

Association pour la Solidarite France-Afrique

Thank you, Co- Chair.

As we deliberate on inclusive societies, fascist governments have demeaned democracy through populists schemes of wiping out minorities. In the mineral rich Indian state of Manipur, until October 7th, 175 people were killed in clashes between the majority Meitei and the minority Kuki ethnic groups. Thousands have been injured and more than 60 000 displaced in the violence. Another 12 thousand have fled to the neighbouring state of Mizoram. Hundreds of houses, places of worship, and vehicles have been vandalized. Arson and other attacks continue unabated. Numerous serious cases of sexual violence by Meitei men, militias and militants against Kuki women have also been reported. And all available evidence points to the widespread use of sexual violence as part of the ethnic conflict. The state government shut down the internet and unable to bring the situation under control. Manipur is now divided into exclusive ethnic zones. Human rights activists have been threatened with dire consequences. 88 dead bodies are still laying unclaimed and unidentified in morgues because the Kukis are unable to travel to areas dominated by the Meitei. The Indian prime minister has kept mum on the crisis for almost 3 months. The government must immediately provide psycho-social support for the survivors, as well as bring perpetrators to justice and stop these hate crimes. There is a complete failure of the legal system to protect the civilians and autonomous institutions, like the National Human Rights Commission have never intervened in stopping this violence. Legal institutions like the National Human Rights Commission should incorporate structural changes recommended by the global alliance of national human rights institutions.

Thank you.