

## NOTICE

MSAD is publishing the annual magazine **MAHEIROI 2012** in August 2012. Interested Manipuri students are invited to submit original articles, poems and prose on or before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. For further information please contact MSAD at 8750103607/7503873671.

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# **MSAD** Newsletter

Issue No. 2

Vol. V

June 2012

## **FOREWORD**

After successfully circulating the Volume V, Issue 1, MSAD is presenting the next issue of MSAD-Newsletter. MSAD received various suggestions as well as inspiration from various quarters. The editorial team is hopeful that this issue, as the earlier one, will be welcome by all our readers. We would like to remind our

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**MSAD**

*Welcomes*

all the fresher students from Manipur who have come to Delhi to pursue education.

## **Stop Racial Profiling and Institutionalized Discrimination on Northeast People Punish the Criminals**

28<sup>th</sup> April 2012

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**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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readers that publication of MSAD-Newsletter is a step to bring to the fore interaction between MSAD Executive Committee and the wider public. The Newsletter carries at least one article on every issue to engage with questions concerning various issues of democracy, rights and grassroots politics, students' movement and welfare. MSAD is of the opinion that we need to have an ambience for having talks on these issues. MSAD-Newsletter is just one small step toward this.

**April 27, 2012:** A joint body meeting was organised to discuss the issues arising out of the murder of Mr. Richard Loitam (19), son of Dr. L. Rajeskumar of Uripok Yambem Leikai, Imphal (Manipur), a student of B. Arch (1<sup>st</sup> year) at Acharya's NAV School of Architecture, Bangalore, at the night of 17 allegedly by his hostel mates inside his hostel room.

**April 29, 2012:** A demonstration was organised at Parliament Street and a candle light vigil at India Gate against the murder of Loitam Richard and demanded justice.

**April 30, 2012:** Memorandums were submitted to the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister demanding justice to Richard and Miss Dana Sangma (19 - from Meghalaya) who committed suicide on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in Delhi due to the alleged humiliation by the exam invigilators of Amity University.

**May 10, 2012:** A joint delegation of MSAD and Justice for Richard met the Prime Minister and the officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs to press the demand for Justice to Richard and Dana. Memorandums signed about 25,398 online supporters were respectively submitted.

**May 01, 2012:** A delegate took part at the May Day March from Ram Lila Maiden to Chandni Chowk.

**May 07, 2012:** A group discussion was organised on the current trend of Eve Teasing and Sexual Harassment of Women.

**June 4-18, 2012:** Admission counselling was organised at Arts Faculty, University of Delhi.

**June 4-6, 2012:** Admission counselling was organised at Ram Lal Paul High School, Manipur.

### ***Continue Stop Racial...***

Mr. Richard Loitam, son of Dr. L. Rajeskumar of Uripok Yambem Leikai, Imphal (Manipur), a student of B. Arch (1<sup>st</sup> year) at Acharya's NAV School of Architecture, Bangalore, succumbed to brutal attack by two hostel mates at the night of 17 in the hostel. The school authority had not only failed to intervene to prevent the

crime but also had showed negligence and indifferent attitude towards Richard who was laying unattended on the pool of blood oozing out from the nose and ears the whole night. On the contrary the murder was concealed through fabricated story and false implication.

The murder of Richard occurred because of criminal negligence of the college authorities. Their acts of commission and omission indicate criminal conspiracy to protect the criminals. At the time of the preliminary inquiry the roommates were hiding away from the campus on fabricated pretexts which contradicted the attendance record. On the other hand the criminals are still scot-free. Although a case of unnatural death was registered, No 24/2012 u/s 174 (c) at Madanayakanahali PS (Bangalore Rural District), Karnataka, in much delayed time in the evening of 18 April based on an application filed by the hostel warden, there are indications of justice being suppressed by combination of money and muscle powers and racial discrimination on persons hailing from the Northeast region.

The official apathy, negligence, and indifferent attitude in handling the case illustrate denial of justice. It seriously invokes our concern over unabatedly institutionalized *mayang* racism towards the Northeast people. Many Northeast emigrants in the Indian metropolitan cities in search of job and for education are being racially profiled, selectively targeted, and denied of justice in several cases. It had humiliating effect and created an alarming situation. Should we not address the issue of toying us under the indifferent hype of the Indian hooligans and law enforcing agencies who misbehave against our dignity and sense of humanity? Should we not protest to defend our fundamental rights and honour & dignity?

#### **WE CONDEMN:**

- ❖ The murder and murders of Richard Loitam
- ❖ The institution and criminal conspiracy that covered up the crime and the criminals
- ❖ Racial profiling and institutionalized discrimination on northeast people

#### **WE DEMAND:**

- ❖ Punish the murders
- ❖ Punish the school principal and the hostel warden for harbouring crime and criminals
- ❖ Punish the responsible police for showing dereliction of duty in handling the case
- ❖ Immediate measures to prevent crime against Northeast peoples in India, particularly in the metropolitan cities and institutional establishments

## *Continue Memorandum ...*

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 17th April at Bangalore in Karnataka and Dana Silva M Sangma (21) from Meghalaya who committed suicide on 24th 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 17th 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, 4th 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 17th 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 24th 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/-  
(Malem Ningthouja), On behalf of Justice for Richard

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

**Dated: Delhi  
Thursday, 10th May, 2012**