



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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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 Liberation, a non- governmental organization on the roster**

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

[30 May 2021]

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



## **Indian Government Ignore Adivasi population Human rights and save nature**

My organization would like to share that under international human rights law, governments have an obligation to ensure people's right to an adequate standard of living, so that everyone enjoys the rights necessary to live in dignity, including the rights to adequate housing for the development of the country. India is party to a number of international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which prohibit forced evictions. In the early 21st century the Adivasi population of India was more than 84 million, with the majority living in the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland. Smaller numbers inhabit the hills and forests of central and southern India as well as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the remote Indian villages of the Niyamgiri hill range, the region's natural environment and the livelihoods of the native Adivasi people are under constant risk of governmental and industrial incursion. The violence, displacement, persecution, and imprisonment of these Indigenous minorities for protecting their bauxite-rich land underscores the injustice the Indian government has been perpetrating in the name of economic profit. Their total disregard for the Adivasis is deplorable.

In India Industry interests to mine bauxite and develop aluminium drove the nationalist and neoliberal Indian government to attempt to forcibly displace these people. In total disregard of the National Forest Policy of 1988 and the Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act of 2006 (otherwise known as the FRA Forest Rights Act), the government has failed to properly create conservation reserves and recognize traditional land claims. Without this legal recognition, the Adivasi's homeland is at further risk of exploitation and destruction, not to mention the displacement of thousands, depending on the village. Adivasis, who constitute about 8% of India's population, rely on their lands and forests for their livelihoods. They have been frequently displaced from their lands by laws such as the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, which does not require authorities to consult affected communities or seek the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, as stipulated under international law and standards. Their economic and social parameters are the lowest in the country. The government's slow and reluctant response in helping the Adivasi was inversely mirrored by its enthusiasm to grant bauxite mining permits to Vedanta LTD and Odisha Mining Corporation. The Indian government's choice to prioritize economic over human interests illustrates how those in power are fuelled by greed and are careless to the needs of their own people. A local Adivasi activist Lado Sikaka said that "Let our blood flow like a river, but we won't allow mining,"

The Indian Government is cutting down forests, digging up mountains and displacing its inhabitants in the name of economic developments. How Indian Government is violating Adivasi population Human rights and destroying the natural environment. We urge UNHRC to recommend government of India to take a series of steps to protect Adivasi rights and save natural environment.

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 issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

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