

Nationalities Unities and Progress Association of China

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Nationalities Unities and Progress Association of China, I am pleased to take part in this forum. The Nationalities Unities and Progress Association of China, as a non-governmental organization of national minorities has always been concerned with the use of police powers against minorities on the part of government's departments. We have taken note that the government of China has constantly pursued a policy of equality, solidarity and common development of all the national minorities and has always treated them equally and without discriminations.

In some criminal cases, police powers were exercised against members of national minorities because they had committed criminal acts, like burglary or terrorist activities. Based on my observation, there are no discrimination phenomena against minorities in the course of administration of justice.

We have also taken note that the Chinese government has already adopted positive measures to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the minorities in the course of administration of justice. For instance, a lot of Chinese cities have established legal support centers for the minorities. Over the last few years, more and more minorities' people have left their native place to migrate to the cities where they face a lot of problems in terms of language, work and adaptation to a new environment and may even be involved in some criminal cases. These legal support centers provide help to them and prevent discrimination or other unfair treatment against them in the course of administration of justice. In the city of Shenzhen in the East of China, where there is a large population of migrant minorities the legal support centers each year provide legal counseling to more than 200 people and coordinate and handle more than 20 legal cases, effectively safeguarding the right to justice of the national minorities. In addition, the government's departments conduct periodic inspections and promote policies and measures in the judiciary with the aim of preventing abuse of police power against the national minorities.

We certainly recognize that at present the government's action to protect the rights of the national minorities in the course of administration of justice needs to be improved, for instance, in some cases the legal support is not provided in a timely manner. For this reason, we are going to supervise and urge its improvement.

Thank you