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No. 11011/5/2018-NE-V  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs

US/M

North Block, New Delhi- 110001  
Dated the 14 May, 2019



3790-03/19  
15.5.19

To,

The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Tripura,  
Agartala, Tripura.

Subject: - Order of the Tribunal in the matter of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) of Tripura.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the Notification No.1709 (E), dated 09.05.2019, in the matter of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) of Tripura, for information and necessary action please.

70

14/5/2019  
(R.K. Pandey)  
Deputy Secretary (NE-II)

Encl: as above

Copy of the Notification also forwarded for information and necessary action:-

1. Joint Secretary, (Army), Ministry of Defence, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau, 35 S.P. Marg, New Delhi.
3. Director, (Shri Krishna Chaitanya) Cabinet Secretariat (R&AW) Room No.1001, B-1, Wing 10<sup>th</sup> floor, Pandit Deen Dayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi.
4. Director General, BSF, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
5. Director General, CRPF, Block No. 1, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
6. Section Officer (IT). The information may please be uploaded in the web-site of Ministry of Home Affairs in North East Division accordingly.

shubane  
18.5.19

2021/2020/19  
20/5/19

विरोधी गतिविधियों का प्रचार-प्रसार करने, नागरिकों, पुलिस और सुरक्षा बल कार्मिकों की हत्या करने, अवैध शस्त्र एवं गोलाबारूद इकट्ठा करने और जनता से अवैध रूप से जबरन धन वसूली करने और इस प्रकार अपनी विधिविरुद्ध गतिविधियों को अंजाम देने के लिए उठाएंगे।

- (41) इन परिस्थितियों में सरकार ने अधिनियम की धारा 3(1) और अधिनियम की धारा 3(3) के अंतर्गत की गई घोषणा की पुष्टि करने के लिए पर्याप्त कारण दिए हैं।
- (42) इसके परिणामस्वरूप, अधिकरण द्वारा यह निष्कर्ष दिया जाता है कि दिनांक 03.10.2018 की अधिमूचना सं. का.आ. 5078(अ) पूरी तरह से न्यायोचित है। एनएलएफटी और एटीटीएफ को 03 अक्टूबर, 2018 से पांच वर्ष की अवधि तक विधिविरुद्ध संगम घोषित करने का पर्याप्त कारण है।

न्यायमूर्ति सुरेश कुमार कैत

विधिविरुद्ध क्रियाकलाप (निवारण) अधिकरण

14 मार्च, 2019

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 9th May, 2019

S.O. 1709(E).—In terms of Section 4(4) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the order of the Tribunal presided over by Hon'ble justice Mr. Suresh Kumar Kait Judge, Delhi High Court, to whom a reference was made under Section 4(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) of Tripura as Unlawful Associations is published for general information:

[No. 11011/05/2018-NE-V ]

SATYENDRA GARG, Jt. Secy.

TRIBUNAL

UNDER THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967

IN THE MATTER OF: NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT OF TRIPURA (NLFT) & ALL TRIPURA TIGER FORCE (ATTF) OF TRIPURA

AND IN THE MATTER OF: REFERENCE UNDER SECTION 4 (1) OF THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967

REPORT

- (1) On 03rd October, 2018, a notification no. S.O.5078 (E) was issued by Mr. Satyendra Garg, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to the effect that National Liberation Front of Tripura along with all its factions, wings and front organizations (hereinafter referred to as the NLFT), and All Tripura Tiger Force along with all its factions, wings and front organizations (hereinafter referred to as the ATTF), as unlawful associations.
- (2) The Government of India is of the opinion that NLFT and ATTF have, as their professed aim, establishment of an independent nation by secession of Tripura from India through armed struggle in alliance with other armed secessionist organizations of Tripura and to incite indigenous people of Tripura for such secession.
- (3) The Government of India is also of the opinion that the NLFT and ATTF have been engaging in subversive and violent activities, thereby undermining the authority of the Government and spreading terror and violence among the people for achieving their objectives; maintaining close nexus with other unlawful associations of North-East with the aim of mobilizing their support; engaging in violent and unlawful

activities in pursuance of their aim and objectives in recent past which are pre-judicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India. ]

- (4) The Government of India is furthermore of the Opinion that the violent and unlawful activities of NLFT and ATTF include killing of civilians and personnel belonging to the police and security forces; extortion of funds from the public including businessmen and traders in Tripura; establishing and maintaining camps in neighboring countries for the purpose of safe sanctuary, training, procurement of arms and ammunitions etc.
- (5) The Central Government is moreover of the opinion that the activities of the NLFT and the ATTF are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India and that they are unlawful associations.
- (6) The Central Government is over and above of the opinion that unless there is no immediate curb and control upon NLFT and ATTF, the organizations may mobilize their cadres for escalating their secessionist, subversive and violent activities; propagate anti-national activities in collusion with forces inimical of India's sovereignty and national integrity; indulge in killings of civilians and targeting of the police and security forces personnel; procure and induct illegal arms and ammunitions from across the international borders; extort and collect huge funds from the public for their unlawful activities.
- (7) Consequently, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 (1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), the Central Government declared the NLFT and ATTF along with all their factions, wings and front organizations, as unlawful associations.
- (8) The Central Government is further of the opinion that it is necessary to declare the NLFT and the ATTF along with all their factions, wings and front organizations as unlawful associations with immediate effect. Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Section 3 (3) of the Act, the Central Government has directed that the notification shall, subject to any order made under Section 4 of the Act, have effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.
- (9) Under these circumstances, and in exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 (1) of the Act, this Tribunal was constituted by notification no. S.O.5741 (E) dated 15th November, 2018 issued by Mr. Satyendra Garg, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the NLFT and ATTF as unlawful associations. By virtue of Section 4 (3) of the Act, the Tribunal is required to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the NLFT and ATTF as unlawful associations within the meaning of the expression defined under Section 2 (p) of the Act.
- (10) In support of the case, the Central Government made a reference to the Tribunal and submitted a brief regarding the aims/objectives and violent activities of NLFT and ATTF.
- (11) On 27th November, 2018, notice under Section 4 (2) of the Act, was issued to NLFT and ATTF to show cause within 30 days from the date of service of the notice as to why the said associations be not declared unlawful and why order should not be made confirming the declaration made under Section 3 (1) of the Act. It was also directed that notice shall be served in the same manner as the Notification banning NLFT and ATTF had been served. It was further directed that the notice shall be served on the aforesaid organizations in the following manner:-
  - a) Copies of the notice be affixed at some conspicuous part of the offices, if any, of the above Associations;
  - b) Notice be also served on the aforesaid Associations by publication in daily newspapers, one in English and one in prominent local newspaper in vernacular language, which is under circulation in the locality where the organizations have their establishments or presence as is known in the State of Tripura and outside. Service be also effected on the Office bearers of the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) & All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) at their addresses or if under detention through the Superintendent (Jail) concerned.
  - c) Proclaiming by beat of drums or by means of loudspeakers, the contents of the notice in the area in which the activities of the Associations are ordinarily carried out;
  - d) By publishing on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs (<http://mha.nic.in>)
  - e) By making announcement on All India Radio and telecasting on Doordarshan from the Local Broadcasting and Transmission Stations of the State of Tripura, and
  - f) Notice should also be served by pasting the same on the Notice Board of the Office of District Magistrate/Tehsildar at the Headquarter of the District or Tehsil, as feasible.

- (12) Pursuant to order dated 27th November, 2018, Mr. J. K. Batra, appointed as Registrar of the Tribunal, filed his report dated 15th January, 2019 to evidence that notice was served/published in different modes upon the organizations. The State of Tripura also filed an affidavit dated 21st January, 2019 of Shri Baijoyanta Das, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Government of Tripura, Tripura Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi to the effect that as per the directions of the Tribunal, service of notice has been effected upon the associations by different modes including publication. The Central Government as well filed an affidavit dated 21st January, 2019 of Smt. Neeta Gupta, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, Government of India to the effect that the associations have been served in the modes prescribed by the Tribunal.
- (13) Despite service of notice, there was no appearance on behalf of the NLFT and ATTF before the Tribunal in its proceedings dated 21st January, 2019 nor any petition, message, reply, letter was received from the said organizations and the Tribunal decided to proceed further. On the request of learned ASG appearing for the Central Government and the learned counsel for the Government of Tripura, the dates for recording the evidence of witnesses and cross-examination, if any, were fixed for 2nd February, 2019 & 3rd February, 2019 in Agartala, Tripura. The State Government of Tripura was directed to give due publicity in the local newspapers and through media regarding the dates of sitting and the venue of the Tribunal much in advance. Though there was no response from the NLFT and the ATTF nor they were being represented but liberty was given to the organizations to have themselves represented before the Tribunal, if they wish to do so.
- (14) During the proceedings of the Tribunal dated 21st January, 2019, the State of Tripura filed Affidavit of Evidence dated 21.01.2019 of Shri Baijoyanta Das, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Government of Tripura, Tripura Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi along with supporting documents like FIRs registered in the districts of Tripura in support of the case for declaring the NLFT and ATTF as unlawful associations. The Central Government sought short time to file its substantial affidavit before the Tribunal to substantiate its case.
- (15) The proceedings of the Tribunal to record the evidence on behalf of Government and cross-examination, if any, were held on 2nd February, 2019 in the VIP Lounge, State Guest House, Agartala, Tripura. The learned counsel appearing for the State of Tripura submitted that 13 witnesses were to be produced by the State before the Tribunal out of which 5 witnesses i.e. SW-1, SW-2, SW-11, SW-12 and SW-13 were Government officers/officials while 8 witnesses i.e. SW-3 to SW-10 were victims/witnesses in FIRs already registered in the districts of Tripura. The individual affidavits of SW-1 to SW-13 were filed. The witnesses produced before the Tribunal were:-
- SW-1, Shri Abhijit Saptarshi, S/o Sh. Jaikrishna Saptarshi, Superintendent of Police, Special Branch, Tripura, Agartala;
- SW-2, Shri Arup Deb, S/o Lt. Arunendu Deb, Under Secretary, Home Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala;
- SW-3, Shri Alindra Tripura, S/o Sh. Falguni Tripura, R/o Mayakumar Tripura, PS Raishyabari, District Dhalai Tripura, aged 27 years, Victim of Raishyabari PS Case no. 21/2014 dated 09.11.2014;
- SW-4, Shri Udayram Reang, S/o Sh. Pushparam Reang, R/o New Joyram Pur, PO Dalapati, PS Gandacherra, District Dhalai, Tripura, aged 33 years, victim of Gandacherra Police Station case no. 25/2014 dated 10.08.2014; 1
- SW-5, Shri Barendra Tripura, S/o Sh. Kung Kumar Tripura, aged 34 years, R/o Girachandra Para, PO Dalapati, PS Gandacherra, District:- Dhalai, Tripura, one of the victims of Gandacherra Police Station case no. 34/2014 dated 01.10.2014;
- SW-6, Shri Kalaram Reang, S/o Lt. Laba Chandra Reang, aged 69 years, R/o Nutanpara (Maipura), Saigherpur, PS Anandabazar, District North Tripura, victim of Anandabazar Police Station case no. 03/2014;
- SW-7, Shri Tangling Basi Malsum, S/o Lt. Krishna Chandra Malsum, aged 28 years, R/o Dakbari, PS Killa, District Gomati Tripura, inhabitant under Killa Police Station;
- SW-8, Shri Apjoy Tripura, S/o Sh. Karamjoy Tripura, aged 34 years, R/o Mandanjoy Para, PO Raishyabari, District Dhalai Tripura, inhabitant of Raishyabari Police Station;
- SW-9, Shri Chandra Kumar Debbarma, S/o Sh. Radhacharan Debbarma, aged 64 years, R/o Amarendra Nagar, PS Bishramganj, District Sepahijala Tripura, complainant of Bishramganj Police Station;
- SW-10, Shri Jiten Chakma, S/o Sh. Surendra Chakma, aged 32 years, R/o Santinagar, PS Pecharthal, District Unakoti Tripura, victim of Vangmun Police Station;

SW-11, Shri Bideswar Sinha/Singha, S/o Sh. Nabakishore Sinha, Sub- Inspector of Police Station-Kalyanpur, District Khowai, Tripura;

SW-12, Shri Goutam Debbarma, Sub-Inspector/Officer In charge in Abhoynagar TOP, Police Station, New Capital Complex, West Tripura, Agartala; and

SW-13, Shri Umacharan Tripura, Sub-Inspector of Police, Police Station Dhurchara and at the time of lodging of FIR, posted at Police Station Teliamura, West Tripura.

- (16) In his deposition, SW-1 Shri Abhijit Saptarshi tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence marked as Ex. SW-1/A and his signatures were marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-1 also deposed that the documents running into 515 pages with the affidavit dated 21.01.2019 of Mr. Baijoyanta Das, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Government of Tripura already filed by the State of Tripura be taken as the part of his affidavit. SW-1 verified the affidavit dated 21.01.2019 of Mr. Baijoyanta Das, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Government of Tripura marked as Ex. SW-1/A-1. SW-1, in his affidavit stated that the provisions of the Act were invoked by the Government of India for the first time in 1997 and on account of the continued secessionist and violent activities, the organizations have been continuously banned till date. He further stated that NLFT and ATTF continue to espouse cessation of Tripura from the Union of India as its aim and objective; and to achieve this objective they continue to indulge secessionist, subversive, violent and terrorist activities; and the organizations boycott the celebrations of the National events like Republic Day and Independence Day. He further stated that constitutions of the NLFT and ATTF speak of cessation from the Indian Union as their objective. The copies of constitutions of NLFT and ATTF, in circulation, were exhibited as Ex. SW-1/1 and Ex. SW-1/2.

In his affidavit SW-1 elucidated ATTF and NLFT have adopted a separate constitution providing for a 'Separate People's Republic Government' with the trappings of a civilian set-up and they also maintain separate armed wing with a hierarchical setup on the pattern of the regular army. The NLFT and ATTF are equipped with a large number of lethal weapons, including sophisticated weapons of mass destruction. The true copy of the list of office bearers of NLFT was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/3.

In his affidavit, SW-1 stated that with the objective of achieving their professed aim of establishing a 'Borokland, Tripura' by 'liberating' Tripura from the Indian Union, the NLFT and ATTF indulge in activities of attack on police and paramilitary forces, looting of arms and ammunitions, violence against civilians, kidnappings and extortions, procurement of arms and ammunitions by illegal means & use them to disturb peace and tranquility and subvert the Constitution of India and the laws framed there under.

SW-1 cited that interrogation reports of surrendered militants indicate that one Biswamohan Debbarma @ D. Baithang @ Paithak, S/o Braja Kishore Debbarma of Sumantapara, PS Champuhwar, Khowai District, the self-styled president of NLFT had now been elevated to the post of Advisor. The Second-in-Command of the outfit namely Subir Debbarma @ D. Yamrak S/o Shri Kamal Debbarma of Bargachiya, PS Sidhai, West District had been elevated to the rank of SS President (the two names cited at sl. no. 1 and 2 in the details of office bearers of NLFT already marked as Ex. SW-1/3) and these persons had been found loitering in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

SW-1 also stated that the statements of the surrendered militants reveal about collection of arms by the NLFT with the help of foreign agencies as well as other North East based outfits viz. NSCN (K), ULFA, UNLF, PREPAK, RPF and KLO and the group members were deliberately recruiting innocent tribal youths with false promise and taking them to Bangladesh for imparting guerrilla training with the intention to accelerate their so-called arms struggle.

SW-1 has specified in his affidavit that one Ranjit Debbarma @ Anshuman Mandi @ Binoy Tripura, the self-styled president of ATTF/TPDF/RPA was arrested on 23.01.2013 by Police Station Sidhai while crossing over to Indian Territory from Bangladesh and was taken into judicial custody till 01.11.2014. On 11.11.2017, he was again arrested for his involvement in Teliamura PS case no. 83/2017 dated 09.11.2017 u/s 123 (A)/153 (A)(B)/120 (B) IPC read with Section 10, 13 and 18 of the Act and 82 of Tripura Police Act, 2007. The interrogation report of Ranjit Debbarma was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/7.

SW-1 also tendered an interrogation report of one Jamana Debbarma @ Jamuna @ Rebika Debbarma @ Rebika Jamatia W/o Lt. Pusparam Jamatia @ Nokbar, a SS Sergeant in ATTF, and surrendered on 07.12.2013 before 35th BN Tripura Rifles as per Mandai PS G.D. entry no. 150 dated 07.12.2013 reported S.B. on 01.10.2016 vide Home Department letter no. 2351 dated 21.09.2016. The copy of interrogation report was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/6. The interrogation report revealed that the strength of ATTF was about 10/15 cadres and all had taken shelter in different parts of Bangladesh. The ATTF was still in possession of large quantity of weapons and had strong connections with various North-East insurgent groups like ULFA of Tripura, PLA of Manipur and NSCN (K) of Nagaland and KLO of West Bengal.

SW-1 in his affidavit further specified that NLFT and ATTF were trying to motivate the Tribal Community for creation of a separate State 'Twipra' for Tripurians. The NLFT had fighting strength of around 85 to 90 cadres possessing around 80 sophisticated weapons like AK Rifles, SLR, INSAS, LMG, 2 inch Mortar, Rocket Launcher etc. and large quantities of explosives. Although the NLFT and ATTF remained dormant in Bangladesh but they might become active in India at any opportune moment. The true copies of the fire power capacity of NLFT was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/4. The true copy of the list of extremist camps situated in Bangladesh was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/5.

SW-1 in his affidavit quoted that during the period from 03.10.2013 to February, 2018, a total of 12 extremist related cases had been registered in different police stations of Tripura involving NLFT militants in which 2 BSF Personnel were killed, one civilian sustained injuries and as many as 7 civilians were abducted for ransom. The copy of statistics was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/8. The copy of list of victims was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/9.

SW-1 tendered a copy of interrogation report of surrendered SS Dy. Chief of Army Staff of NLFT, namely, Atahrababu Halam @ Babu @ Semifa @ Buldog-1 surrendered to DGP Tripura on 09.05.2015 at PHQ, Agartala exhibited as Ex. SW-1/10 and a copy interrogation report of surrendered SS COAS of NLFT, namely, Pasaram Tripura @ T. Thomas @ Wathup surrendered on 10.01.2014 before the DGP, Tripura exhibited as Ex. SW-1/11. Ex. SW-1/10 revealed that the surrendered extremist was involved in criminal activities of kidnapping of innocent people, collection of extortion money etc. Ex. SW-1/11 also revealed about the involvement of NLFT in extremist activities.

SW-1 in his affidavit, discussed that the border population especially under Dhalai district is under constant threat of NLFT extremist group as extortion notices in numerous occasions for payment of so-called tax have been served to the villagers. The copies of extortion notices along with copies of notices issued against 9 Panchayats/Headmen of bordering areas were exhibited Ex. SW-1/12 (colly).

SW-1 in his affidavit, revealed that intelligence inputs generated by different government agencies like SIB, Agartala; State SB-Tripura; BSF Delhi, R&AW etc. had indicated about the movement of NLFT and ATTF inside Tripura and their frequency across the border in the close vicinity of intelligence Bureau. The copies of intelligence inputs were exhibited as Ex. SW-1/13 (colly) and Ex. SW-1/14 (colly).

SW-1 tendered a joint statement dated 24.01.2018 of Self-Styled (SS) Leaders of 5 insurgent groups of North Eastern States viz. HNLC of Meghalaya, KCP & KYKL of Manipur, PDCK of Tripura and NLFT of Tripura declaring ban on Republic Day celebration of India at West East South East Asia (WESEA) region and calling for a total shut down in the entire region for 11 hours from 6 AM to 5 PM on 26.01.2018 which was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/15.

SW-1 further pointed that NLFT observe 15th October as Black Day every year in protest of joining of Tripura with Indian Union and a copy of observance of Tripura Merger Day as Black Day was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/16.

SW-1 in his affidavit, further revealed that 18 tribal youths under Chawmanu and Manikpur PS area were lured by the members of NLFT (BM) to join the outfit with an attempt to revive the outfit in 2017 and were taken to Camps inside Bangladesh out of which 14 youths returned home but remaining 4 did not return, indicating the planning of NLFT to revitalize with young blood and money. The copy of details of 18 youths taken to Bangladesh from Chawmanu PS area was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/17.

SW-1 tendered a copy of active ATTF Leaders marked as Ex. SW-1/18. In his affidavit, he quoted about the possession of large number of sophisticated arms and ammunitions by the ATTF and kept concealed in the forest areas of Satcherri and Khagracherri region in Bangladesh. SW-1 further quoted that the ATTF still maintains a safe-house at Dhaka, Bangladesh and the cadre strength is around 15-20.

SW-1 mentioned that unlawful activities of NLFT and ATTF are desperate attempts to thwart developmental works in the State, particularly, in the interior belts inhabited by the tribal people and to create an atmosphere of panic and fear; generate a sense of insecurity in the minds of peace loving people with a view to exploit them as well as to make their presence felt in order to facilitate the outfits to carry out anti-national and unlawful activities; killing, kidnapping/abduction of innocent people for raising fund to carry out disruptive activities; killing of security personnel for looting of arms and ammunitions. The copy of intelligence report was exhibited as Ex. SW-1/19.

SW-1 in his affidavit, cited some criminal activities committed by NLFT and ATTF since 03.10.2013 till date and registered in police stations of the State as under:-

- a. On 09.11.2014 at about 1930 hrs., 8-9 unknown NLFT armed extremists raided house of the complainant Sri Falguni Tripura at Manya Kumar PS of Dhalai District and abducted his son Alendra Tripura (22) & his relative Gunadhar Tripura (18) on the gun point and retreated towards Bangladesh

- border. Accordingly, Raishyabari PS Case No. 21/14 dated 09.11.2014 u/s 148/149/365/34 IPC, 27 of Arms Act and 10/13 of the Act was registered which is still under investigation. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/20.
- b. On 09.08.2014 at about 2300 hrs, 6-7 armed NLFT extremist making a criminal conspiracy raided the house of victims, namely Uday Ram Reang (29) and Juriham Reang (26) at New Joyram under Gandacherra PS of Dhalai District and abducted the victims on the point of arms and handed over a notice to pay the dues of so called taxes of last four years as ransom. Accordingly, Gandacherra PS Case No. 25/14 dated 10.08.2014 u/s 120(B)/364(A) IPC, 27 of Arms Act and 10/13 of the Act was registered. The case is pending investigation. The copy of FIR has been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/21.
- c. In the intervening night of 30.09.2014/01.10.2014, 3-4 unknown NLFT armed extremist entered the Jhum hut of Barendra Tripura of Girachandra in Gandacherra PS of Dhalai District and asked to show them way for going to a certain destination. Barendra Tripura (30) and his younger brother Harendra Tripura (25) went out to accompany the unknown extremist but they did not return immediately. Barendra Tripura returned on 09.10.2014 and Harendra Tripura returned on 27.11.2014 as both of them were abducted by NLFT extremist for ransom. Accordingly, Gandacherra PS Case No. 34/14 dated 01.10.2014 u/s 364(A) IPC, 27 of Arms Act and 10/13 of the Act was registered. Investigation of the case is going on. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/22.
- d. On 29.08.2015 at 1230 hrs, the FIR named NLFT cadres namely Dunjoy Tripura (35), Santijoy Tripura (25) and Manjoy Tripura (30) all of Malda Kumar, PS Ganganagar went to Reza (Mayani) inside Bangladesh after crossing Indo-Bangladesh Border through a culvert at Malda Kumar under Ganganagar PS of Dhalai District, in between border pillar No. 2278 & 2279. In the evening, one u/p returned from Bangladesh and distributed 03 nos. printed text demand notice of NLFT group to villagers. Accordingly, Ganganagar PS Case No. 03/15 dated 31.08.2015 u/s 120 (B) IPC, 12 of Passport Act and 13 of the Act was registered. Charge sheet had been filed against the accused persons. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/23.
- e. On 01.08.2014 at about 1430 hrs, on the basis of a secret information, the complainant Sri Sanjoy Nair, Lt. Colonel, 166 Territorial Army conducted search in a rented house at Pragati Road near Meher Kalibari, Agartala under West Tripura District and recovered two bundles of so called tax collection receipts of NLFT with cash of Rs. 5000 and detained two suspected NLFT cadres, Indra Joy Reang, S/o Sri Ram Prasad Reang of Ram Bahadur, PS Kunchanpur North Tripura and Sri Jyotish Debbarma S/o Lt. Subodh Debbarma of Uttar Ghilatai, PS Kalyanpur. Accordingly, West Agartala PS Case No. 133/14 dated 01.08.2014 u/s 384 IPC and 1(3) of the Act was registered. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/24.
- f. On 19.09.2015, Sub Inspection Bideswar Sinha of West Agartala PS lodged suo-moto complaint against 07 NLFT cadres, namely, Sri Chandrashekhhar Debbarma and others after conducting preliminary investigation u/s 157(1) of Cr. P.C. for commission of offence u/s 121/124(A)/386/120(B) IPC and 10/13 of the Act and 3 of IPP Act. Accordingly, West Agartala PS Case No. 2015 WAG 136 dated 19.09.2015 u/s 121/124(A)/386/120(B) IPC and 10/13 of the Act and 3 of Indian Passport Act was registered. The Chargesheet had been filed on 27.06.2016. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/25.
- g. On 02.03.2014 in between 1900 hrs to 2000 hrs, the complainant along with her husband Sri Kalaram Reang and three daughters were sleeping in their house at Nutanpara (Maipara) near the border link road of Saigherpur to Joymoni border outpost under Anandabazar PS of North Tripura District. One unknown person wearing olive-green colour dress told her husband to go with him on the gun point. The complainant identified two extremists by- face Sri Debsighrai Reang and Sri Majairam Reang both of Saigherpur Village. The extremists took her husband to Bangladesh through Saigherpur Village. Accordingly, Anandabazar PS Case No. 3/14 dated 04.03.2014 u/s 120(B)/365 IPC and 27 (II) Arms Act was registered. Charge sheet had been filed on 10.06.2014 against 4 NLFT cadres. The copy of FIR has been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/26.
- h. On 17.11.2014, a water tanker no. TR-01-K-1706 of border road construction agency namely 'Costal Construction Company' under cover of BSF protection went to fetch water and after collecting water, as the driver of the tanker reached at PO in between Khantlung and Pusparampara under Vangmum PS of North Tripura District, 4-5 NLFT extremists suddenly attacked the vehicle by opening fire from sophisticated weapons. Resultantly, bullet injuries to the driver Jiten Chakma and guard Hav. Adil Abbas were caused and the tanker got collided with Indo-Bangladesh border fencing and got severely damaged. Accordingly, Vangmum PS Case No. 2014/VGM/007 dated 17.11.2014 u/s 148/149/120(B)/326/307/302 IPC and 27 of Arms Act was registered. Since the involved NLFT

miscreants could not be identified during investigation, the case was ended in final report. The copy of FIR exhibited is Ex. SW-1/27.

- i. On 08.11.2016 at about 0830 hrs, one Tangling Bashi Malsum entered in the house of the complainant Danga Bahadur Malsum and handed over some extortion notices of NLFT on the notice paid of NLFT issued by one Mg. D. Bwskang, Deputy Collector, Ministry of Finance Affairs of NLFT group with the direction to pay yearly so-called 'subscription'. The extortion notices were given to Tangling Bashi Malsum by two unknown persons on 07.11.2016 at 1830 hrs at Dakbari with a direction to hand over the same to the complainant and 16 other Panchayat Members and Engineers of Killa R.D. Block. Accordingly, Killa PS Case No. 16/2016 (KLA 016) dated 07.11.2016 u/s 384/511/120(B) IPC was registered. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/28.
- j. On 19.11.2016 at about 0600 hrs, one Apijoy Tripura of PS Raishyabari received some extortion notices in a bundle from unknown NLFT extremists for collection of extortion money which were found in front of his house. The notices were addressed to 07 Village Headmen of Raishyabari area. Accordingly, Raishyabari PS Case No. 14/2016 (RSB 014) dated 22.11.2016 u/s 385 IPC was registered. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/29.
- k. On 09.04.2017 morning, the complainant namely Sri Chandra Kr. Debbarma of PS Bishramganj received one extortion letter in his name from Amarendranagar in an envelope. The so-called 'letter of subscription notice' in English was printed on the pad of National Liberation Front of Tripura with signature of one Mg. D. Bwskang (NLFT), Deputy Collector, Ministry of Finance Affairs dated 08.04.2017 with direction to give so-called 'subscription' money of Rs. 10 lacs. The complainant also learnt that similar notices were given to 5 more persons of PS Bishramganj. Accordingly, Bishramganj PS Case No. 12/2017 (BRL 012) dated 09.04.2017 u/s 385 IPC was registered. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/30.
- l. On 29.09.2017, a so-called 'subscription notice' was served to Boalkhali ADC village against Madanjoy Roaja, Puspadhan Roaja, Harchandra Roaja and Tarani Roaja under Raishyabari Police Station. Accordingly, Raishyabari PS Case No. 2017 RSB 018 dated 04.10.2017 u/s 385/120(B)/153 IPC was registered. Investigation in the matter is in progress. The copy of FIR has been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/31.
- m. On 07.11.2017 afternoon, Ranjit Debbarma, SS Chief of ATTF, gave provocative & seditious speech and threatened to take arms again at Dusky Market under Teliamura PS in Khowai District. Accordingly, Teliamura PS Case No. 83/2017 dated 09.11.2017 u/s 124 (A)/153(A)(B)/120(B) IPC read with Section 10/13/18 of the Act and 82 of Tripura Police Act was registered. The copy of FIR is exhibited as Ex. SW-1/32. The development in the case was that Ranjit Debbarma along with his associates had been charge sheeted. As regards a past case, the ATTF Chief Ranjit Debbarma along with 62 cadres had also been charge sheeted for unlawful and anti-national activities in East Agartala PS Case. No. 38/1998 u/s 153(A)/153(B)/120(B)/21(A)/122 IPC and 10/13 of the Act.

SW-1 in his affidavit, professed that since the formation of NLFT in 1989 and ATTF in 1992, they had been responsible for series of violent and unlawful activities with intend to achieve their ultimate objective i.e. so-called Liberation of Tripura from the Indian Union and the activities were detrimental for the interest of national safety and security.

- (17) In his deposition, SW-2 Mr. Arup Deb, Under Secretary, Home Department, Government of Tripura tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019, marked as Ex. SW-2/A and signatures were marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-1, in his affidavit, declared about the steps taken for wide publicity and effect the service of notice on NLFT and ATTF in terms of the orders passed by this Tribunal. He tendered 6 documents. The document showing the wide publicity of the notice dated 27.11.2018 issued by the Tribunal through pasting and beat of drums/loud-speakers in various districts of Tripura was marked as Ex. SW-2/1 (colly). The document showing wide publicity of notice in 4 local newspapers 'Tripura Times', 'Dainik Sambad', 'Daily Desher Katha' and 'Syandan Patrika' is marked as Ex. SW-2/2 (colly). The document showing the wide publicity of notice through AIR Agartala and Doordarshan Agartala is marked as Ex. SW-2/3. The document showing the wide publicity of notice through police administration of the State is marked as Ex. SW-2/4. The document showing wide publicity of notice through uploading the same in Tripura State Portal is marked as Ex. SW-2/5. The document showing wide publicity of notice through State Government Press Release in local daily newspapers 'Dainik Sambad' etc. is marked as Ex. SW-2/6 (colly).
- (18) Since 8 victim/witnesses, SW-3 to SW-10 did not know either English or Hindi language, on the request of the counsel appearing for the State of Tripura, the services of Ms. Emilia Reang, Deputy Director (Audit), Finance Department, Government of Tripura, present in the Tribunal, was allowed for interpreting the language.



- (19) In his deposition, SW-3 Sri Alindra Tripura, victim of Raishyabari PS Case No. 21/2014 dated 09.11.2014 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence, marked as Ex. SW-3/A and his signatures are marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-3 deposed that on 09.11.2014 Sunday night at about 07.30 PM, 8/9 armed NLFT extremists raided his house and entered into his dwelling hut while he and one of his close relative Gunadhar Tripura were taking food and the extremist group forcibly abducted them on gun point. The involved militants belonged to NLFT group. Accordingly, on the complaint of his father Mr. Falguni Tripura, the FIR No. 21/2014 dated 09.11.2014 was registered at PS Raishyabari. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/20.
- (20) In his deposition, SW-4 Sri Udayram Reang, victim of Gandacherra PS Case No. 25/2014 dated 10.08.2014 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence, marked as Ex. SW-4/A and his signatures are marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-4 deposed that on 09.08.2014 at about 11 PM, he was at his Jnum hut along with another Juriham Reang near his village namely New Joyram Para under Gandacherra PS. At that time, 6/7 armed extremists entered his Jnum hut and abducted them at gun point. After abduction, they were released and the said extremist group left one letter on behalf of NLFT group mentioning therein that they would be released once the dues subscription for the last four years is paid. Accordingly, on the complaint of one Falgunjoy Reang on 10.08.2014 to the Officer In-charge, Gandacherra PS, the FIR No. 25/2014 dated 10.08.2014 was registered. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/21.
- (21) In his deposition, SW-5 Sri Barendra Tripura, one of the victims of Gandacherra PS Case No. 34/2014 dated 01.10.2014 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence, marked as Ex. SW-5/A and his signatures are marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-5 deposed that on 30.09.2014 at about 12 midnight, one unknown armed extremist called him from his Jnum hut and abducted him and his brother Harendra Tripura at gun point. The extremist belonged to NLFT group and asked them to pay tax. Since they did not pay any money, they were abducted. SW-5 was taken towards Bangladesh and on payment of ransom, they were released. Accordingly, on the complaint of Renumala Tripura, FIR No. 34/2014 dated 01.10.2014 was lodged at Gandacherra Police Station. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/22.
- (22) In his deposition, SW-6 Sri Kalarum Tripura, victim of Anandabazar PS Case No. 03/2014 dated 04.03.2014 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence, marked as Ex. SW-6/A and his signatures are marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-6 deposed that on 02.03.2014 at about 07/08 PM, while he along with his wife and three daughters were sleeping in their house at Natunpara (Maipara) near the border link road of Saigherpur to Joymoni border outpost, one unknown person wearing olive-green colour dress told him to come with him. He identified two persons as Sri Debsinghrui Reang and Sri Mujairam Reang both of Saigherpur village with another person in olive-green colour dress, having a gun. They moved towards Bangladesh through Chaigarhpur village and towards South East direction of Amar BSF BOP. The involved militants belonged to NLFT group. Accordingly, on the complaint of his wife on 04.03.2014, FIR No. 03/2014 dated 04.03.2014 was registered at Anandabazar PS. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/26.
- (23) In his deposition, SW-7 Sri Tangling Basi Malsum, victim of Killa PS Case No. 16/2016 dated 07.11.2016 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence which is marked as Ex. SW-7/A bearing his signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-7 deposed that on 07.10.2016, Saturday morning at about 8 O' clock, he entered in the house of Danga Bahadur Malsum R/o PS Killa and handed over some extortion notices on behalf of NLFT extremist in notice pad of NLFT issued by one Mg. D. Bwskang, Deputy Collector, Minister of Finance Affairs of NLET group which were given to him with a direction to hand over the same to Danga Bahadur Malsum and 16 other Panchayats member, and Engineers under Killa RD Block. Accordingly, as per the directions of NLFT extremists, he handed over those extortion notices. On the complaint of Danga Bahadur Malsum, FIR No. 16/2016 dated 07.11.2016 was registered in PS Killa. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/28.
- (24) In his deposition, SW-8 Sri Apijoy Tripura, victim of Raishyabari PS Case No. 14/2016 dated 22.11.2016 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence which is marked as Ex. SW-8/A bearing his signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-8 deposed that on 19.11.2016, Saturday morning at about 6 AM, he received some extortion notices in a bundle from unknown NLFT extremist for collection of extortion money, found in front of his house. The notices issued by NLFT extremists were addressed to 7 village headmen of Raishyabari area. The involved militants belonged to NLFT group. Accordingly, FIR No. 14/2016 dated 22.11.2016 was registered in PS Raishyabari. The copy of FIR had already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/29.
- (25) In his deposition, SW-9 Sri Chandra Kumar Debbarma, complainant of Bishramganj PS Case No. 12/2017 dated 09.03.2017 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence, marked as Ex. SW-9/A and his signatures are marked at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-9 deposed that on 09.04.2017 morning, he received a letter in a close envelope in his name from Amarendra Nagar. In the envelope, he found a letter on the pad of NLFT

signed by D. Bwskang, Deputy Collector, Ministry of Finance Affairs written therein to pay Rs. 10 lacs. He learnt that similar letters were also issued to Sri Harinath Debbarna, Sri Kishore Debbarna, Sri Sriram Debbarna, Sri Bhagaban Debbarna and Sri Nanda Debbarna. On receiving the letter, he became mentally disheartened and lodged a complaint to Bishramganj PS. Accordingly, FIR No. 12/2017 dated 09.03.2017 was registered in PS Bishramganj. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/30.

- (26) In his deposition, SW-10 Sri Jiten Chakma, victim of Vangmum PS Case No. 07/2014 dated 17.11.2014 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence which is marked as Ex. SW-10/A bearing his signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-10 deposed that on 17.11.2014, he went to fetch water in water tanker of border road construction agency 'Costal Construction Company' under cover of BSF protection. After collection of water, on reaching in between Khantlang, suddenly 4/5 NLFT extremists attacked his vehicle by opening fire from sophisticated weapons causing bullet injuries upon him and two others. The water tanker collided with Indo-Bangladesh border fencing and got badly damaged. The injured persons were airlifted to G.B.P Hospital, Agartala. Accordingly, FIR No. 07/2014 dated 17.11.2014 was registered in PS Vangmum. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/27
- (27) In his deposition, SW-11 Sri Bideswar Sinha/Singha, Sub-Inspector of Police, posted at Kalyanpur Police Station District Khowai, Tripura and also the complainant of West Agartala PS Case No. 136/2015 dated 19.09.2015 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence which is marked as Ex. SW-11/A bearing his signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-11 deposed that two militant outfits, namely, NLFT and ATTF and its various factions/wings were active in the State. On 19.09.2015, while he was posted at West Agartala PS as Sub-Inspector, lodged a suo-moto complaint against 7 NLFT cadres, namely, Sri Chandrasekhar Debbarna, Sri Rajesh Debbarna, Sri Kanendra Tripura, Binduran Tripura, Subrata Debbarna, Kajal Debbarna and Rajiv Debbarna and some other unknown persons. After conducting preliminary investigation u/s 157 (1) of Cr.P.C. for commission of offence u/s 121/124(A)/153(A)(B)/386/120(B) of IPC, 10/13 of the Act and 3 of Indian Passport Act was registered vide FIR No. 136/2015 dated 19.09.2015 at PS West Agartala. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/25. Charge sheet of the same has been filed in the case on 27.06.2016.
- (28) In his deposition, SW-12 Sri Gautam Debbarna, Sub-Inspector of Police, presently posted as Officer In-charge of Abhoynagar TOP, PS New Capital Complex, West Tripura, Agartala and also the complainant of Raishyabari PS Case No. 18/2017 dated 04.10.2017 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence, marked as Ex. SW-12/A bearing his signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-12 deposed that the two militant outfits, namely, NLFT and ATTF and its various factions/wings were active in the State. Their aims and objects were secessionist indulging in violent activities within the State. On 29.09.2017, while he was posted at Raishyabari PS as Sub-Inspector, so-called 'subscription' notice was served to Boalkhali ADC village against Madanjoy Rouja, Puspelhan, Harchanura Rouja and Taran Rouja. Accordingly, eusnets Case No. 18/2017 dated 04.10.2017 u/s 385/120(B)/153 IPC was registered in PS Raishyabari. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/31. Investigation in the matter is under progress.
- (29) In his deposition, SW-13 Sri Umacharan Tripura, Sub-Inspector of Police, presently posted at Dhumachara Police Station and also the Investigating Officer of Teliamura PS Case No. 83/2017 dated 09.11.2017 tendered his affidavit dated 01.02.2019 in evidence which is marked as Ex. SW-13/A bearing his signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. SW-13 deposed that the two militant outfits, namely, NLFT and ATTF and its various factions/wings are active within the State. While he was posted at Teliamura PS as Sub-Inspector, on 07.11.2017 afternoon, Ranjit Debbarna of ATTF gave provocative and seditious speech and threatened to take arms at Duski Market under Teliamura PS, Khowai District. Accordingly, FIR No. 83/2017 dated 09.11.2017 u/s 124(A)/153(A)(B)/120(B) IPC read with 82 of Tripura Police Act, 2007 was registered in Teliamura PS. The copy of FIR has already been exhibited as Ex. SW-1/32. Charge sheet had been filed in the case.
- (30) Despite ample opportunity given, no one appeared on behalf of NLFT and ATTF during the proceedings of the Tribunal and thus, none of the State witnesses was cross-examined. The proceedings of the Tribunal were fixed for 03rd February, 2019, the date already fixed, for examination of witnesses, if any, including public witnesses.
- (31) On 03rd February, 2019, the counsel appearing for State of Tripura submitted that State Government had no more witness to be produced. Even no public witness was present. Accordingly, the evidence of the State of Tripura was concluded. The substantial affidavit dated 30.01.2019 filed by the Central Government was taken on record. The proceedings of the Tribunal were fixed for 25th February, 2019 in Delhi High Court for recording the evidence of Central Government and cross-examination, if any.
- (32) On 25th February, 2019, the Central Government witness, CW-1, Ms. Neeta Gupta tendered her affidavit dated 30.01.2019 in evidence which is marked as Ex. CW-1/1 bearing her signatures at point 'A' & 'B'. CW-1 also tendered 5 documents in support of her affidavit. The annexed brief resume regarding the

aims/objectives and violent activities of NLFT and ATTF is exhibited as Ex. CW- 1/A. The annexed copies of constitution of NLFT and ATTF are marked as EX. CW-1/B and EX. CW-1/C Which has already been exhibited by SW-1 as Ex. SW- 1/1 and Ex. SW-1/2. The gist of cases of NLFT militants involved during the period from 03.10.2013 to 29.09.2017 is exhibited as Ex. CW-1/D. CW-1 verified the true copy of Notification No. 5078(E) dated 03.10.2018 is exhibited as Ex. CW-1/E.

CW-1 deposed that the NLFT was formed in June 1989. In February, 2001, Nayanbasi Jamatia, one of the top leaders of NLFT came out of the outfit along with his followers and formed a new group with the name of NLFT (N) and signed a memorandum—of settlement on 17.12.2004 with the Government and some cadres of the group joined the mainstream. On the other hand, majority of the cadres of NLFT under the leadership of Biswamohan Debbarma known as NLET (B) had continued to indulge in violent and unlawful activities. The ATTF was formed in 1993 and Ranjit Debbarma was leading the group. The professed aim of NLFT and ATTF was to establish a separate State by cessation of Tripura from the Indian Union in alliance with other armed secessionist organizations of North-Eastern Region and the extortion, looting and kidnappings for ransom are the major sources of income of NLFT. Despite, the imposition of ban w.e.f. 03.04.1997 and extension from time to time, the unlawful activities of NLFT and ATTF are continued. In the last five year from 2013 to 2018, there were 12 violent incidents carried out by NLFT in which 2 security forces personnel and 1 civilian were killed including 21 abductions by the outfit. Accordingly, the Central Government had declared the NLFT and ATTF as 'Unlawful Associations' under the Act for a further period of five years w.e.f. 03rd October, 2018 for reasons of their continued activities of violence and terror with the aim of cessation of Tripura from India. In case of delay in giving effect to the notification, the organizations might take undue advantage and mobilize their cadres for escalating secessionist, subversive terrorist and violent activities in the State.

- (33) During the course of hearing, CW-1 produced a sealed envelope containing comments/ views received from the Government of Tripura, Ministry of Defence, Intelligence Bureau, Cabinet Secretariat (Research & Analysis Wing), Directorate General, CRPF and Directorate General, BSF for the perusal of this Tribunal.
- (34) Despite sufficient opportunity given, no one appeared on behalf of NLFT and ATTF during the proceedings of the Tribunal on 25th February, 2019 and thus the witness was not cross-examined.
- (35) The Central Government and State Government of Tripura while summing up of the case submitted their arguments to the effect that:-
- The NLFT was formed in June, 1989 and ATTF was formed in 1993. Both NLFT and ATTF had the professed aim to establish a separate country by cessation of Tripura from the Indian Union in alliance with other armed secessionist organizations of the North-Eastern Region. NLFT continues to remain active in North Tripura, Dhalai, Gomati and West Tripura Districts and is in possession of around 200 arms along with a huge quantity of explosives. ATTF is also estimated to possess large number of sophisticated arms and ammunitions hidden in Bangladesh.
  - Both NLFT and ATTF had been indulging in secessionist, anti-national and disruptive activities on the soil of Tripura to destabilize democratically constituted government towards their goal of secede Tripura from the Indian Union through an armed struggle.
  - The NLFT cadres were continuously engaged in serving extortion notices and collecting extortion money from traders, contractors, shopkeepers, Government employees and villagers including Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) beneficiaries in Tripura and thus Extortion, looting and kidnappings for ransom were the major sources of income of NLFT.
  - The ATTF had indulged in prejudicial activities such as (i) boycotting of Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations in conjunction with NLFT; (ii) hoisting black flags on those days; (iii) thwart development works in the State, in the interior belts inhabited by the tribal people and to create an atmosphere of panic and fear; (iv) to generate a sense of insecurity in the minds of peace loving people with a view to exploit them as well as to make their presence felt in order to facilitate the outfits to carry out anti-national activities.
  - The leaders of ATTF had made efforts to reorganize themselves under the aegis of Tripura United People's Council (TUPC) formed in October, 2017 to raise demands for rehabilitation of surrendered cadres and some of the leaders delivered inflammatory speeches against merger of Tripura princely State with the Indian Union.
  - Despite imposition of ban w.e.f. 03 April 1997 and its extension from time to time, the NLFT and ATTF had continued their unlawful activities and in the last five year during 2013 to 2018, 12 violent

incidents carried out by NLFT had been reported in which 2 security forces personnel and 1 civilian were killed including 21 abductions for ransom.

- g. The State Government of Tripura, Ministry of Defence, Intelligence Bureau, Cabinet Secretariat (Research & Analysis Wing) and Central Reserve Police Force had been consulted and recommended for continuance of ban on NLFT and ATTF. BSF also recommended for declaration of NLFT as an 'Unlawful Association'.
  - h. The previous notification issued on 03.10.2013 was confirmed by the Tribunal u/s 4 of the Act and consequently the ban was imposed upon the NLFT and ATTF up to 02.10.2018.
  - i. The NLFT and ATTF had been declared as 'Unlawful Associations' by the Central Government under the Act for a further period of five years w.e.f. 03rd October, 2018 vide notification No. S.O. 5078(E) dated 03.10.2018 for reasons of their continued espousal of the policy of cessation of Tripura from India; continued engagement in activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India; continued use of violence and terror through armed action as a means for achieving their objectives; extortions and illegal tax collections from the public including businessmen, traders and even government employees and continued maintenance of sanctuaries, safe havens and training camps in neighboring countries.
  - j. The State Government of Tripura has placed its evidences through Superintendent of Police, Under Secretary (Home Department), 3 Sub-Inspectors of Police and 8 victims/witnesses. The 13 State witnesses have deposed before this Tribunal and 13 evidences on affidavits have been filed which are duly exhibited.
  - k. The Central Government has placed its evidence through Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The witness has deposed before this Tribunal and evidence on affidavit has been filed which is duly exhibited.
- (36) In addition to above, perusal of the documents in sealed cover supports the case of the Central Government. The details of these documents are not discussed for obvious reasons. Suffice it to say that these documents suggest that:-
- (a) There is no decline in the violent activities of the associations and that has kept the security forces of both the Central Government and the State Government on a high alert.
  - (b) the associations have continued with their secessionist activities
  - (c) The NLFT and ATTF have been advocating extortionism, killing of innocent people and thus, creating unrest in the State of Tripura.
- (37) The evidence in the matter produced both by the Central Government and State of Tripura, united with the lack of any denial of the above facts by the NLFT and ATTF or any contest by the organizations, the submissions of learned counsel for the State of Tripura are liable to be accepted. The documents produced by the Government of India and State of Tripura manifest that the intention of NLFT and ATTF is to craft violent activities in the State of Tripura creating an unrest in the State which is prejudicial to the safety and security of the nation and thus an Unlawful Activities u/s 2 (c) of the Act.
- (38) A cumulative analysis of the entire evidence on record indubitably suggests that the activities of NLFT and ATTF are unlawful and the conclusion of the Central Government that the associations have been engaging in violent activities undermining the authority of Government and spreading terror and violence among the people for achieving their objectives of secession of Tripura from the Indian Union, is entirely justified. The Opinion of the Central Government that the association is engaging in violent and unlawful activities to establish their aims and objectives, are detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India, is also justified.
- (39) The Central Government as well as the State Government of Tripura have produced sufficient evidence in support of the conclusion that the associations have indulged in killing of civilians and personnel belonging to the police and security forces in the State of Tripura; extortion of funds from the public including businessmen and traders and establishing and maintaining camps in various parts of Tripura and neighboring countries for the purpose of safe, sanctuary, training, procurement of arms and ammunitions.
- (40) The Central Government and the State Government of Tripura have also been able to convince the Tribunal that in case of no immediate curb and control of the NLFT and ATTF, the organizations will grab the opportunity to mobilize their cadres and for escalating their secessionist, subversive and violent activities, propagate anti-national activities, indulge in killing civilians, police and security forces personnel, collection of illegal arms and ammunitions and extortion and collection of funds from the public illegally and thus to establish their unlawful activities

- (41) Under the circumstances, the Government has shown the sufficient cause for confirming the declaration made under section 3 (1) of the Act as well as section 3 (3) of the Act.
- (42) Consequently, it is concluded by the Tribunal that the issuance of the Notification No. S.O. 5078(E) dated 03.10.2018 is totally justified. There is sufficient cause for declaring the NLFT and ATTF as Unlawful Associations with effect from 03rd October, 2018 for a period of five years.

JUSTICE SURESH KUMAR KAIT  
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

March 14th, 2019