, Pheiroijam Babu of Nongada, Lamlai Police Station, Imphal East District from Seijang village near Yaingangpokpi and was killed. Later, the 19th Assam Rifles issued a release saying that one insurgent was killed in an encounter with them.

14) July 2, 2005: Extrajudicial Execution of Mr. Ahanthem Rameswar by 19th Assam Rifles posted at Sagolmang, Imphal East District

Personnel of 19th Assam Rifles posted at Sagolmang, Imphal East District tortured to death Mr. Ahanthem Rameswar, resident of Bamon Kampu Mayai Leikai on 2 July 2005 at Litanpokpi Village near Saikul Town, Senapati District, Manipur.

According to Hiron Robu (30) of Bamon Kampu, he was constructing a school building at Litanpokpi Village with the victim Mr. Ahanthem Rameswar when the 19 Assam Rifles personnel rushed towards their working place and started torturing them with their heavy guns and kicked with their boots and using big sticks. Mr. Rameswar fainted on the ground and after half an hour he succumbed to his injury.

15) July 25, 2005: Torture of Loushangbam Premananda of Kwakeithel Moirangpurel, Imphal, Manipur by 4th Assam Rifles

Mr. Loushangbam Premananda (24), s/o Late Loushangbam Thoiba of Kwakeithel Moirang Purel Leikai was arrested from his residence on 25 July 2005 without arrest memo and inflicted third degree torture including electric shock in his genitals, application of chilly powder, beating with blunt iron and was denied food and water during his one day detention. He was blindfolded and kicked down from an Army vehicle the next day.

16) 16 December 2005: Extrajudicial Execution of three innocent civilians and injury of 32 people by 12th Indian Reserve Battalion and 41st Border Security Forces at Khuga Dam site, Churachandpur District, Manipur

Three people were killed and 32 others were injured in an indiscriminate firing by combined personnel of Churachandpur Police, 12th Indian Reserve Battalion and the 41st Border Security Force at the Khuga Dam Site at Moulam Village in Churachandpur District of Manipur. The firing took place as villagers affected by the Khuga Multipurpose Project converged at the Dam site calling for rehabilitation and resettlement. Before firing live bullets, the combined team of state police, Indian Reserve Battalion and the Border Security Force resorted to tear gas shells.

List of people killed:

- a) Lianzangmin Samte, Male (30), s/o Chingzamang Samte of Mualtam Village, Churachandpur District.
- b) Punzahao, Male (26), s/o Khazinglian of Joumu Village, Churachandpur District.
- c) Khailian, Male (48), s/o Hemkhopao of Mata Moldam, Churachandpur District

List of Injured Victims:

Tuanjamlan, Male (40) of Maultam Village, Churachandpur District
Laliyan, Male, aged 18 of Laljang Village, Churachandpur District
Mangsuanthang, Male, aged 28 of Laljang Village, Churachandpur District
Panthilian, Male, aged 25 from Kulian Village, Churachandpur District
Ngaizavung, Female, aged about 55 of Mualtam Village, Churachandpur District
Khaizamang, Male, aged about 16 of Muolphai Village, Churachandpur District
Suaminthang, Male, aged about 26 of Ngulphai Village, Churachandpur District
Khaimuanpao, Male, aged 18 of Geljeng Village, Churachandpur District
Pongjangam, Male, aged 18 of Ngulphai Village, Churachandpur District
Suanthang, Male, aged 26, T. Kotlian Village, Churachandpur District
Khupmuanthang, Male, aged 30 of T. Khaijing Village, Churachandpur District
Douzamang, Male, aged 50 of M. Khenglam Village, Churachandpur District
Henkholian, Male, aged 20 of Ngulphai Village, Churachandpur District
Bunglianching, Female, aged 30 of Mollum Village, Churachandpur District

List of People injured:

17) February 20, 2006: Sexual harassment and torture of Miss Maibam Naobi of Yairipok Leirangthel, Thoubal District by Thoubal Police Commandoes

Miss Maibam Naobi Chanu (26), d/o Maibam Shyamjai, resident of Yairipok Leirangthel, Thoubal District, Manipur arrested from Khangabok Part III, Thoubal District by Thoubal Police Commandoes without issuing arrest memo and without the presence of female police personnel. Miss Naobi was molested and sexually harassed inside the jeep by the Police personnel where she fainted on numerous circumstances during her 9 day detention at Thoubal Police Station.

The Police claimed that she was arrested on 22 February 2006 at 8:00 P.M from the courtyard of Late Kh. Bikash and was charged of being “an associate of the party that ambushed Police Personnel at Thoubal on 20 February 2006 and for being the girl friend of Late Bikash (killed in the ambush)”. An

FIR bearing number 25(2), 06 of Thoubal Police Station under Section 20 of Unlawful Prevention (Activities) Act was registered against her. She was released after 9 days in police custody after the Chief Judicial Magistrate discharged her case on 2/3/2006. Widespread protest and people's agitation followed demanding prosecution of the involved police personnel. The state government of Manipur in response, appointed a Commission of Inquiry to be presided by Justice SP Rajkhawa (retired Judge) on 16 March 2006 and to submit the report within two months. The inquiry was already completed by the police personnel continues to remain scot free without any prosecution.

18) 30 January 2006: Custodial Killing of L. Premananda of Kongpal, Imphal East District by Imphal East Police Commandoes

Mr. L. Premananda (25), resident of Kongpal, Imphal East District was killed after arrest from Nongpok Sanjenbam Road by the Imphal East Police Commandoes on 30 January 2006. Mr. Premananda was on his way to order some furniture items for his eldest sister's marriage, when he was stopped for frisking by Police Commandoes. He was charged of being an insurgent and killed at Mangjil Sabal Leikai Kshetrigao, Imphal East District. Later police claim that he was charged as being an insurgent coming out of a robbery and being killed in an encounter with the police. Family says the motive of the police was to confiscate Rs. 85,000 and a mobile which the deceased carry.

People demanded that the involved police personnel be punished and to return the belongings of Premananda. However the police further responded with more harassment of family and locals for launching democratic protest.

19) 21 March 2006: Torture of three residents of Maphou near Mapithel Dam Site by Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB)

Mr. Seikhohao Lupheng (25), s/o Thonglhum, Tongkho-hao Lupho (23), s/o Khom-let, Jangkhoham Touthang (24) s/o Jamkhosei, Hen-Minlien Mate (24), s/o Thangkhosei Mate, Sei-Khopao Lupheng (25), s/o Sokhulun Lupheng from Maphou, all resident of Maphou Village, near Mapithel Dam site were tortured by the Indian Reserve Battalion, stationed near Maphou Village to protect the Mapithel Dam Site on 21 March 2006. Two Indian Reserve Battalion personnel attempted to molest two women near the dam site, who alerted the local villagers. All the four victims intervene to save the women. However, the IRB personnel later arrested them and taken to their camp and tortured them.

20) July 26, 2006: Extrajudicial Execution of S.N Premson (25), s/o S.N Bungthol resident of Leingangching, under Waikhong Police Station, Manipur by 21 Assam Rifles

Personnel of 21 Assam Rifles shot to death Mr. S.N Premson, s/o S.N Bungthol of Leingangching under Waikhong Police Station, Manipur at the latrine of his residence around midnight of 26 July 2006. Mr. Premson, student of United College, Manipur was answering nature's call when the personnel of 21 Assam Rifles in the pretext of flushing out insurgents from around and his village of Leingangching, fired several rounds of ammunitions and killed him instantaneously. Despite people's protest, there has been no inquiry and no prosecution of the involved Assam Rifles personnel.

21) August 31, 2006: Extra-judicial killing of Mr. Longjam Surjit, resident of Samurou, Manipur by 22 Maratha Light Infantry based at Mayang Imphal, Imphal East District

Mr. Longjam Surjit (18), s/o of Longjam Kulla of Samurou Makha Leikai, Wangoi police station, Imphal East District was killed by personnel of 22 Maratha Light Infantry, based at Mayang Imphal on

the night of 31 August 2006. Army authorities Claimed Mr. Surjit was killed in an encounter. The residents of Samurou Makha Leikai rejected the statement of the Army authorities that Mr. Longjam Surjit was killed in an encounter with the personnel around at around 1.30 am at Meijrao village. While the security forces claimed recovery of one .38 pistol along with one magazine with two live rounds of ammunition, the family of the deceased maintained that the slain youth was innocent and had gone out that unfortunate night with a friend, identified as Naorem Brajamani of Samurou Naorem Chaprou to search for a missing horse. Naorem Brajamani had testified to media persons on 1 September 2006, saying that while they were searching for the missing horse on the banks of the Nambul river, where he stopped on the eastern bank to answer nature's call, while Longjam Surjit proceeded on alone to look for the missing horse.

Massive peoples protest followed the extrajudicial execution of Mr. Longjam Surjit demanding the prosecution of the involved personnel of 22 Maratha Light Infantry and to repeal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

22) Attempt for Arbitrary Arrest of Mr. Atau Rehman (40), resident of Sangaiyumpham, Thoubal District by 7th and 38th Assam Rifles from Sangaiyumnam Village on 17 September 2007.

On 17th September 2007, a combined force led jointly by Major Jitendra of 7th Assam Rifles posted at Thanga village and Major Rajendra of 38th Assam Rifles posted at Thoubal launched an operation at Sangaiyumpham in Thoubal District at around 9 pm. Some of the Assam Rifles personal were in civil uniform and as they tried to take away Mr. Atau Rehman, the local residents of Sangaiyumpham revolted and prevented the security personnel from arresting him.

The Assam Rifles personnel who were hiding outside fired several rounds of ammunitions to disperse the mob. However, the infuriated mob set on fire two Gypsies and a Tata Sumo belonging to the Army. The gutted Tata Sumo and the vehicles were later pushed down in the Wangjing River. Later, Thoubal District Police commandos led by S.P. Th. Radheshyam rushed to the spot. Sources maintained that the 7th AR contacted the 38th AR for additional forces and launched operation in Sangaiyumpham area. If not for the peoples uprising and timely response, the live of Atau Rehman would have faced uncertain situation.

The Assam Rifles personnel has flouted the directives or the Indian Supreme Court's directives in 1997 that before launching any search and raids, definite information about the activity has to be intimated to the local civil authorities, to include representative of local civil administration during the raid and the arrest making authority, whether police or armed personnel to carry or bear visible, accurate and clear identification and name tags, with designation[D.K. Basu judgment]. No investigation on the incident and prosecution of the responsible army personnel is recorded till date.

23) Extra Judicial Execution of Mr. Sabir Khan (17), resident of Irong Chesaba Mayai Leikai by 22 Maratha Light Infantry posted at Mayang Imphal, Manipur on 14 October 2007

On the festive day of Eid Mubarak, 14 October 2007 at around 7:20 p.m. Mr. Sabir Khan of Mayang Imphal Irong Chesaba Mayai Leikai, who was purchasing edible items from a store at Mayang Imphal Chirai just opposite to his residence was shot to dead by the personnel of 22 Maratha Light Infantry near his home. Before firing several rounds of ammunitions, he was stopped and forced to lie down on the ground on the bridge. Mr. Salimuddin, a witness and from the same village of the deceased saw

Mr. Sabir forced to lie down near the bridge alone and heard the army personnel asking questions to name members of underground activists. The infuriated locals stormed the post of 22nd Martha Light Infantry at Mayang Imphal but police personnel arrived and dispersed them with tear gas, mock bomb, rubber bullet etc. The PRO (Army) claimed that a troop of the MLI were carrying out patrolling and that 3/ 4 armed persons started firing indiscriminately on the patrolling party. Patrolling party did not retaliate against the attackers because there were a thick crowd, enjoying Eid Festival including women, children and old one. The attackers also killed one civilian, Sabir Khan. Taking advantage in this situation, they escaped from them.

Later, a Memorandum of Understanding between the JAC against the Extra Judicial Killing of MD Sabir Khan by 22nd MLI and Government of Manipur was signed in the office chamber of the Chief Minister of Manipur, agreeing to:

1. look into the killing and find out the actual culprits to be punished as per law,
2. look into the possibility of repeal of Armed Forces (Special) Power Act, 1958.
3. make any effort to prevent recurrence of such incident in future, and
4. examine the feasibility of instituting the Judicial Enquiry in connection with the incident