



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Joint Crisis Committee The Seven Sisters: Northeast Rebels at UTMUN 2013. My name is Tasneem Ara and I am currently a sophomore studying Political Science and History at University of Toronto. Although I have prior MUN experience, this is actually my first year being involved with UTMUN and I am looking forward to a remarkable weekend of practical solutions and enjoyable yet enriching debate. Our crisis staff have put in a great deal of work in the hope that all of you experience the anger and frustrations of the Northeast Rebels as they attempt to fight for their basic rights and possible independence amongst the oppressive Indian government.

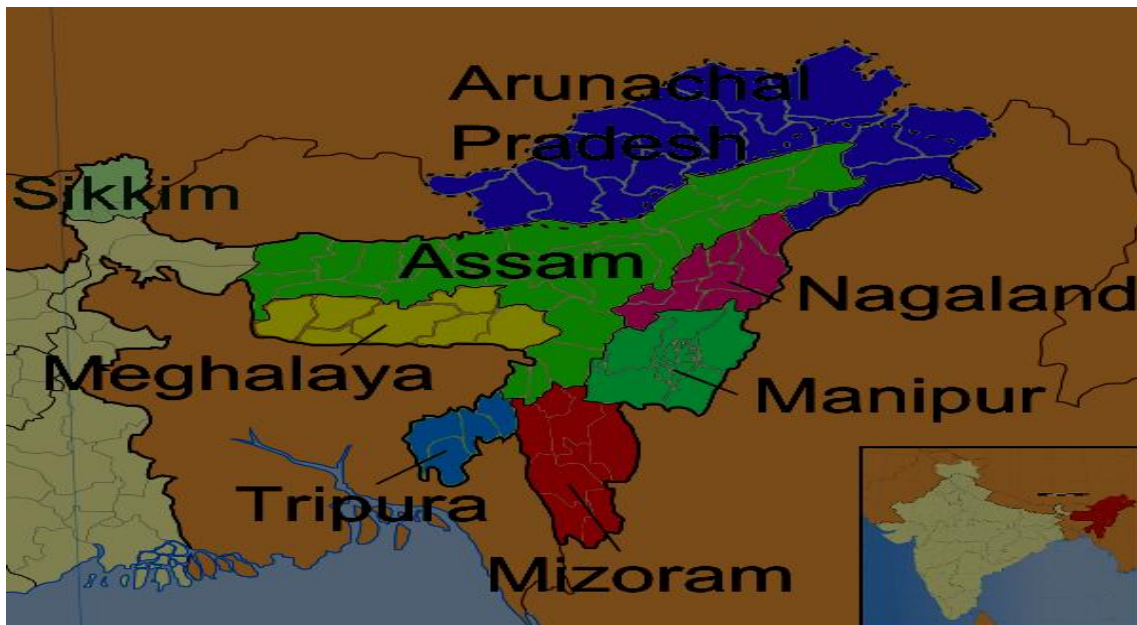
The identity crisis facing the North East region of India will challenge you like none other and define the direction that the rebels will take for generations to come. The Indian government has turned their oppressive eyes toward our lands, human rights violations have ravaged our population, and, quite frankly, the people have had enough and are at the peak of their rebellion. You will need to deal with all these problems in light of the broader issues of the necessity for ethnic identity and of self-governance. Will you be up for the challenge?

This background guide serves as a launch point for the remainder of your research. The guide discusses issues we think are pertinent to the North East Rebels and gives some context about the conflicting interests and issues surrounding the region. While the nationalistic movements in the North East region started in 1940, the committee takes place in the present-day. You may find it useful to understand the history of the North Eastern region of India and how the conflict evolved in light of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh's independence during the Nineteenth century so as to contextualize the significance of such crises that come up. If you have any questions whatsoever, please email me at aratasne@utoronto.ca. Good luck preparing for the conference and I look forward to seeing you in February!

Sincerely,
Tasneem Ara (Rea)

History

The Seven Sisters in the North East of India comprises of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura. Despite the religious diversity, the Sisters share similar concerns over regional economics, politics and society. Except for Assam, where the major language is Assamese, and Tripura, where the major language is Bengali, the region has a predominantly tribal population that speak numerous Tibeto-Burman and Austro-Asiatic languages. Hinduism and Christianity remain predominant religions but with the much missionary influence, Christianity has become the major religion in the states of Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya. Landlocked and geographically compact unit, the Northeast is isolated from the rest of India except through the Siliguri Corridor, a slender and vulnerable corridor. Assam is the gateway through which the Sister states is connected to the mainland.



Caption 1: The Sister States in the North East region of India surrounded by China in the North, Bangladesh mostly in the South and India in the West.

Geographical isolation and forced integration of the North East region into India gave rise to many secessionist movements. The North Eastern state of Assam has experienced years of unrest with governmental ignorance and human rights violations. Most of the

civil unrest takes place in Greater Assam, Bodoland (area located in the north bank of Brahmaputra river in the state of Assam in north east region of India, by the foothills of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh) and Tripura. The negligence of the nationalist movements and of the regions primary concerns by the Indian government has exacerbated the problem to the point that the region wants their independence from such an oppressive government. Torture, custodial killings, and failure to protect vulnerable communities stained India's human rights record in 2011, according to a recently published report by Human Rights Watch. There has been little to no improvement in the access to healthcare or education despite the government's claim to the contrary. "Hundreds of thousands of persons with incurable diseases suffer unnecessarily from severe pain because the Indian government has failed to ensure access to safe, effective, and inexpensive pain drugs," says the Human Rights Watch report. The people of the Northeast have suffered enough and had enough of being inaccurately alleged of being 'terrorist groups/organization'. The time has come for these ethnic minority groups to unite and strive for building their own identity.

North East India is situated between the two traditions of Indic Asia and Mongoloid Asia and is regarded as part of Southeast Asia. This geographical-cultural condition of "in-betweenness" is an important factor in the area's crisis of identity. The anger against the Indian government mostly stems from the fact that the North East was integrated into India without the consent of North Eastern people as the nationalistic movement leaders claim.

In the mid 20th century, the North East region has been infused with immigrants from former East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. But after the Bangladesh 1971 liberation war with the Pakistani defeat, Greater Assam experienced a growth in the armed separatist groups, the most prominent being United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).

United Liberation Front of Assam: It is a separatist group in Assam seeking to establish a sovereign Assam. The group was banned by the Indian government in 1990 and officially labeled as a terrorist group. After much protest and rebellion, the ULFA continues its struggle for an independent Assam and break free from the oppressive Indian government. On 3 September 2011, a tripartite agreement for Suspension of Operations (SoO) against ULFA was signed between Indian Government, Assam government and ULFA. ULFA do not consider themselves as a secessionist group because

they refuse to believe that Assam was ever part of India. The national identity crisis scars the people of Assam. ULFA seeks to represent "independent minded struggling peoples" irrespective of race, tribe, caste, religion and nationality. Until today ULFA continues its military struggle against the Indian government.

Paresh Barua: He is the North East Rebel Leader who is acting as the Vice Chairman and Commander-in-Chief of the rebel group ULFA. Around 2008, he was in constant communication with Assamese author Indira Goswami who was acting as a mediator in proposed peace talks between ULFA and the Government of India. However, the talks did not materialize because of the alleged insistence of Baruah on the question of sovereignty of Assam. Baruah has since been taking a hard stance on the issue of peace talks and ruled out any negotiations with Government of India without addressing the question of independence for Assam.

Arabinda Rajkhowa: The Chairman of ULFA, he was arrested in 2009 by Bangladesh and was handed over to the Indian government who alleged him with gaging war against India on abduction, murder, commission of terrorist acts and disruptive acts. Arabinda Rajkhowa claimed that reports of his arrest were aimed at creating confusion and derailing the peace process in Assam. "I am speaking to you from the same location in Bangladesh where I normally speak from. Those who say that I have been arrested are deliberately trying to create confusion. They want to derail the peace process in Assam even before it can begin," says reports of North East TV channels. He was granted bail from Guwahati Central Jail on 1 January 2011.

United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)

ULFA is a separatist group from Assam who seeks to establish a sovereign Assam with an armed struggle. This organization was listed a terrorist group by the Indian government arresting many of the party leaders including Arabinda Rajkhowa. There has been a crack down of ULFA with Bangladesh border guards helping the Indian government arrest members of the group. In 2010, ULFA gave up its demand for an independent Assam as a result of talks with the Indian government.

National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)

A separatist group formed by the Bodo people in Assam who seek to form a sovereign Bodoland. An activist group, most prominent for efforts made during the 1990s, NDFB is allied with National Socialist Council of Nagalim who occupies illegal territory south of

Bhutan. Again, like ULFA, NDFB was labeled as a terrorist group by the Indian government wrongly accusing members and arresting them.

Kamatapur Liberation Organization (KLO)

KLO is another separatist group seeking independence its six districts of West Bengal and four districts from Assam. KLO aims to tackle problems of unemployment, language and identity crisis, land alienation and economic deprivation. Jibon Singha is the present Chairman of the group.

People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK)

PREPAK is an armed insurgent group fighting for a sovereign Manipur. The primary concerns of PREPAK is social reformation, particularly known for their campaigns against crime such as violence against women, drug and alcohol abuse. PREPAK is also known to fight against allowing 'outsiders' in Manipur.

Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)

NSCN is a Naga nationalist extremist group fighting for an independent Nagaland or Nagalim by uniting all the Naga people in North East India and Burma. Unification of the various Naga tribes is the primary aim of NSCN.

National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT)

NLFT is a nationalist militant organization wanting to form a independent and sovereign Tripura and free themselves from the shackles of the Indian government. Most known campaign to achieve this aim is the Tripura Rebellion. A fight against All Tripura Tiger Force consisting Debbarma tribes, NLFT formed by all Tripura people aims to terminate other tribes as a first step towards establishing a religious Tripura.

Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA)

Formed in 2009, GNLA has been involved in killing, abduction, extortion, bomb blasts and attacks on Security Forces in efforts to establish a sovereign Garoland in Meghalaya.

Kangleipak Communist Party (KPC)

KPC is a separatist group trying to form a sovereign Manipur. Formed in 1980, KPC wants to restore the independence of Manipuris as a result of the negligence of Manipuri culture by the Indian government and escalating identity crisis in the Northeast region.



KPC differs from PREPAK as they also want to establish an egalitarian society by building strength of the working class, reviving indigenous culture and uniting all Manipuri tribes belonging to the Mongoloids in the Himalayas.

Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup

KYKL is an organization that seeks to uphold and protect the revolutionary movements in Manipur. The primary aims are to remake the Manipuri society by eradicating all crimes, drug trade, and corruption and instead build a sovereign state based on cultural and ethnic values.

All Tripura Tiger Force

The All Tripura Tiger Force is an isolationist group operating in the state of Tripura. Their motivations are based on ethnicity and wish to drive out Bengali settlers and other immigrants from the province. They currently have a cadre of about 600 members composed of a variety of different historic communities that have resided in Tripura. Most of their members are in Bangladesh, where they receive their training.

Revolutionary People's Front/People's Liberation Army

The PLA (do not confuse with Chinese armed forces) operates in Manipur. They are well-equipped and are involved in widespread extortion operations. They maintain a government-in-exile in Bangladesh and aim to unite all the ethnic groups of the Northeast Region to liberate Manipur. The group has contacts with the ISI of Pakistan and the NSCN, and maintains training camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

United National Liberation Front

Led by Rajkumar Meghen, the UNLF is a socialist organization aimed at achieving socialism and independence in Manipur. It has links to some of the major Northeast nationalist/socialist groups such as the ULFA and the NSCN. These groups are allied in a struggle for the liberation of Indo-Burma.



Topics

Human Rights Abuses in Northeast India

The feeling of second-class citizenship meted out to them by mainland Indians has led the natives of these states to seek greater self-governance.

Indian Forces: Human rights abuses on the part of Indian forces in the area are frequently traced to the immunity granted to Indian security forces under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. Human Rights Watch criticizes the act as a "tool of state abuse, oppression and discrimination".

Sexual Assault: Women are mostly raped during crackdowns where men of the villages or towns are gathered outside their homes and women are forced to stay indoors. The majority of the perpetrators walk free under the immunity acquired from prosecution under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 which has been imposed for several decades. Furthermore most of the rapes go unreported due to the social stigma and fear of backlash. The Assam Police between 2006 and 2011 received over 7000 complaints of rape and also 11,553 complaints of kidnappings involving women.

Ethnic Tensions and Mass Migration

Violence broke out between Bodo tribes and Muslim migrant settlers in the Kokrajhar district of Assam on 20 July 2012, leaving at least 45 people dead and approximately 300,000 displaced in the month of July. According to Human Rights Watch, the fighting has led to a strict curfew, with police being given "shoot at sight" orders for curfew violators. Multiple police shootings were reported after the order was given.

The Bodo claim that the Muslims, most of whom are migrants from Bangladesh, are taking away their land. Competition over land and natural resources has been one of the main causes of ethnic conflicts in Assam. Protests against illegal migrants from Bangladesh started in the 1970s. In 1983, more than 2,000 Muslim were killed in Nellie district, after which the Assam Accord was signed in 1985. As part of this agreement, the government pledged to fence the border with Bangladesh and to set up a national citizen's database to determine who is an Indian citizen. However, the government failed to implement the Accord and illegal migration from Bangladesh continued unabated.

The identification of citizenship is critical in the context of competing claims over land, but it is also critical for two other reasons: First, to prevent unjust treatment of Muslims who have been brought to Assam by the British, and thus have lived in Assam for generations; Second, to prevent election fraud in the form of illegal enlisting of voters. The latter, i.e. the use of migrants as a vote bank for ambitious politicians, among them also indigenous politicians, has been identified as one of the main reasons why the Assamese government has not taken any resolute actions to curb illegal migration. Brutalization and legitimization of violence by the Indian government cannot be overlooked.

Self-Determination of the Region

For years, since 1940, the North East part of India has been politically oppressed and economically neglected in terms of education and health by the Indian government. The geographic location of the Seven Sisters makes it near to impossible for the Indian government to manage the region effectively.

The North East is resource rich and can self-sustain itself with an independent government. Sovereignty of the Sisters will mark the end of a long enduring violence since the 1940s. No negotiations from the Indian government will ever be able to compensate for the damage caused by the negligence and intolerance of the government.

SI NO	Year	Happenings
1	1940s	Struggle for independence starts in Nagaland and Manipur. Struggle was by peaceful means.
2	Early 1960s	Groups of insurgents (Naga and Manipuris) go to China via Kachin Corridor for arms and training. China provided these free of cost.
3	Late 60s	Insurgents return with Chinese arms and ammunitions. Help also

		comes from Pakistan. Mizo insurgency starts off after the 'Mautam' famine episode.
4	1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of insurgents and supplies taken over by Burmese rebels... for a price. • Militancy in Assam starts in protest against illegal migration.
5	1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prairie fire of insurgency engulfs the three states of Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram. • Drug addiction on the rise in the North East. • Boom time of opium cultivation in Myanmar and other Golden Triangle Areas.
6	1990s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First HIV case detected. HIV/AIDS epidemic spreads in the region due to intravenous drug using. • Ethnic clashes start occurring between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuki-Naga (Manipur) Kuki Paite (Manipur) Tribals-Non-Tribals (Tripura) Reangs vs Mizo (Mizoram) Bodo vs Santhals (Assam) Assamese vs Illegal Migrants (Assam)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurgency engulfs the comparatively peaceful states of Meghalaya, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh. Mayhem unleashed in Tripura. 	



Useful Sources

Assam Tribune:

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=dec1012>

UN for Historical Timeline:

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,CHRON,IND,,469f38951e,0.html>

Seven Sister Post:

<http://sevensisterspost.com/>

Peace Review:

<http://www.review.upeace.org/pdf.cfm?articulo=99&ejemplar=19>

The South Asia Terrorism Portal:

<http://www.satp.org/>