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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Innocent Naga villagers in India are Living in Constant Fear and Trauma

Our organization would like to highlight the situation in the conflict-embroiled state of Nagaland located in northeast India. The innocent Naga villagers are living in constant fear and trauma due to war-like situations created by the joint military operations and intensified by the covid-19 pandemic.

The ongoing problem in Nagaland can be traced back to the movement for Right to Self-determination of the Nagas that started soon after India's Independence. The Indian Government on its part saw this movement as one which is unconstitutional and unwarranted. Therefore, in order to suppress the Naga movement, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958 was enforced in the State. This Act has enabled the armies to use their power as an instrument in tackling the problem. This Act has caused great human sufferings leading to systematic violations of human rights. The Government of India deployed armies and paramilitary forces in Nagaland and began to counter Naga militants. This massive deployment of armed security forces destroys Naga people's lives, they can't even feel safe at home as their daily lives are constantly disrupted by random searches, in which soldiers mistreat these families and especially women.

Nagaland is one of the few states which does not have a State Human Rights Commission. Nevertheless, the Indian National Human Rights Commission ensured in the Protection of Human Rights Act published in 2019. COVID-19 enhanced the already chaotic situation, the Unified Command of Manipur, consisting of the Assam Rifles, the Manipur Police and the Indian Reserve Battalions are moving in full combat gear to raid the camps and hideouts of the Naga armies in the border villages, defying the nationwide lockdown in India.

We denounced such militarization of normal civil life and the human rights violations that it implies. We are expressing grave concerns over the rapid deterioration of the security situation in Naga inhabited areas in the Northeast region of India and northwestern part of Myanmar; we request the United Nations to intervene to warrant ceasefires between the Nagas and the Indian state. We suggest to recognise the Nagas as indigenous people under the United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People.

The everyday violations of human rights by India's security forces give us very limited hopes from India and so we request this council to set up commission of inquiry to access grave human rights violations in Nagaland and other North East Regions that were affected by Armed Forces Special Power Act.

We look forward to a positive response from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the situation of human rights defenders.
