

# NSCN (I-M) flays 'attempted murder'; questions Police

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MIP of the NSCN (I-M) said it was “provoked” by the “attempted murder” of one of its officers Atoshe Awomi by Dimapur East Police on April 20. The MIP said as per investigation, Atoshe who was unarmed was shot from close range by police in civvies travelling a private vehicle, at around 12.20 p.m. After being shot, MIP said Atoshe was “taken away like a criminal”.

It said the incident would have “negative consequences” as it broke away the long tradition of not targeting each other and honouring the cease fire ground rules for creating a peaceful environment. MIP expressed apprehension that certain changes in the Nagaland Police set-up could have influenced “such unwanted situation”. It has demanded an answer from the authority in Dimapur East Police as to who gave the order to shoot at sight and under whose command was the operation carried out and the person responsible for shooting its officer.

MIP reiterated the “collection of revenue is the inherent rights of NSCN/GPRN in Nagalim” that it will continue till a negotiated settlement with the government of India.

It further warned, that “any forces or elements that disturb” its legitimate rights will not be tolerated. MIP said, instead, what the police ought to be doing at the hour, was to clean up the department by stopping all “rampant participation in collection of unauthorised taxation and corruption at all level.” NSCN (I-M) demanded that the case be thoroughly investigated and befitting punishment given to those responsible. It also asked the state government to “immediately intervene” and rein it the police forces if the state government was “sincere in the ongoing Indo-Naga peace process & cease fire agreement.”