



ASIAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Assam: The largest conflict induced IDPs of the world in 2014 reel under a massive humanitarian crisis

I. Executive summary

Over 3,00,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), who are the largest conflict induced IDPs of the world in 2014, are currently reeling under a man-made humanitarian crisis in 85 relief camps in four districts of Assam i.e. Sonitpur, Kokrajhar, Udalguri and Chirang districts. Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) after field visit to the camps found that the State government of Assam has been hesitant to fully extend humanitarian assistance to all the IDPs in order to prevent more displacement and reduce cost of rehabilitation. The IDPs have been fleeing following attacks by the National Democratic Front of Bodoland of Songbijit faction (NDFB-S) on 23 December 2014 on the Adivasis in Sonitpur, Kokrajhar and Chirang districts of Assam. In these selective and random attacks on the

Adivasis more than 80 Adivasis including women and children were killed. The NDFB(S) cadres reportedly targeted the Adivasis suspecting them of passing information to the security forces, which had conducted counter-insurgency operation against the group that had killed three of its cadres on 21 December 2014. Following the attacks by the NDFB(S) on 23 December 2014, there have been stray incidents of the Adivasis targeting the Bodo civilians.

These attacks have resulted displacement of the largest number of people in the conflicts in the world in 2014 in Assam. Thousands of people, mainly Adivasis and a few thousand Bodos, left their homes out of fear and took shelter in relief camps set up by the State Government of Assam in Sonitpur, Kokrajhar, Udalguri and Chirang districts. Many Adivasis have

fled to neighbouring States of Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal.

II. The largest conflict induced displacement in the world in 2014

Both the relief camps and displaced persons have been increasing as more and more people have been leaving their homes to places of safety following the attacks by the NDFB(S).

As per information gathered by Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) from 85 relief camps, there were 3,00,273 displaced persons taking shelter in these relief camps in Sonitpur, Kokrajhar, Udalguri and Chirang districts as on 27 December 2014. Out of these IDPs, there were 2,87,182 Adivasis sheltered in 65 relief camps in Kokrajhar, Chirang, Sonitpur and Udalguri districts. These include 29 camps in Kokrajhar district, 27 camps in Chirang district, 6 camps in Sonitpur district, and 3 camps in Udalguri district.

There are about 13,091 displaced Bodos taking shelter in 20 relief camps in Chirang district. Out of these 20 relief camps, three camps with a population of 2,219 Bodo inmates are unregistered camps.

The list of the relief camps and inmates is given at Annexure-I is not exhaustive.

III. Dismal camp conditions

On 27 December 2014, a team of Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) comprising Sabda Ram Rabha, Director of ACHR in the North East region and assisted by Mr. Kanhu Murmu, Chairman of Adivasi Development Council, Mr Raphael Kujur, President of All Assam Adivasi Students Association, Mr Joseph Minz, General Secretary of All Assam Adivasi Students Association and Mr John Kujur, Central Sport Secretary of All Assam Adivasi Students Association conducted field visits in three relief camps namely Jiagabharu High School Relief Camp, Hugrajuli Relief Camp and Tinsuti Relief camp in Sonitpur district to assess the camp conditions.

ACHR's team could not collect information from all the relief camps as curfew was imposed in Sonitpur and Udalguri districts. Some relief camps are located in remote places and the police did not allow visit to these interior places for security reasons.

1. Jiagabharu High School Relief Camp

As the name suggests the school has been converted into a relief camp. There are 1,611 inmates, all Adivasis, in this relief camp. The In-charge of the relief camp is Dhiraj Tirkey. ACHR team found the camp overcrowded and lack basic facilities.

ACHR team interviewed Mrs Malati Murmu, aged 25 years, an inmate of the camp. Mrs Murmu told the ACHR team that she is a resident of Dayalpur village under Dhekiajuli Police Station in Sonitpur district and fled her home with family due to fear after suspected members of NDFB (S) came and threatened the villagers that they will be killed and their houses will be burnt. With respect to camp condition, Mrs Murmu stated that the authorities have not provided warm clothes, baby food, safe drinking water and no provisions for pregnant women and lactating mothers. Food items are being supplied by local public and organisations. Due to lack of warm clothes the inmates had to use straws to keep themselves warm in the winter nights.

Sanitation and hygiene are almost non-existent. There are only three latrines for 1611 inmates in the relief camp. The inmates had to depend on two tube-wells for all purposes including for drinking.

2. Hugrajuli Relief Camp

There are 1000 inmates at Hugrajuli Relief Camp. All the inmates are Adivasis. Salkhu Tudu is the Camp In-Charge. This camp is also overcrowded and lack basic facilities.

ACHR team interviewed an inmate of the camp namely Tala Hembrom, aged 45 years, who fled from Hatijuli village under Dhekiajuli

in Sonitpur district. Tala Hembrom fled his home out of fear following the attacks by the NDBF (S). Tala Hembrom told the ACHR team that the facilities in the camp are poor and the provisions and other essentials provided by the authorities are grossly inadequate for the inmates. The camp lacks hygiene and sanitation.

3. Tinsuti Relief Camp

Tinsuti Relief Camp also houses Adivasi displaced persons. Kurbedwar Marandi is the camp In-Charge. ACHR team found the relief camp very overcrowded. There were 3885 inmates in the camp.

ACHR team interviewed an inmate namely Muntu Hembrom, aged 28 years, who fled his home from No.10 Phulbai village under Biswanath Chariali police station in Sonitpur district. He shared the same story as Mrs Malati Murmu and Tala Hembrom. He informed the ACHR team that the food including baby food, medicines, clothes, provisions for pregnant women and lactating mothers are grossly inadequate. There is total absence of sanitation. Drinking water facilities are grossly inadequate for the large number of inmates. Expert and emergency care for infants and the pregnant women are not in place.

IV. Recommendations

In the light of the grave humanitarian crisis, Asian Centre for

Human Rights recommends to the State Government of Assam to take the following measures:

- Take urgent measures to fully extend humanitarian assistance including access to adequate shelter, food, utensils, baby food, clothes, health care, water facility, toilets, etc to all the displaced persons irrespective of whether their villages were directly attacked or not by the NDFB(S);
- Rehabilitate the displaced persons by providing adequate assistance such as housing

assistance per family, food rations for six months;

- Ensure that no relief camp is forcibly closed down and inmates are not forced to leave the relief camps; and
- Provide security to the IDPs voluntarily willing to return to their villages with a clear programme of action including deployment of security forces to ensure non-repetition of such heinous attacks.

Annexure-I: Number of relief camps and displaced persons

Sl. No	Name of Relief Camps	Community	District	Population
1.	Tinisuti Relief Camp	Adivasi	Sonitpur	3885
2.	Samakjuli Relief Camp-A	Adivasi	Sonitpur	2084
3.	Samakjuli Relief Camp-B	Adivasi	Sonitpur	937
4.	Hugrajuli Relief Camp	Adivasi	Sonitpur	1000
5.	Jiagabru High School	Adivasi	Sonitpur	1611
6.	Sonajuli Relief Camp	Adivasi	Sonitpur	1000
7.	Lamabari Tea Estate	Adivasi	Udalguri	281
8.	Bahipukhuri Tea Estate Line No. 7	Adivasi	Udalguri	191
9.	Bahipukhuri Tea Estate Line No. 16	Adivasi	Udalguri	120
10	Janaligaon Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	8530
11	Sapkata Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	17177
12	Balagaon Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	40770
13	Lalachor Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	3937
14	Panbari LP School Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	4310
15	Gurufela High School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	5436
16	Joymagaon	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	10207

17	Soraibil Mission	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	2380
18	Soraibil Academy School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	6707
19	South Koimari LP School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	947
20	Kachugaon Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	34501
21	Saljuri PHC Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	9359
22	Pecadabri LP School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	3173
23	Silaimatha LP School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	2480
24	Hurkom LP School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	817
25	Duibini LP School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	1100
26	Pandragaon LP School	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	772
27	Borobil Singmundu Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	7690
28	Jalpara Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	541
29	Jaypur Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	15570
30	Lungsung Kodomguri Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	11545
31	Gourinagar Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	1680
32	Amguri Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	6260
33	Karigaon Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	800
34	Monglajora Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	3000
35	Patgaon Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	9789
36	Athiabari Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	5235
37	Pakruguri Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	9060
38	Anthabari Relief Camp	Adivasi	Kokrajhar	1620
39	Pachim Golajhora Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	6250
40	Momerangbari Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	3463
41	Bhurpar Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	2602
42	Kanthalmari Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	7846
43	Khatribari Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	660
44	Thaikajhora Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	670
45	Nagdolbari Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	3500
46	Bhangatola Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	671
47	Rabontola Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	1000
48	Tibetola Relief Camp	Adivasi	Chirang	300
49	Mahanpur	Adivasi	Chirang	1280
50	Deoshri RC	Adivasi	Chirang	6120
51	Garubhasa SSB	Adivasi	Chirang	374
52	Deoshri BRO Office	Adivasi	Chirang	2100
53	Nangdorbari LP School	Adivasi	Chirang	2700
54	Pachim Golajhar LP & 2 No. Garsingpara	Adivasi	Chirang	1477
55	Uttar Dakingaon Church	Adivasi	Chirang	400

56	Odalguri LPS	Adivasi	Chirang	2050
57	Bhur Par Adibashi Sahid Bhaban	Adivasi	Chirang	2580
58	Mojabari	Adivasi	Chirang	250
59	Jaoliabari	Adivasi	Chirang	300
60	Birgaon	Adivasi	Chirang	300
61	Momer Ambari	Adivasi	Chirang	2000
62	Dakhin Bamungaon	Adivasi	Chirang	162
63	Nangdolbari Komola Mandir	Adivasi	Chirang	800
64	Santipur Samabay Samiti	Adivasi	Chirang	650
65	Narayanpur	Adivasi	Chirang	175
66	Champa Bazar	Bodo	Chirang	3000
67	Malandhubi LPS	Bodo	Chirang	410
68	North & South Berengshiguri LPS	Bodo	Chirang	620
69	Laokriguri Club	Bodo	Chirang	210
70	Garubhasa Bithorai ME School	Bodo	Chirang	375
71	Garubhasa High School	Bodo	Chirang	210
72	Garubhasa Alonbar LPS	Bodo	Chirang	445
73	Runikhata LP & ME School	Bodo	Chirang	1200
74	Khungring High School	Bodo	Chirang	599
75	Ashrabari MV School	Bodo	Chirang	450
76	Batabari LP School & Kashibari	Bodo	Chirang	1200
77	Kaolabazar	Bodo	Chirang	800
78	Santipur Khagrabari	Bodo	Chirang	487
79	Laoripara LP School	Bodo	Chirang	484
80	Jwitupara LPS	Bodo	Chirang	70
81	Lakhipur LPS	Bodo	Chirang	201
82	Patabari LPS	Bodo	Chirang	111
83	Urbhushi Girls High School (Unregistered)	Bodo	Chirang	454
84	Gendergaon LPS (Unregistered)	Bodo	Chirang	1165
85	Choto Pathorgaon LPS (Unregistered)	Bodo	Chirang	600
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