

Community opposes oil exploration



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A Community meet on ongoing Oil Exploration survey by Asian Oilfield was held at Khaidem Mayai Leikai, Laibung, [Imphal](#) West, [Manipur](#) on 18th May 2017, organized by the Meira Paibi Associations and Youth Clubs of Khaidem Villages, Awang Leikai, Makha Leikai and Mayai Leikai with the Committee on the Protection of [Natural Resources](#) in [Manipur](#), All [Manipur](#) United Clubs Organization and [North East](#) Dialogue Forum. The [Consultation](#) is organized in the context of 2D surveys for oil exploration works in [Manipur](#) by Asian Oilfield, contracted by the Oil [India](#) Limited.

The participants condemned the oil exploration surveys and multiple blasting by Asian Oilfield in Khaidem area and resolved that oil companies, viz, the Asian Oilfield, Oil [India](#) Limited should [stop](#) all exploration related works in Khaidem area and in all parts of [Manipur](#). The participant also resolved Asian Oilfield should mandatorily provide all details of their project, such [as](#) Detailed Project Report, the Environmental Impact Assessments, [Social](#) Impact Assessment, [Environment](#) Management Plan and all agreements with the Government of [India](#) and Government of [Manipur](#) for oil exploration to the people of [Manipur](#).

Gunni, Meira Paibi Leader of Khumbong Area and Mr. Jiten of Khaidem Village shared experiences of how Asian Oilfield conducted oil surveys in Khaidem Area, by blasting multiple bombs in agricultural land without conducting any environmental and social impact assessment of such surveys and oil exploration and also without providing any details and information of the proposed oil exploration plan and surveys etc.

Ph Deban, [President](#), AMUCO, shared that the proposed plan for oil exploration in [Manipur](#) without taking the consent of Khaidem villagers and the people of [Manipur](#) at large is a clear disrespect to the people of [Manipur](#). The multiple blasting at Khaidem village and the proposed plan for oil drilling in [Manipur](#) would not only [lead](#) to social and environment impacts, but will only [lead](#) to plunder of our land and resources.

Aram Pamei, Ex-[President](#), Naga Women Union shared how the villagers of Tamenglong District were duped by oil companies like Alpha Geo and Jubilant Energy to given No Objection Certificates (NOC) by bribing local [leaders](#) and propagating misinformation. She also shared how villagers of Tamenglong rejected NOC's due to social, environmental impacts and on consideration of their [rights over](#) their land and territories.

Nando Luwang, Vice [President](#), AMUCO shared that oil resources belongs to people of [Manipur](#) and condemned how Oil [India](#) Limited and Asian Oilfield commenced survey works and oil exploration works without even informing the people of [Manipur](#). The people of [Manipur](#) should consider how NHPC has fooled the people of [Manipur](#) with its 105 MW Loktak Project by failing its promises in [Manipur](#). Assam continues to remain one of the poorest State of [India](#) despite oil extraction from Assam for more than a Century.

Y Jiten of CPNRM shared how oil resources is classified [as](#) Union Government property and how such classification with multiple oil related laws on exploration and extraction constitute a deprivation and negation of the [rights](#) of the people of [Manipur](#) to their own resources and their right to develop it. The Ministry of Petroleum and [Natural Resources](#) awarded oil exploration contract to Jubilant Energy without consulting people of [Manipur](#).

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