

Rights convention raises major demands



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AT News 27 June 2016 7797 views

A huge convention of human [rights](#) organizations in [New Delhi](#) recently outlined four major [demands](#) before the government to heal the wounds of the torture [victims](#). Attended by human [rights](#) experts, activists, lawyers, journalists. Doctors and academics, the national convention in the capital asked the government to ratify the convention [against](#) torture which has been pending since 1997.

The convention further demanded a new bill to in [Parliament](#) to prevent the torture incorporating within it the recommendations of the Select Committee of [Parliament](#). The human [rights](#) bodies demanded a comprehensive statutory scheme to repair and rehabilitate the torture [victims](#). Finally the convention said that [New Delhi](#) must facilitate the visit of the special rapporteur on torture whose request has been pending for many years. According to a press statement, Organising Committee convener Babloo Loitongbam said, “[as India](#) is signatory to the Convention [against](#) Disability, that also addresses the issue of disabilities caused by torture, a logical and necessary corollary is that [India](#) immediately ratifies CAT.

There is now strong evidence of widespread impunity for illegal and appalling actions [as](#) a primary means of investigation when in custody and control of [state](#) actors and of torture being used [as](#) a means of coercing and subduing dissent amongst voiceless and vulnerable populations. These include large sections in the North Eastern region, Jammu and Kashmir, migrant labour, construction [workers](#), unorganised [workers](#), Adivasis and [indigenous](#) peoples, Dalits and [India](#)'s religious minorities who bear the additional burden of being often wrongfully associated with acts of terror, he said.

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