

TRAFFICKING RACKET BUSTED IN NORTHEAST GIRLS TO MALAYSIA

A urgent e mail requesting repatriation of five trafficked victims was received by **Ms Archana Tamang of UNIFEM** from Alana Gomei. The e mail was forwarded to Shakti Vahini.

Shakti Vahini at once made investigation in Nagaland and found that the racket was indeed spread across the North East and not confined only to Nagaland. Shakti Vahini contacted Mr Kinderson Pamei of NPMHR Tamenglong who updated the facts of the case.

Shakti Vahini then petitioned **Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Indian Overseas Affair** to immediately launch an investigation into the racket and also to undertake steps for Repatriation of the Trafficked Victims. All other Ministries and all NE States were also alerted about the case. Also Ms Manju Hembrum of National Commission for Women has been alerted.

Shakti Vahini then took the support of the **National media Coalition** in Delhi and circulated the report among all the North East Media Members. The **NE Media** in Delhi who have been crusading against Human Trafficking took up the matter and the matter was widely reported in all NE Media across North East.

Assam Tribune took the lead and carried a editorial on the issue. Stories have been covered in Vernacular Press in North East like Asomiya Pratidn, Asomiya Khobor, Yugantar , Shillong Times etc. The wide coverage prompted the various Govt Department into action and an enquiry has been ordered in Imphal. Already the Nagaland Police had arrested a person in connection with the case on 23rd.

The Times of India took up the story and gave it a National Coverage on 26 September.

The **NPHMR** has also undertaken meeting with various students groups and Civil Society on the matter.

The **NE Helpline** took up the matter with Malaysian Ambassador. MP from North East have also got in touch with External Affairs Minister.

The victims have been identified in Malaysia and there travel documents are being readied to bring them back. Some of the victims don't have passport.

Shakti Vahini has petitioned Shri Vayalar Ravi ,Minister of Indian Overseas Affair to undertake the following:

1. To talk to the Malaysian Govt and get the case registered against Mr Ricky Ho for indulging in Illegal Trafficking. The Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs can hire a lawyer to represent the victims and Indian Government.
2. To get the case registered in Imphal for prosecution of the trafficker on the statements of the victims.
3. Immediate confiscation of passports of Traffickers who are part of the Crime in India.
4. To order a complete enquiry into the working of these trafficking gangs in North East by the **Central Bureau of Investigation** as the trafficker's network is spread across the North East.

The Case needs Investigation by the CBI as there have been lot of cases being reported of NE Girls being lured to South East Asian Countries.

Letter submitted to Shri Vayalar Ravi Minister for Overseas
Indian Affair Dated: 2.10.2008

To,
Shri Vayalar Ravi,
Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs,
Akbar Bhawan, New Delhi

Subject: Indian Trafficked Victims in Malaysia

Sir,

We thank you for the immediate action taken by your ministry in identifying the victims and also undertaking the process of Repatriation of Victims.

The steps taken by the Ministry is commendable.

We appeal to you for the following:

1. To talk to the Malaysian Govt and get the case registered against Mr Ricky Ho for indulging in Illegal Trafficking. The Ministry of Indian Overseas Affairs can hire a lawyer to represent the victims and Indian Government.
2. To get the case registered in Imphal for prosecution of the trafficker on the statements of the victims.
3. Immediate confiscation of passports of Traffickers who are part of the Crime in India.
4. To order a complete enquiry into the working of these trafficking gangs in North East by the **Central Bureau of Investigation** as the trafficker's network is spread across the North East.

With Kind Regards,

Ravi Kant
Executive Director ,
Shakti Vahini

Copy to:

1. Secretary(HOME)
2. Secretary(Foreign Affairs)
3. JS(NE)
4. Secretary (Ministry of Women and Child)

5. Director (CBI)

6. Chief Secretary and DGP of Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.

Appeal to Malaysian Ambassador by North East Support Centre & Helpline

B-123, 2nd Floor, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar IV, New Delhi 110024.

For Immediate Release

Appeal for Urgent Intervention for Safe Repatriation of Five North East Trafficked girls from Malaysia

Delegation Met Malaysian High Commission, National Commission for Women and Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

New Delhi, September 30, 2008 (North East Support Centre & Helpline)

Public Affairs National Secretary of All India Christian Council Dr. Sam Paul led a delegation to Malaysian High Commission, New Delhi and National Commission for Women on Monday and to Tribal Affairs Union Minister on Tuesday to seek the urgent intervention for safe repatriation of five North East trafficked girls in Malaysia.

The delegation includes New Delhi based Human Rights Activist Madhu Chandra, who is also the Regional Secretary of All India Christian Council and Spokes Person of North East Support Centre & Helpline along with Advocate Ms. Lansinglu Rongmei, the President of North East Support Centre & Helpline.

National Commission for Women assured to seek help from the Ministry of External Affairs to look into the matter and act accordingly. Malaysian High Commission has also assured the delegation to do all possible after hearing from the Indian counter part.

NE Support Centre & Helpline has contacted the Christian pastor under whose care; the five trafficked girls have taken shelter in Kuala Lumpur. NE Support Centre & Helpline is reported of their safe under the care of pastor and his family.

One of the victims told NE Support Centre & Helpline over the phone tonight, "I and my four friends from Manipur were taken to Singapore with the promise of job and later taken to Kuala Lumpur by the agents and forced to work in a bar illegally." She further says, "We managed to escape from the clutches of those agents who have trafficked us and we went to Indian High Commission at Kuala Lumpur

to seek help but the Commission asked the pastor to keep us under his shelter."

Earlier, the Outer Manipur constituency MP, Mr. Mani Charanamei has written to External Minister Shri. Parnab Mukherjee about those trafficked girls and sought help from the ministry.

In connection to the alarming issue of human trafficking, targeting the young women from different parts of North East India, Madhu Chandra says, "The public of the region, particularly the youngsters and guardians must be sensitized about different groups and individuals offering the easy jobs and make ascertain of their genuiness."

Ms. Lansinglu Rongmei also urged the state governments of North Eastern States to alert the public awareness and security machineries to take up steps to prevent from further human trafficking.

Dr. Sam Paul urged the Malaysian High Commission to keep loop on those agencies operating human trafficking in different cities and towns of North Eastern states. "Other South Asia High Commissions in India will also be alerted about human trafficking agents based in the region," says Dr. Paul.

North East Support Centre & Helpline (www.nehelpline.net) is combined initiative of various human rights activists, social workers, students, journalists and lawyers seeking to prevent harassment and abuses meted out to women, North East People and tribal communities of different states.

Update from Nagaland by Kinderson Pamei to Shri Ravi Kant
Date : 27.09.2008

Re: UPDATE on NE From: **Rights Pamei** (pamei.rights@gmail.com)

Sent: 27 September 2008 16:53PM

To: shaktivahini@yahoo.co.in

Dear Ravi,

Thank for this email. I just come back to Imphal from my home town, Tamenglong where internet access is not available and event mobile connection is poor. I could not communicate properly on time.

Yes. I have been informed that Mr. Phillip Gangmei was arrested by Tamenglong Police Personnel from Imphal. He has been questioned at Lamphel Police Station, Imphal West, and reprimanded to police till

27 September 2008.

In meantime, have any written responses from Ministries of MEA, MHA, DONER etc? If so kindly let have a xerox or scanned copies of the same. Also please a copy each of our application to the ministries and press statment.

I am going to discuss this matter with student our community student tomorrow for the future course of action.

Best regards,
Kinderson Pamei

On Thu, Sep 25, 2008 at 8:58 PM, Shakti Vahini <shaktivahini@yahoo.co.in> wrote:

Dear Kinderson Pamei,

GREETINGS FROM SHAKTI VAHINI.

THE LATEST UPDATE IS THAT MINISTRY OF INDIAN OVERSEAS AFFAIRS HAS TAKEN COGNIZANCE OF THE MATTER AND HAS ISSUED AN ENQUIRY .

SHRI J PANDA (Jt Secretary) IS LOOKING AFTER THE MATTER AT MINISTRY OF INDIAN OVERSEAS AFFAIRS

I am attaching all e mail and news reports .Please let me know the name of the person arrested or the Police Station where it has been done.

With Kind Regards,

Ravi Kant

From Secretary Home the File was sent to Joint Secretary (North East) Dated: 23.09.2008

To
JS(NE)

Sir,
As the subject matter of the said e-mail concerns your division, as desired, the same is forwarded for appropriate action.

O/o JS(C&PG)

PETITION SUBMITTED TO SHRI VAYALAR RAVI FOR INTERVENTION AND URGENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRAFFICKING RACKET Dated : 23 September 2008

----- Original Message -----

From: Shakti Vahini <shaktivahini@yahoo.co.in>

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008 1:21 pm

Subject: Request for investigation into Trafficking Racket

To: minister@moia.nic.in

Cc: Pamei.rights@gmail.com, jsfs@moia.nic.in, dirss@moia.nic.in, jscpg-mha@nic.in, dirpg-mha@nic.in, msaiyar@hotmail.com, secydoner@nic.in, rajendra.mishra@nic.in, secy.wcd@sb.nic.in, ea.wcd@nic.in,

To,
Shri Vayalar Ravi,
Honorable Minister for External Affairs,
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs,
Akbar Bhawan , Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi

Sub: Trafficking Racket Racket in the North East

Sir,

We would like to draw your kind attention on an e mail received by us from Malaysia . which has been sent to us by Kinderson Pamei Coordinator NPMHR (South) , Cell no. 9436728686 / 9856242498 , mail: Pamei.rights@ gmail.com.

The Report mentions " I, on behalf of NPMHR Tamenglong, seek you kind intervention for safe repatriation of Jasmine and her four other Indigenous Zeliangrong girls from Tamenglong District of Manipur who have been taken to with the promise of decent job at Singapore by the Singapore based NGOs. However they were transferred to Malaysia and believe to be sold to one club as Kuala Lumpur. I fear that these girls are victims of human trafficking. Detailed information is enclosed for your information and prompt action. The information has been compiled from telephonic conversation. We have also enclosed an email received from Rev. David who is currently assisting the three girls who have escaped from the traffickers. At least 150 Indigenous Women (Children and young women), majority of them are believed to be Zeliangrong Naga Community were recruited

with a promise of job at Singapore by Singapore based NGO called Abel and Leo Private Ltd. under the

leadership of Ricky Ho.

Mr. Ho's men are spread over India, Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines(as per our knowledge). In India, his men are scattered around penetrating to even to village level at Dimapur (Nagaland), Manipur, Shillong (Meghalaya), Guwahati (Assam) and Kolkatta (West Bengal). It may be penitent to mention here that five village girls who were newly persuaded with the same promise by the same men Ricky Ho were intercepted on the way to Singapore at Dimapur." We would request you to investigate the email and take urgent actions so that victims of Human Trafficking can be saved. It is a matter of grave concern that such gangs are operating in the North East. We also request you to start the repatriation of these Five victims.

With Regards,

Ravi Kant

Executive Director
09899699210, 09312599210

Copy to :

Secretary Ministry of Women and Child, Govt of India
Jt Secretary Ministry of Women and Child, Govt of India
Secretary, Ministry of DONER
Secretary , Ministry of Home Affairs
Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
Chief Secretary of Nagaland , Mizoram , Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura

**COPY OF E MAIL RECEIVED BY SHAKTI VAHINI FROM ARCHANA
TAMANG, UNIFEM**

From: "Archana Tamang" <archana.tamang@gmail.com>

To: "Shakti Vahini" <shaktivahini@yahoo.co.in>

fyi bhaiya...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **anita mathew** <anita_mat142@yahoo.co.in>

COPY OF E MAIL RECEIVED BY ARCHANA TAMANG, UNIFEM

Date: Wed, Sep 17, 2008 at 6:47 PM
Subject: Fw: [invites] Plea for repatriation of girls from Malaysia
To: archana.tamang@gmail.com

Is there anyone who could help or check this out?? Hope Paras u and the children be fine.

Love Anita

From: alana golmei <alana.golmei@gmail.com>
Subject: [invites] Plea for repatriation of girls from Malaysia
To: invites@yahoogroups.com
Date: Wednesday, 17 September, 2008, 10:48 AM

Dear All,

This mail is from my colleagues who desperately need your intervention.

Regards,
Alana

Sir/Madam,

It is with great concern that I, on behalf of NPMHR Tamenglong, seek you kind intervention for safe repatriation of Jasmine and her four other Indigenous Zeliangrong girls from Tamenglong District of Manipur who have been taken to with the promise of decent job at Singapore by the Singapore based NGOs. However they were transferred to Malaysia and believe to be sold to one club as Kuala Lumpur. I fear that these girls are victims of human trafficking. Detailed information is enclosed for your information and prompt action. The information has been compiled from telephonic conversation. We have also enclosed an email received from Rev. David who is currently assisting the three girls who have escaped from the traffickers. At least 150 Indigenous Women (Children and young women), majority of them are believed to be Zeliangrong Naga Community were recruited with a promise of job at Singapore by Singapore based NGO called Abel and Leo Private Ltd. under the leadership of Ricky Ho.

Mr. Ho's men are spread over India, Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines (as per out knowledge). In India, his men are scattered around penetrating to even to village level at Dimapur (Nagaland),

Manipur, Shillong (Meghalaya), Guwahati (Assam) and Kolkatta (West Bengal).

It may be pertinent to mention here that five village girls who were newly persuaded with the same promise by the same men Ricky Ho were intercepted on the way to Singapore at Dimapur.

The detailed is appended.
In solidarity,

Kinderson Pamei

Coordinator
NPMHR (South)
Cell no. 9436728686 or 9856242498
Email: Pamei.rights@ gmail.com

ASSAM TRIBUNE

2.10.2008

National women panel notice to Nagaland Govt

Spl correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct 1 – Even as pressure on the Centre is mounting to act, a delegation of human rights activists called on the Malaysian High Commission and the National Commission for Women to intervene for safe repatriation of the trafficked Naga girls. In a significant development, taking suo-moto cognizance of reports and editorial in *The Assam Tribune*, the National Commission for Women has issued notices to Nagaland Government on the issue of illegal trafficking of women.

Meanwhile, a delegation led by Public Affair National Secretary of All India Christian Council, Dr Sam Paul led a delegation to Malaysian High Commission, and National Commission for Women on Monday seeking the urgent intervention for safe repatriation of five North East trafficked girls in Malaysia. The delegation also called on the Union Tribal Affair Minister, PR Kyandiah on Tuesday.

The delegation included regional secretary of All India Christian Council and spokesperson of North East Support Centre and Helpline, Madhu Chandra, and the president of North East Support Centre and Help line advocate Lansinglu Rongmei.

The spokesman said National Commission for Women assured to seek help from the Ministry of External Affairs to look into the matter and act.

Malaysian High Commission has also assured the delegation to do all possible after hearing from the Indian counterpart.

Madhu Chandra said they contacted the Christian pastor under whose care the five trafficked girls have taken shelter in Kuala Lumpur. One of the victims told NE Support Centre & Helpline over the phone that she along with four of her friends from Manipur were taken to Singapore with the promise of job and latter taken to Kuala Lumpur by the agents and forced to work in a bar illegally.

“We managed to escape from the clutches of those agents, who have trafficked us and we went to Indian High Commission at Kuala Lumpur to seek help but the Commission asked the pastor to keep us under his shelter,” the girls were quoted as having complained by the spokesman.

Meanwhile, Outer Manipur MP, Mani Charanamei has also taken up the issue with External Affairs Minister, Pranab Mukherjee and sought his help.

“The public of the region, particularly the youngsters and guardians must be sensitised about different groups and individuals offering the easy jobs and ascertain their genuinness,” Madhu Chandra.

The North Eastern States have been urged to alert the public and security machineries to take steps to prevent human trafficking, added Rongmei.

ASSAM TRIBUNE

NE girls sold to Malaysian night clubs

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Sept 23 – A major incident of trafficking of girls from Northeast has come to light with reports by a Singapore-based NGO of hapless girls being sold to night clubs in Malaysia sending alarm bells ringing.

Shakti Vahini, an NGO, today released letters written by Kinderson Pamei, coordinator of Naga People's Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) to Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi. The organisation has urged the minister to investigate the matter and take urgent actions so that victims of human trafficking could be rescued.

The NPMHR has sought safe repatriation of Jasmine and her four other indigenous Zeliangrong girls from Tamenglong district of Manipur. They were allegedly taken to Malaysia with the promise of decent job at Singapore by NGOs based in the country. However they were taken to Malaysia and were suspected to have been sold to one club in Kuala Lumpur. "I fear that these girls are victims of human trafficking," Pamei said.

The human rights body received an email from Rev. David, who is currently assisting the three girls who have escaped from the traffickers. At least 150 indigenous women, including children, majority of whom are believed to be Zeliangrong Nagas, were recruited with a promise of job at Singapore by the NGO called Abel and Leo Private Limited, which is believed to be headed by one Ricky Ho.

It was alleged that Ho's agents have spread out across the country and have reached villages near Dimapur, Manipur, Shillong, Guwahati and Kolkata.

Fortunately, five village girls who were taken by Ho's men were intercepted on the way to Singapore at Dimapur, the NGO said.

The NE States, along with North Bengal, have emerged as hot spots for human traffickers, who lure innocent women and children even boys with promises of jobs outside the region. However, this is perhaps the first instance of traffickers making inroads into interior of the Hill State's and taking girls abroad.

The rising trend of human trafficking has forced most of the NE States to appoint senior police officials as nodal officers to coordinate with NGOs to check the menace.

ASSAM TRIBUNE

Trafficked girls sheltered in destitute home

SOBHAPATI SAMOM

IMPHAL, Sept 30 – Pinky Rongmei (name changed) left her home at Khonjaron village in Manipur's most backward district Tamenglong with the hope that she would earn for her family. Her ignorant parents also agreed to the proposal and let her go abroad with some other village girls.

But all of a sudden their dream turned into a nightmare. Now, hapless Pinky and four of her companions – all Zeliangrong Naga girls – were taking shelter at a destitute home near Indian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) after they reportedly escaped from the clutches of "some agents" who tried to sell them off to a night club there.

"We want to return home without delay, will it be possible?". This was conveyed by one of the stranded girl in a telephonic conversation with Kinderson Pamei, a Tamenglong based local NGO leader on Monday. These girls had been taken to Singapore in early part of this year, by an NGO called Abel and Leo Private Limited headed by one Ricky Ho, on the promise of house-keeping jobs.

So, around 150 indigenous girls from Manipur were reportedly recruited, sources said. Parents and NGO leaders back home in Manipur also want safe return of their daughters with the Central Government's intervention, besides booking all the involved "culprits" immediately.

Meanwhile, Tamenglong police, while registering a case, had so far arrested one Philip Gangmei of Sibilong village on September 23 following complaints from the parents. On the other hand, Kinderson, who is the chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee of the district told *The Assam Tribune* that they're trying their best to bring back the stranded girls home. Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs also assured us for security cover, he added.

"However, we need to clear overstay fee of around Rs 7,000 each to Malaysian Government" he said. So far, there is no assistance from either the State as well as the Central Government, laments Panti Gonmei, President of Ruangmeilu Phuum, an apex body of Zeliangrong women in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in an interaction with this correspondent today.

The local agents who indulge in this 'racket'(human trafficking), taking advantage of lack of awareness and socio economic condition, took "manipulative consent" of the girls as well as their respective families, she adds. "We don't know anything, we let her go in the hope of getting some financial support in our family", father of Pinky said. Like him, parents of other girls who were presently stranded abroad also shared similar accounts.

"We did not get anything from their earning – instead we're told to send some more amount for their return; from where we'll get the money", laments the mother of another victim. The girls were forced to work whole day but denied their pay saying they're adjusting it with the previous expenditure on their journey to Malaysia.

Women trafficking ASSAM TRIBUNE

An NGO has brought to the fore yet another case of human trafficking involving women from the north eastern region of the country. What has come as a great shock is the fact that a number of girls from the region have been sold to the night clubs in Malaysia. The selling of the girls from the region would have been kept under wraps had not three girls managed to flee from the clutches of the human traffickers. The incident has serious implications for the region as the involvement of international rackets of human traffickers in the region has come to light. Most of the victims were lured away with the promise of securing them good employment prospects abroad. It has also surfaced that around 150 indigenous women, including children majority of whom are believed to be Zeliangrong Nagas, were recruited by a group alluring them with jobs in Singapore. The group is believed to have spread its tentacles in the interior villages near Dimapur, Shillong, Guwahati and in parts of Manipur. Considering the gravity of the situation the Central Government should take up the incident on a priority basis and investigate the matter. Coordinating with the Malaysian authorities the Government should initiate steps to rescue the hapless victims and take action against the criminals.

So far as the north eastern region is concerned, it has always been targeted by the human traffickers. Taking advantage of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, the human traffickers conjuring up dreams of a bright future have been successfully carrying out their nefarious activities. It's an irony that in spite of the clamour raised in different quarters of the State, there is no stopping of this criminal activity, which is being carried on with impunity. Most of the victims of human trafficking are sold in the red light areas in Siliguri, Delhi, and Mumbai. Though it was generally believed that to cater to the ever-increasing demand in the red light areas was the driving force behind human trafficking; now the focus has shifted to organs trade. It is high time the law enforcing agencies coordinate their activities to tackle the menace of human trafficking head on. The vulnerable areas should be identified and awareness campaigns be conducted with the help of voluntary agencies. A strong vigil by the village elders, NGOs can go a long way in thwarting the activities of the traffickers. A strong deterrent action on the traffickers on a consistent basis would definitely help in containing this crime against humanity.

Probe into trafficking of NE girls

Spl correspondent

NEW DELHI, Sept 26 – Responding to pleas for help, the Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA) has ordered an inquiry into the trafficking of girls from North-east to Singapore and Malaysia. Official sources said the Minister of State for OIA, Vayalar Ravi has ordered an inquiry into reports of girls being trafficked for sex work. A Singapore-based NGO allegedly sold the girls to night clubs in Kaula Lumpur.

Sources said the Minister has also alerted Indian embassies in Singapore and Malaysia to look into the complaints.

The Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) on the basis of an email from a priest lodged a complaint with the Ministry OIA alleging trafficking of Zeliangrong girls hailing from Tamenglong district in Manipur.

The NGO has been allegedly recruiting girls from Manipur, Guwahati, Kolkata, Dimapur and Shillong. Five girls on their way to Singapore were intercepted and rescued at Dimapur recently, it was alleged.

TIMES OF INDIA 26.09.2008

North East girls caught in sex racket? Govt orders probe

26 Sep 2008, 0235 hrs IST, Himanshi Dhawan, TNN (Times of India)

NEW DELHI: The government has ordered an inquiry into reports of girls from the northeast being trafficked to Malaysia for sex work. NGOs claimed that as many as 150 girls were reported to have been promised jobs in Singapore but landed up in clubs in Kaula Lumpur instead.

The ministry of overseas Indian affairs (OIA) has ordered an inquiry into the reports. "I am looking into the matter. We have also alerted our [embassies](#) in Singapore and Malaysia," Vayalar Ravi, OIA minister said. The minister has directed the Protectorate of Emigrants (PoE) officer to track records on the basis of which these girls were taken.

Complaints were received from Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) and Shakti Vahini regarding trafficking of girls from Zeliangrong community in Tamenglong district in Manipur. The two NGOs were alerted after three girls escaped from their traffickers in Malaysia and were rescued by a priest. He, in turn, got in touch with NPMHR, Unifem and Shakti Vahini.

Shakti Vahini's executive director Ravi Kant said, "This information only hints at what could be a larger racket of human trafficking from the N-E." While details are not forthcoming, NGOs said that a Singapore-based group was recruiting girls not just from Manipur but Guwahati, Kolkata, Dimapur and Shillong. NGOs also claimed that five girls on their way to Singapore were intercepted and rescued at Dimapur recently.

The N-E has emerged as a source-transit-destination point for trafficking of women and children. The region's proximity to the country's porous borders has made human trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh easy while girls from Manipur, Nagaland and Assam find their way to Delhi, Mumbai and southeast Asian countries.

Human trafficking, coupled with trafficking of drugs and arms, has left the entire region in turmoil and internal strife. Concerned over the increasing number of fake recruiting agencies, the ministry has planned to strengthen the [Emigration Act](#) that will allow authorities to take stringent action against fraudulent agents. The amendments to the legislation are in the pipeline.

SHILLONG TIMES

SHILONG TIMES

From Our Spl Correspondent

NEW DELHI: After several reports of girls being trafficked from vulnerable North East to the metropolis, a shocking incident of such international network has come to light, a report by Shakti Vahini, a renowned NGO working in this field, has revealed.

The report said that helpless girls are being sold to night clubs in Malaysia by a Singapore-based NGO sending alarm bells ringing.

Taking cognizance of the seriousness of the report, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR), Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) has sought the intervention and urgent action of Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi so that victims of human trafficking could be rescued.

According to NPMHR co-ordinator Kinderson Pamei, the organization has sought safe repatriation of Jasmine and four other indigenous Zeliangrong girls from Tamenglong district of Manipur, who were allegedly taken to Malaysia with the promise of job at Singapore by NGOs based in the country.

But instead, they land up in Kuala Lumpur and were suspected to have been sold to a club. The human rights body received an email from Rev David, who is currently assisting the three girls who have escaped from the traffickers.

At least 150 indigenous women including children, majority of whom are believed to be Zeliangrong Nagas were recruited with a promise of job at Singapore by the NGO called Abel and Leo Private Limited. The NGO is believed to be headed by one Ricky Ho, whose agents have spread out across the country and have reached villages near Shillong, Dimapur, Manipur, Guwahati and Kolkatta.

Five village girls, who were taken by Ho's men, were intercepted on the way to Singapore at Dimapur, the NGO said.

The north eastern states along with North Bengal, Bangladesh and Nepal have emerged as hot spots for human traffickers, who lure innocent women and children even boys with promises of jobs outside the region.

However, this is perhaps the first instance of traffickers making inroads into interior of the hill states and taking girls abroad.

5 Manipur girls rescued from Malaysia, travel agent held

Nagendar Sharma & Sobhapati Samom, Hindustan Times

Email Author

New Delhi/Imphal, October 01, 2008

Indian embassy officials in Malaysia have rescued five girls belonging to Manipur who were illegally confined and tortured by unauthorised travel agents allegedly involved in human trafficking.

The girls, between 23 and 26 years, were lured by an Imphal-based travel agent with the promise of well-paid jobs in Singapore. They were taken to Kuala Lumpur and beaten up when they refused to join prostitution.

“The girls are now safe and have been put up in a secure shelter. The government is paying for their tickets to get them back home. Three of these girls don’t even have passports. They are being given emergency papers by our embassy officials,” Vyalari Ravi, the Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, said on Wednesday.

Ravi said one travel agent in Imphal has been arrested, but other members of his network scattered across many countries are still roaming free. State officials said the travel agents working in the name of an NGO, Abel and Leo Private Limited, had been active in recruiting girls for jobs of domestic helps in Singapore and Malaysia.

“The track record of this NGO has not been good and we are looking for the people who recruited girls in a fraudulent manner. This would not be allowed any further,” said a senior government official not willing to be named.

All five girls — who are from the Zeliangrong tribe and belong to one of Manipur’s most backward districts, Tamenglong — were taken to Singapore in January this year.

The father of one of the girls said he had allowed his daughter to go in the hope of improving the family’s financial condition. “But instead of getting money, I was asked by the agent to pay some more as he had sent the girls to Malaysia for better jobs.”

Social workers put the number of girls being lured by unauthorised agents from the state at nearly 150.

“The state and central governments need to crackdown on unauthorised agents. Not less than 150 girls have been kidnapped on false promises,” said Kinderson Pamei, chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee.