

Kuda Village condemn AR harassment

April 22, 2015

Dimapur, April 22 (MExN): The Kuda Village B-Khel Council has condemned the April 16 incident in which troops of the 37 Assam Rifles raided the residence of “bona fide respectable villager” Koko Kethozelhu Haralu at about 3:30 AM.

A press release in this regard from the Council Chairman stated, “The hostile intrusion has left the family of Koko Haralu humiliated and traumatised for no fault of theirs.” It maintained that the “rude search and harassment” is an insult not only to the family but to all Naga civilians in general and added the incident serves as a “grim reminder” that innocent civilians are exposed to, despite the ongoing 18-year Ceasefire. The “cruel law” of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958, leaves any innocent civilians to the whims and fancy of a soldier to harass/search/torture or kill, the council stated adding its efficacy “has treacherously been proved once again through this incident.”

The council further stated that it is “baffling and dubious” that the 37 AR based at Piphema had carried out the “mission” – 37 Kms away from its jurisdiction.

Informing that GOC 3 Corps has apologised on behalf of the erring unit while giving the excuse of “misinformation,” the council questioned, “Who supplied the so-called mis-information?”

“Why didn’t the 37 AR check its facts through standard recce before swooping upon innocent dwellings that has potential to shed blood?” the council asked.

Clearly irked by the incident, the council further questioned, “Is it true these acts are committed by raring soldiers simply to ‘gain promotion’ by notching up their prowess over concocted missions at the expense of innocent citizens?”

“The incident has once again left public in disgust for the distasteful naivety of trained soldiers and their wilful violation of basic human rights triggering debate for repeal of AFSPA,” the council maintained.

The council requested the concerned authorities to penalise erring officers “for conducting a military assignment in a sloppy manner barking at the wrong tree so that no innocent citizens are harmed or harassed again in future.”