



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 June 2016

English only

Human Rights Council

Thirty-second session

Agenda item 3

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

Written statement* submitted by the World Barua Organization, 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.

[30 May 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-09487(E)



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Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women

Mr. President,

We welcome the opportunity to speak on the issue of violence against women in India and would like to follow up on the Special Rapporteur's report of 2014 (A/HRC/26/38/Add.1) after visiting Manipur. Unfortunately, one of the main recommendations to the Government of India, to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958(para. 78f) is yet to be implemented. Also, the perpetrators of sexual violence are still protected under AFSPA, and the victims and their families are denied from justice till date. For instance, husbands of 1,200 women killed by the Indian army and police are yet to be given justice and full compensation because the demand for self-determination is going on in Manipur and other north east states of India.

We also would like to draw your attention to the case of Mrs. Irom Chanu Sharmila who has been arrested for more than a decade for protesting against AFSPA via hunger strike. Mrs. Sharmila was released in 2015 and 2016 by Indian courts but still she is in prison because the Government of India refuses to act in accordance with the courts' rulings.

We request the Human Rights Council to urge the Government of India in order to:

- (a) Invite the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women for follow up visit to review in particular the cases of violence against women under AFSPA;
- (b) Release Mrs. Sharmila immediately and take legal action against the Indian police officers who have committed cruel treatment to her in 2015;
- (c) Repeal AFSPA of 1958.

Thank You Mr President.
