To,

Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi,

Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister’s Office,

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**Subject: Desist from constructing the National Sports University and the Trans Asian Highway (Asian Highway 1) at Yaithibi Loukon without the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous communities of Manipur**

Honorable Sir,

We are deeply concerned to know that the Government of Manipur in North East India is the Government of Manipur in North East India is planning to set up the National Sports University at Yaithibi Loukon, a prime agriculture land, in Thoubal District, Manipur. The announcement of the Government of Manipur through the Chief Minister was made on August 24, 2014 without the free, prior and informed consent of the farmers and residents in and around Yaithibi Loukon.

We are aware that the ‘Yaithibi Loukon’ is a prime agricultural land surrounded by five villages comprising various communities. The site is also one of the most fertile cultivated land suitable for multiple cropping in a single year. The proposed land acquisition will affect an area of approximately 642 acres comprising 380 acres of agricultural land, 100 acres of habitat areas and 162 acres of hill/forest areas, and will render the villagers homeless and landless. The acquisition affects the following 5 villages: Koijam village (95 houses), Laiching Minou village (150 houses belonging to the Maring people) Sora village (1402 houses of Muslim community); Langthabal village (98 houses) and Yaithibi Khunou village (7 houses) belonging to the Meitei people).

The Government of Manipur arbitrarily declared the proposed Sports University Site as “Khas Land or uninhabited land”, despite the fact that the proposed site, the Yaithibi Loukon is an inhabited land with sufficient land records.

We are also aware that the effort of the Government of Manipur to forcibly acquire land in Yaithibi Loukon also involves use of military might where several farmers and affected communities were hurt in police brutality.

We would like to support the demands of the Affected Land Owners’ Association against Forced Land Acquisition for Sports University and hereby called upon your Government to intervene promptly on the following demands:

1. The National Sport University and the Trans Asian Highway at Yaithibi Loukon, Manipur should not be constructed without the free, prior and informed consent of affected communities.
2. Shift the National Sports University Construction to other locations, especially where communities are willing to donate adequate land.
3. The Government of Manipur should vacate all state security forces in Sora High School and end all forms of threats on communities affected by proposed land acquisition at Yaithibi Loukon.
4. The Asian Development Bank stop finances the Asian Highway 1 without the free, prior and informed consent of affected communities.
5. Revoke all land transfer of Yaithibi Loukon to Department of Youth Affairs and Sports and further to revoke the cancellation of the land records of villagers of Yaithibi Loukon in February 2015 and should investigate and prosecute all those involved in such fraud.
6. The Government of Manipur should also stop arbitrary arrest and detention of community members of Yaithibi Loukon resolving for defence of their land and future.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours,