

AFSPA 1958 An Eye-sore to Anti-national Elements Jagdamba Mall

An English Daily published from Dimapur – **Nagaland Post** reported in its editorial **“Neither East nor West”** dated 19.01.2009 quoting **South Asian Intelligence** – **“201 people were killed in various incidents due to factional violence in Nagaland. The statistics would indicate that on an average around one person were killed in two days during last year (2008). There were 244 insurgency related incidents during the year 2008 in which 130 activists of different underground cadres were killed while three law enforcement agency personnel and thirty civilians were killed during the same period.”** The **Nagaland Post** reported further, **“People want that the turf of war between factions must stop so also rampant extortion and abduction, all for money. People want peace to prevail and this means that those responsible for the maintenance of law and order should ensure that no one is allowed to circumvent the law”**. **“Because of this”**, writes **The Nagaland Post**, **“many businessman have left Dimapur due to the problems they face and unfortunately “compromise” formula means only a brief respite or a brittle truce which could be abrogated anytime by those who write their own law”**. This was the reason that NSCN(K) camp in Mokochung town was attacked by the people of the town and armed cadres were chased. An underground cadre was beaten to death in the packed court in **Tuensang** by enraged mob few years before. Only in very recent past in April 2006, the **Phek Area Public Organization (PAPO)** asked both the factions NSCN(IM) and NSCN(K) to leave the vicinity of **Pfutsero Town** because of their anti-people activities. There have been a frequent **“Peace”** and **“Reconciliation”** meeting organized mostly by the Church and sometimes by **Naga Hoho** joined by other civic organizations but the peace and tranquility is nowhere to be seen.

The situation in Manipur has become worse than Nagaland. In Nagaland, there are four underground organizations- NSCN(IM), NSCN(K), NSCN(U) and NNC. But in Manipur, there are reportedly 28 undergrounds organizations of Nagas, Kukis and Meiteis. Frequent killings, ethnic clashes and robbery, National Highway blockade and bunds have worsened Manipur more than Nagaland. **To fill the coffers, the militants are smuggling explosives like RDX, narcotic drugs from notorious Golden Triangle and lethal weapons and fire-arms from Cox-Bazaar of Bangladesh.** Not that people do not raise their voice against these excesses by militants. For this, they had to pay heavy price. Several of opponents are murdered. **The people of Heirok are remembered throughout the northeast for their heroic deed of opposing militants. The media men who supported the helpless public were also killed. Now, the traders from other states are targeted. Only on 23rd March one Deepak Gupta, 40, a resident of Haryana was gunned by miscreants in Imphal.**

The condition in Asom is no better. As reported in Guwahati based media, at least 10,000 criminals are moving freely in and around Guwahati city alone. The preoccupation with militancy related matters is cited as a reason behind the ineffective role of police in checking city crimes. Because of this preoccupation coupled with political patronage of criminals and militants, there is, though warranted, no matching response from the morally down police. The helpless people, then, look towards army for reprieve from militants and professional criminals. Here also, those who stand for

innocent masses are targeted. The executive editor of a vernacular daily, Aiji, Anil Majumdar was gunned down on 24th March by unidentified gunmen. **The Northeast Frontier Railway withdrew train services from Lumding - Silchar section after an unsuccessful attempt by militants to blow up tracks in North Cachar Hills on March 23. This has raised fears of more attacks on railway staff and property.** DHD(J) is allegedly involved in it. The order of withdrawal of railway, according to the railway sources, was to be in force indefinitely. The DHD(J) has demanded that construction of BG line, Mahasadak and running of trains between Lumding and Silchar be stopped till its demand is fulfilled. The militants of Dima Halom Daoga (Jewel) and Dima Halom Daoga (Dilip) have allegedly killed over two hundred innocent people in N.C.Hills district of Assam from January 2008 till March 2009. On March 19, **Rajdhani Express** narrowly missed a blast on the tracks in Karbi Anglong. The **Karbi Longri National Liberation Front (KLNLF)** was suspected to have triggered the explosion. These are the tip of the iceberg. The bomb explosions in Guwahati, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh have taken the toll of several hundred innocent lives. Over two dozen militant organizations including ULFA and ISI are allegedly masterminding the attacks and social upheavals. Because of ULFA militancy helped by notorious ISI, 20,000 innocent people of Asom have been killed. The **Changlong** and **Tirap** districts of Arunachal Pradesh is worst victim of factional fight between NSCN(IM) and NSCN(K) who are attacking each other in quest of gaining dominance. In the process, the people of the area are torn asunder. The Christian missionaries have their hey day. They have their rich harvest by converting the victim people of Arunachal Pradesh.

The militancy related social upheavals have their reflections on the states of Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram also. **The whole of Northeast region is connected with main land by 30 km wide Siliguri-neck. Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, USA, UK and other foreign countries hostile to Bharatvarsh are active in this region through their agencies like Church, NGOs, madrassa, masjid and their informers to slit from this narrow-neck.**

With this view in mind, Army has to perform their duties assigned to them i.e. to control the militancy and restore the law and order. This is certainly unpleasant to underground organizations because they want unrestricted movement for causing chaos in whole of the Northeast region and invite the enemy across the international border.

To deal with abnormal situation, the Army needs power. Here comes the need of **Armed Forces Special Power Act 1958** as **Prevention of Terrorism Acts (POTA)** is felt necessary to contain the terrorism throughout the country. This is the reason that Human Rightists in league with terrorist organizations demand the repeal of AFSPA 1958 at every available opportunity. The lady – Irom Charu Sharmila of Imphal is used as shield by militant organizations. She is, reportedly, on indefinite fast demanding the repeal of AFSPA 1958.

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