

# **Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT)**

## **Press Release**

**12th February 2009**

1 The Sikkim Power Development Corporation had initiated the process of land acquisition in Dzongu on behalf of M/S Himagri hydro Hydro Energy Pvt ltd. for the Panan Hydro electric power Project vide Notification No .17./Land Revenue Department dated 1-6-2007. However, according to another Notification dated 24-6-2008 the above notification had lapsed on 1-6-2008. As such the proper process of land acquisition has not been completed by the District Collector and so the physical occupation of landed property in Dzongu by Himagri Hydro Energy Pvt ltd is violating the law under section 447 of IPC and also violating the Provisions of the Notification No 3069 dated 24-3-1958 and 665/PS dated 27-9-1954. In this regard The ACT will file an FIR in Mangan PS to take action against the General Manager of the Himagri Hydro energy ltd and other companies working in Dzongu for the violation of the above old laws.

2 All the innocent Lepchas of Dzongu who have been arrested by the State don't want to seek bail but instead have been demanding unconditional release. However, in view of the fact that many innocent under aged students have been arrested and as the future of these student are of top most importance in the agenda of the ACT. A bail application has been filed on 12th Feb. in court of the Hon'ble chief Judicial Magistrate to seek the release of the students lodged in the Juvenile Home. Ms Karma Yangchen will appeal on behalf of the students.

3 The ACT also to put on record that after the scrapping of four Hydro electric power projects in Dzongu and the withdrawal of indefinite hunger strike. The Govt of Sikkim through the Power and Energy Department and ACT had started the dialogue process. However, after the first meeting, the Govt of Sikkim never bothered to call for talks nor reported to the organization about the decision of the Govt on the discussion held in that meeting. As such, neglecting the voices of the indigenious aborigines of the state. ACT therefore believes that the Govt of Sikkim is not interested in the welfare of people nor upholds the Democratic values of the Country.

4 The ACT thanks all the individuals and organizations that that extended instantaneous unconditional support to the people's movement.

Tseten Lepcha, Vice President/Chief Coordinator, Affected Citizens of Teesta