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## Protest against AFSPA



[Bg Gogoi](#) · 22:57, 2 Nov 2015 | Updated 11:49, 10 Feb 2023 · 8636 views · 3 min read



North-East Forum for International Solidarity (NEFIS), in discussion with Irom Sharmila, organized a twelve-hour hunger strike to mark the 15th year of her heroic struggle against (/taxonomy/term/1929) Armed Forces Special Powers Act (/taxonomy/term/1974) (AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620)) on Monday. It is to be noted that on November (/taxonomy/term/1690)2 (/taxonomy/term/1690), 2000 a terrible tragedy shook the state (/taxonomy/term/2332) of Manipur (/taxonomy/term/64) when (/taxonomy/term/2005)10 (/taxonomy/term/2005) civilians were shot dead by paramilitary forces at a local bus-stop (/taxonomy/term/2235) in Malom, Manipur (/taxonomy/term/64). Among the deceased was an 18-year old National (/taxonomy/term/1874) Bravery Award (/taxonomy/term/66) winner. The massacre triggered angry protests across Manipur (/taxonomy/term/64) and led to Irom Sharmila going on her epic fast a few days later. Justice, however, continues to be denied in the case of the Malom massacre and many other such cases. Meanwhile, Irom Sharmila continues to be heckled by cases filed against (/taxonomy/term/1929) her and periodic arrests. NEFIS has hence pledged to take forward the nation-wide struggle against (/taxonomy/term/1929) the draconian and anti-people Armed Forces Special Powers Act (/taxonomy/term/1974).

NEFIS successfully organized the twelve-hour hunger strike across various cities, among which were Kokrajhar, Karbi Anglong, Delhi, Gwalior, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Kokrajhar (Assam), etc. A sit-in protest along with the hunger strike was organized at KDSA Volleyball Ground(Kokrajhar) today where large numbers of NEFIS members, Students from different communities, as (/taxonomy/term/2291) well as (/taxonomy/term/2291) representatives from various progressive and democratic organizations collected to condemn the enforcement of the long abused Armed Forces Special Powers Act (/taxonomy/term/1974) (AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620)). Professors from various colleges too supported the hunger strike. Students representing different communities called for a collective struggle against (/taxonomy/term/1929) this draconian law.

It should be noted that AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620) has been enforced in parts of Jammu and Kashmir, as (/taxonomy/term/2291) well as (/taxonomy/term/2291) in the North East (/taxonomy/term/2419) states where it is serving as (/taxonomy/term/2291) a useful weapon for the Indian State to curb the democratic rights (/taxonomy/term/1990) and freedom of the people of these regions. Under the draconian provisions of AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620) the government's judgment on why an area is found (/taxonomy/term/1802) to be 'disturbed' is not subject to judicial review. Similarly, there can be no prosecution, suit or any other legal proceeding against (/taxonomy/term/1929) anyone acting under this law, except with the sanction of the Central Government. Moreover, this controversial law provides dangerous impunity to the armed forces for detaining, using lethal force and entering and searching premises without warrant. Since armed soldiers trained in combat and in war (/taxonomy/term/2006) have no training (/taxonomy/term/1605) in civilian law or policing procedures, atrocities under AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620) are inevitable and are growing. Hence, NEFIS demands (/taxonomy/term/2467) that AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620) should be repealed at the earliest from all states, thereby ending the miseries of the people.

AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620) has been condemned nationally and internationally by all democratic and justice loving people. Even certain government-appointed commissions (including the recent Justice Verma Committee) and human rights (/taxonomy/term/1990) organizations have pressed for the withdrawal of the Act (/taxonomy/term/1974). The continued enforcement of the Act (/taxonomy/term/1974) has ensured continued protests. This is why NEFIS' call for a hunger strike on 2nd November elicited a phenomenal response. At its Kokrajhar and Karbi Anglong sit-in protests, NEFIS called upon all the different communities of the North East (/taxonomy/term/2419), as (/taxonomy/term/2291) well as (/taxonomy/term/2291) people across the country to raise a unified struggle against (/taxonomy/term/1929) AFSPA (/taxonomy/term/1620).



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