

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002025/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)
(11 October 2024)

Subject: Armed ethno-religious conflict in Manipur, India

Since May 2023, there has been an ongoing armed conflict in Manipur, north-eastern India, between the minority, predominantly Christian, Kuki community and the majority Hindu Meitei community. Over 219 people have died, 60 000 have been displaced and homes, businesses and places of worship have been destroyed. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government and the Union Government of India have failed to put an end to the conflict.

In July 2023, Parliament adopted an urgency resolution⁽¹⁾ calling on the Indian Government to allow independent investigations into the violence. Since then, the conflict has continued, and it remains unclear whether an independent investigation into the violence has been launched. Delivery of aid to the region is also reportedly being hampered by government restrictions on humanitarian aid providers.

1. Did the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue scheduled for 20 August 2024 go ahead, and if not why not?
2. Has the VP/HR followed up with the Indian Government on the independent inquiry, and if so, what is the status and have any of the reports been made public?
3. Has the VP/HR raised the need to grant unhindered access to humanitarian aid providers with the Indian authorities, and if so, what was the response?

Submitted: 11.10.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission
(28 November 2024)

The EU Delegation in India (EUDel) continues to monitor the situation in Manipur. The Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) continue to meet in Brussels with visiting civil society organisations and activists familiar with the situation in Manipur.

The 2024 EU-India Human Rights Dialogue (HRD) was scheduled for 20 August 2024 but had to be postponed at the request of the Indian side.

The EUDel is in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs of India in order to reschedule it. Indian government officials, including the Indian Ambassador in Brussels, have expressed India's commitment to rescheduling the HRD at the earliest convenient date.

A Commission of Inquiry (CoI) was established in June 2023 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to probe the ethnic violence in Manipur. The deadline for the submission of the CoI report to the MHA is on 20 November 2024. The Commission and the EEAS will continue to follow the CoI process closely.

The EUDel is regularly in touch with the Indian authorities regarding the situation in Manipur, including on possible humanitarian assistance needs.

The Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO) has been operating in India since 1995. Between 2011 and 2024, the EU has contributed over EUR 42 million in immediate emergency assistance.

¹ OJ C, C/2024/4009, 17.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4009/oj>.