



General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 September 2021

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

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 Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, 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.

[22 August 2021]

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



Freedom of Expression

Human rights defenders seek the promotion and protection of civil and political rights, as well as the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. However, India does not hold any space for Human rights defenders and their freedom of expression.

This organization would like to bring to your attention the latest arrests of human rights defenders in India. Laishram herojit singh, alias sintha, is a human rights defender and a strong advocate against the powerful drug Nexus in the region. He is the general secretary of the coalition against drug and alcohol (cada) in the Thoubal district, which is a civil society organization campaigning against the impact of drug and alcohol abuse.

On April 7th, 2021, human rights defender laishram herojit singh, alias sintha, was arrested at his home by officers from the Thoubal police station in the northeast Indian state of Manipur. The defender was arrested on charges under the unlawful activities (prevention) act for his alleged membership of a militant group. After many efforts, the court accepted the human rights defender's bail application on the 12th of April, however the charges against him would remain. Such incidents happen all the time in India.

On 13th May 2021, Agra police arrested an NGO member named Deepali Pandey on a baseless charge that she was duping a woman in Agra under the pretense of obtaining Remdesivir injections and defrauding her of Rs 70,000. In fact, the reason behind her arrest was because she openly spoke about the Human rights. Human rights Defenders are deeply concerned about the arbitrary arrests and judicial harassment towards NGO members. We would like to request the Human Rights Council to kindly communicate with the Indian government to stop harassing the citizens, and to drop all the charges levelled upon human rights defenders, journalists in India.
