

Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT)

To,
The Chief Secretary
Government of Sikkim

Gangtok, 26th July 2007

Sir,

Reference your letter No 77/skm/CS/2007,

the undersigned would like to state the following:

1. That, the ACT does not have any objection on the composition of the Review committee as long as the chairman is an independent person and our nominees are part of the committee
2. The ACT considers it very unfortunate and matter of serious concern if someone had mentioned about "BOMB BLAST" but as far as we are concerned we have no knowledge of it and it would have been appropriate if immediate action had been taken at that point of time so that the identity person could have been established and prevent such expression from being repeated again.
3. The ACT is in full agreement with the observation of the State Government that there is the influence of vested interest in the issued involved. Particularly after the Pamphlet "ACT Hoshiyar" has been circulated openly in Gangtok. Under the circumstances we request the state Government to immediately investigate into the matters printed in the pamphlet and take strict action on the Publishers and printers of such publication which threatens the lives of the Indigenous aborigines of the State of Sikkim.
4. The ACT has appealed to the Central Empowered committee for stay on the Environmental clearance given to Panan HE P as there has been perceived violation on the Supreme Court order. ACT has filed the appeal reposing full faith in the judiciary and it involves basically the environmental issues. Whereas we have been requesting the state Government for relief on maintaining the sanctity of Dzongu in view of the Article 371 F and other issues relating to socio-religio aspects of the Projects
5. As far as the issue of Letter head bearing affected citizens of Sikkim instead of Affected Citizens of Teesta it is just a typing error. However, on the issue of so called unlawful Blockade of highway it is outside the preview of the ACT, as it was show of peaceful solidarity expressed by the Lepchas of a different State.
6. As far as issue of infiltration of the ACT by anti-social Elements and the organization being influenced by vested and outside forces. We do not believe that ACT on its own has not been infiltrated but it is possible that many such element are taking advantage of the situation arising out the Stayagrah started by ACT. We are also seriously concerned about such possibilities and have cautioned our members against such elements.
7. It is unfortunate that State Government feels that there cannot be any fruitful decision from further meeting citing reason which is beyond our control. Infact we had welcomed and accepted

the content of the letter dated 25th July 2007. We feel that our asking for the Notification is a legitimate request and an outcome of your assurance of setting up a Review Committee.

8. In light of your observation that the issue of ACT being misused by Anti-social and Anti State Element, we are seriously seized by the possibility of such an situation and therefore, request the State Government to kindly notify the Review Committee at the earliest possible time or to enable us to call off the Hunger Strike .You may also agree with us that if the notification of the Review committee gets delayed beyond reasonable period of time then it compromises the assurance Given By the Hon'ble Chief Minister through your letter dated 25th July 2007. Therefore, we would like to request you that in the interest of the State and lives of our two valiant sincere youths, the basic Issue and the effort of so many well meaning People to find an amicable solution should not be hampered by technicalities or Personal Agendas of some people involved.

9. We would like to reiterate that the "Satyagra" is the most Democratic and peaceful form of self expression, started by the Father of the Nation. It is through this medium of Non-violence that we attained our Independence. ACT is fully prepared to face the consequences of our Search for truth and Justice. Under the circumstance, the present dispensation in the Administration and the political Leadership should be responsible if the Glorious image of Sikkim as a peaceful State is tarnished owing to violation of the basic democratic and Human rights of the indigenous Primitive aborigines of the State .Further, the Administration should be responsible if the peaceful movement of the people is allowed to be hijacked by Anti-National, Anti-Sikkimese and Anti-Social element.

10. Since, the Peaceful solution to the issue has also been due to the delay caused by the Government. if any thing happens to the two Youths battling for their lives in STNM the Government should be responsible for the outcome.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

(Athup Lepcha)

Enclosed: Copy of Pamphlet "ACT Hoshiyar".