

NSCN (IM) 'provoked' by April 20 shooting

April 21, 2015

DIMAPUR, APRIL 21 (MExN): The NSCN (IM) today said that it is “provoked” by the shooting incident on April 20, wherein a Section Officer of the NSCN (IM) was shot at and injured by Dimapur Police. The injured person, identified as one Atoshe Awomi, was reportedly trying to evade arrest when the incident occurred.

A press note from the NSCN (IM) termed the police action as “attempted murder” and alleged that Awomi was “shot at close range by Dimapur east police who came in civil dress and in private vehicle around 12.20 PM. After being shot he was handcuffed and taken away like a criminal.”

The NSCN (IM) said that the incident would have a “negative consequences breaking away from the years long tradition of creating a peaceful environment by not targeting each other and honouring the Cease fire ground rules.” “It has also given us the apprehension that certain changes in the Nagaland police set-up could have influenced such unwanted incident,” it added.

It urged that authority of Dimapur East Police station to reveal as to “who gave the shoot at sight order and under whose command it was operated and the responsible person who shot our officer should come clean immediately.” Collection of revenue, the NSCN (IM) maintained, is the “inherent right of NSCN/GPRN in Nagalim and it will continue to be until such time of negotiated settlement with the Government of India takes place.”

It cautioned that any force that disturb “our legitimate rights will not be tolerated.” The NSCN (IM) advised that the police should rather “clean up their department and stop rampant participation in collecting unauthorised taxation and corruption at all level.”

The NSCN (IM) demanded that befitting punishment be given to whoever is responsible and urged the Nagaland state government to intervene and rein in their police forces “if they are sincere to the ongoing Indo-Naga peace process and cease fire agreement.”