NSCN Takes Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal and New Delhi for Long Ride by Danial Martin

Article published on May 21st 2012 | Politics

On 10 January 2012, NSCN-IM chairman Isak Chisi Swu and general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah were on their way from their camp at Hebron to Swu's home town, Zunheboto in a large convoy of about 70 vehicles, when they were stopped and prevented to go any further by Assam Rifles personnel.

Expressing anger over the development, former 'military chief' of NSCN-IM, VS Atem, in a press conference few days later in Dimapur such a restriction by Ministry of Home Affairs amounted to violation the ground rules of the ceasefire.

The Government of India wants to solve the Naga political problem. The Nagas want the solution. However, if we don't meet our people for consultation how can we move forward in solving the problem ? fumed Atem.

Meanwhile, Wati Aier, convener of Forum for Naga Reconciliation conveyed this news to John Sundquist, member of UK based Naga Conciliation Group and Quakers Friends Society and complained about â€œmassive deployment of Indian Army near Hebron Campâ€¦.. created difficulties for movement of NSCN-IM cadres to and from the Orthodox Theological Seminary (OTS)â€• and about him being frisked by the Indian Army twice, on his way to and from OTS every day.

Aier further requested Sundquist to issue a statement widely to media in the name of a groups such as â€˜Friends of the Nagasâ€™ or â€˜Naga Solidarity Groupâ€™, on the present situation in Nagaland. Interestingly, he specifically requested not to involve the Baptist community while issuing the statement . The suggested draft of the statement was: â€œThe world community has followed the â€˜Peac Processâ€™ between the Government of India and the Naga people under the leadership of the NSCN with hope. While we (Friends of the Nagas / Naga Solidarity Group) still remain hopeful of dawning of a new era, the restriction imposed upon the NSCN leadership from traveling to Zunheboto, is â€˜undemocratic and contrary to the Cease Fire agreementâ€™â€¦. we urge the concerned government to act favorablyâ€•.

While the Centreâ€™s indulgence of NSCN (IM) leaders resulted in over three months blockades in Manipur in 2010 and 2011, not only has the group been trigger happy, but is also very â€˜trigger hungryâ€™, so to speak. One of the orders the outfit is pursuing is of 800 wpns worth USD 1.2 million, a deal struck by Anthony Shimray with the Chinese company TCL. The outfit enlisted Frans Welman, Secretary, Naga International Support Centre (NISC), Netherlands to negotiate with TCL on its behalf and has reportedly visited China for the same. This not only makes an utter mockery not only of the peace process and ground-rules of the cease fire, but also of NSCN (IM)â€™s talk of â€œhonourâ€• exposes its duality and deviousness of NSCN(IM) and also tantamount to letting down the Naga people.

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Article Keywords:
india pakistan, india pakistan relations, india pakistan relationship

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