



CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE

For the Defense of the Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

Statement from the Cordillera Peoples Alliance on the Singda Dam Area Expansion

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) is alarmed at the impending forced eviction of indigenous communities at the Singda New Bazar in Manipur, for government's planned Singda Dam Area Expansion. In solidarity with our indigenous brothers and sisters in Manipur, and facing the same threats of development aggression in our own indigenous territory, we support the affected communities' urgent appeal for the withdrawal of the eviction notice and to stop the eventual eviction of the villagers.

The Singda New Bazar has been home to the Kharam, Vaipei, Rongmei (Ireng Naga) and Metei indigenous peoples for four decades. The land has given them life, providing food, medicine, livelihood and a home. To take the land away from them would lead to further impoverishment and marginalization, and more importantly, violate the indigenous peoples' collective right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), ancestral land and self determination. It denies them of their right to live decently as human beings.

We appeal to the government of India, the government of Manipur, to implement recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing Rights to stop all forms of forced eviction in Manipur, and respect the rights of indigenous peoples over the land as provided for in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Singda Dam must also be reviewed of its feasibility, with the participation of all affected communities. Lastly, the communities affected by the Singda Dam expansion must be genuinely consulted and their decisions upheld and respected. ***

Reference:

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