

**MEMORANDUM**  
**Submitted to the Prime Minister of India**  
**Demanding Justice for Richard and Other Victims from the Northeast Region of India**  
**Vis-à-vis**  
**Racial Profiling and Discrimination in Other Parts of India**  
 THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2011

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To,

The Honourable Prime Minister,  
 Government of India,  
 New Delhi 110011.

Subject:

1. **Kindly initiate an impartial thorough enquiry and impart justice to Loitam Richard (19) from Manipur who was murdered on 17<sup>th</sup> April at Bangalore in Karnataka and Dana Silva M Sangma (21) from Meghalaya who committed suicide on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in Delhi due to the reported humiliation by exam invigilators.**
2. **Kindly implement Institutional Justice in the context of racial issues affecting the physical, social and psychological securities of the students, migrant labours (employees), job seekers and tourists from Northeast Region residing / visiting in other parts of India.**

Most Respected Sir,

We, the **Justice for Richard, undersigned by 25,398 signatories across the world**, take the honour of submitting this memorandum in the hope of soliciting your kind attention and crucial intervention towards **the tragic death of 19 years old Loitam Richard, a first-year student from Manipur who was pursuing Architectural Engineering at Archarya NRV School of Architecture, Bangalore** and the critical issues relating to the increasing targeted violence, including murder and rape, suffered by the students, migrant labours (employees), job seekers and tourists from the North Eastern region residing / visiting in other parts of India.

That Sir, we have reasons to believe that **Richard Loitam was a victim of an unfortunate and hate targeted violence**. Police investigation have revealed about the possibility of a confrontation in which Richard was severely assaulted leading to the deceased succumbing to injuries on the night of 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. **There are also strong evidences such as photographic images and preliminary post mortem report to suggest that Richard had suffered multiple assaults on the head and face, i.e., massive swelling and bleeding around the head indicating serious bleeding in the brain.**

Statements of witnesses among hostel inmates of Richard Loitam stated that he did not retaliate during the assault but actually was pleading for the assault to end. The witnesses however admitted that they did not notice or suspect Richard Loitam to have sustained any serious injuries until the next day when he was found dead lying in a pool of blood in his bed.

Following the death and subsequent crime scene investigation conducted by the police, **and after sustained protests from his parents and widespread protests across the country, a case was finally registered under PSCR No.229-12 US 323, 302 RW 34 IPC**. However, despite the reports and a case being registered, we are appalled and shocked with the conduct of Archarya NRV School of Architecture and also the report given by some sections of the media who apparently attempted to cover up the crime by linking Richard's death to drug abuse or to an

injury sustained during a road traffic accident a few days before the incident. **The suspects had not been arrested.**

That, this particular incident tells a story, an all too familiar story, of one possible heinous crime committed against a young student from Manipur (Northeast region of India). However, **this seemingly isolated incident form a part of a larger canvas of numerous targeted violence including *inter alia* of hate instigated violence, sexual assaults and abuses, public harassments of students, migrant workers(employees), job seekers and tourist from the North East region residing /visiting in other parts of the country.**

This particular incident and the aftermath widespread demand for justice had brought about to the limelight the racial question in India. While on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2012, the Union Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram had denied the practice of racial discriminations against the peoples of North East region of India; it is to be noted that the incidence of targeted violence, abuses, etc. against students, migrant workers (employees), and job seekers of Northeast India is on the rise. **What disheartened us has been the perpetual experience of racial discrimination and social profiling faced by the people from North East region due to the lack of political will of law enforcement agencies and the biased attitude of the investigating police officers** who have been accused of refusing even to register complaint, not to talk of doing justice to the victims or initiating action against the perpetrators. In many cases, victims of these crimes have been forced to withdraw complaints due to the negative and hostile attitude of the police officers.

Given the above social experiences occurring in an atmosphere of institutional loopholes, we the Justice for Richard, undersigned by 25,398 signatories across the world, **would like to raise the following demands to the Government of India with the hope to ensure adequate security and equality for students, migrant workers (employees), job seekers, and tourists from the Northeast region** residing /visiting in other parts of India. We are at the same time optimistic about urgent and impartial justice in order to prevent such incident as Richard Loitam's murder from reoccurring. We wish to seek for your initiatives towards building a society where racially entangled xenophobic crimes are not repeated or those who held accountable to such crimes are not scot-free.

#### **WE WOULD LIKE TO APPEAL FOR:**

##### **1. Justice without further delay:**

- a. **Those who are responsible for the murder of Richard Loitam (19) on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in his hostel, those who attempted to cover up the crime and those who delayed free and fair investigation and justice should be punished without further delay.**
- b. **Those who are responsible for the suicide of Dana Silva M Sangma (21) from Meghalaya, an MBA student, at the Amity University campus on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 should be punished without further delay.**

##### **2. Institutional justice:**

- a. The Government of India must **recognise multi racial composition of India and the phenomenon of racial discrimination** as it exists distinctively amidst the myriads of socio-cultural discriminations prevalent in India.
- b. Accordingly we appeal the Government of India **to set up a high level commission with the following terms of reference:**
  - i. **To identify the challenges and barriers to the protection and promotion of personal security of students, migrant workers (employees), job seekers and tourists from the Northeast region residing / visiting in other parts of India and address social profiling of racial and ethnic minorities.**

- ii. **To examine the legislative and administrative measures that are in place, and the efficacy in practice and specific inadequacies** to address the problems of violence and other forms of abuses faced by students, migrant workers (employees), job seekers and tourists from the Northeast region residing / visiting in other parts of India.
  - iii. **To recommend specific investigative and punitive steps under the existing law by an independent agency** for the present and past cases/ incidences of crime including murder, assault, sexual abuse, rape, abuse or discrimination in institutions and workplaces committed against students, migrant workers (employees), job seekers and tourists from the Northeast region residing / visiting in other parts of India.
  - iv. **To recommend concrete steps to be taken by the ruling central and state governments to strengthen security measures** to protect and promote the safety and personal security of students, migrant workers (employees), job seekers and tourists from the Northeast region residing / visiting in other parts of the country.
- c. **To thoroughly review the existing curricula** of schools, higher institutions and technical institutions including special institutions to train police and armed forces personnel in India with special attention to the inclusion of subjects about the history, culture and present situation of the communities of North East region of India with a view to fill the large lacuna identified and enhance awareness and education about the region and its peoples among the young generations of India.
- i. **To make the induction of training on inter-racial and ethnic issues** mandatory for all students and employees of the country so that they are educated and sensitised on these important issues.
  - ii. **To make mandatory policies for the media** to circulate documentaries and films that reflected the multi-cultural and multi-racial composition of India.

Thanking you for your positive response in anticipation.

Enclosed:

- Press statement and memorandum of Justice for Richard undersigned by 25,398 signatories across the world.

Yours faithfully,

(1) Sd/-  
(Dr. Malem Ningthouja)  
On behalf of the Justice for Richard

(2) Sd/-  
(Mr. Shafikul Haque)  
President, Manipur Students' Association Delhi

Dated: Delhi  
Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

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Copy to:

- Chief Minister of Karnataka
- Chief Minister of Manipur
- The Media