

Honourable Chair, independent Experts, distinguished guests, Dear participants, colleagues and excellencies. Greetings and thanks and regards from my community in Bangladesh, I'd like to thank the United Nations for giving the opportunity to attend and to giving presentation. It is mentioned that it is my first international presentation, my presentation will focus on especially indigenous peoples (IPs). My presentation is on the loss of land and livelihood and the impact on minority community Bangla prospectives.

Bangladesh is a small and poor country but very densely populated in the world. It is situated in south-east Asia, there are about 150 million people in Bangladesh, there are different types of minorities in Bangladesh including ethnic minorities, religious minorities and linguistic minorities. The ethnic minorities are known as IP, they are also known as Opodeti in government documents. The ethnic community don't like term Opodeti, they like to introduce themselves as Adivasi or IPs. Media civil society and NGOs like to introduce themselves as Adivasi or IPs. Most of the people in Bangladesh are Muslim, Hindus, Christians and Buddhists are religious minorities in Bangladesh. There are 45 indigenous communities in Bangladesh, who are ethnic minorities also. About 3 million are IP, including hill and plain land area.

In Bangladesh the loss of land among minority communities is a serious problem. Using the vested property act 1971 the mainstream people have been grabbing the land of minorities. They have been evicted from their ancestral land. Land which is life, we cannot think of anything without land, IPs without the land and forest, it's like a zebra without stripes. IPs have lived on their traditional land from time memorial, they have traditional land rights but not recognised in the country, they could not make documents for land because they think of land as their mother. Documents are not needed for saving mother but nowadays mainstream peoples, industrialists and land grabbers are occupying this land forcibly without concern of IPs and without, sorry, without concern of IPs and rehabilitation minorities are being evicted rapidly from customary land and homesteads by [...]. For the region a serious problem has been created for the sustainable livelihoods of IPs.

Minority peoples are facing serious land grabbing problems, false documents, insecurity of property and land, human rights commission are not effective, customary land rights not recognised, evictions from homestead. Their territory has been grabbed in the name of development without their consent and then given other land in recompense. There is no policy to participate in important meetings relating to minority rights at the local and national level. In spite of 5% quotas for IPs in government services this is not followed accordingly and is a land related law for IPs, named State Acquisition and (East Bengal) Tenacy Act 1950 Article 97 in X an approval is needed for X land for non-indigenous peoples. This law is not followed accurately, many mainstream peoples make threats for minorities so that they XXXX, firstly they borrow with high interest, if they cannot recover this money with interest their properties are seized illegally. There is no ministry for minorities however they can complain and demand, and seek justice for human rights violations.

Minorities do not get justice at a local and national level, they don't have enough money to take case to justice, case to court, sorry. Now the IPs have become a minority in their own homelands, for

centuries the IPs in Bangladesh have been facing the severe effects of government policies like land grabbing, forceful migration and human rights violations. Hundreds of X and X villages have completely disappeared, land was the source of life and livelihood for them but land was taken by outsiders from the IPs. After the loss of land, many of the IPs migrated to towns and cities for jobs, thus IPs have become the most marginalised and vulnerable groups in the country.

I'd like to give some recommendation, to solve the problem. Number one to pressure the government to adopt favourable laws, those that recognise the rights of minorities. Number 2 to build national and international campaign that advocate for the rights of minorities. To provide educational support for IPs, to support advocacy work with minorities in local communities, to support the IPs for the development of their organisations at grassroots, national and international level. To implement regarding local law XX 1997, and State Acquisition and Tenancy Act 1950, ILO convention XX and ratify ILO convention 167 and UN X. That is all, thank you.