

# UN experts call for urgent progress in investigation of hundreds of “fake encounter” killings

Correspondent  
Geneva, July 5,

Two UN rights experts\* are urging the authorities in India to complete thorough investigations into alleged killings by security forces in the State of Manipur, after officials failed to meet a deadline set by the Supreme Court for inquiries into the cases.

“We are extremely concerned that the delay appears to be deliberate, undue and unreasonable, and we condemn this lack of progress,” the experts said.

In 2012, civil society groups submitted more than 1,500 cases of alleged extrajudicial killings in Manipur to the Supreme Court of India. In many of the cases, the deaths had been registered by the police as due to exchange of fire between security forces and armed groups or individuals. However, the families alleged the cases were ‘fake encounters’ and the individuals had been intentionally killed.

In 2013, a Commission appointed by the Supreme Court examined six cases selected at random and found in all cases that the conclusions of the security forces were not genuine, and that none of the individuals killed had established criminal records. The Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) was

ordered to conduct investigations into a number of other cases.

“The Supreme Court has since set three deadlines for investigations into a number of cases to be completed, and three times these deadlines have not been met,” the experts said.

In 2016, the Supreme Court set a deadline of 31 December 2017 for investigations to be completed in 89 cases. But, by the deadline, only 12 cases had been registered. The court set another deadline of 28 February 2018 for these cases, but by 12 March only 42 cases had been registered. Finally, the Supreme Court ordered investigations be completed and a report be filed by 30 June 2018 for 50 cases. But in a hearing last Monday (2 July 2018), the CBI not only failed to submit the required report but also indicated it had completed investigations into only four cases.

“Some of these families have been waiting decades for these cases to be fully investigated. It is unacceptable that the CBI is failing to meet these deadlines and appears to lack good faith,” said the experts. They also expressed concern that the court orders applied only to a small number of cases, and it was unclear when investigations would be conducted into the remaining cases which run into the hundreds.

“The government of India has an obligation to ensure prompt, effective and thorough investigations into all allegations of potentially unlawful killings, and a failure to do so is a violation of its international obligations. Justice delayed is justice denied,” the UN experts added.

They also expressed serious concerns about information that human rights defenders associated with the cases had faced harassment by the authorities and had even been attacked by unknown

individuals. Mr. Sagolsem Menjor Singh, Ms Ranjeeta Sadokpam and Ms Salima Memcha, members of one of the civil society organisations involved in the case, have reportedly been harassed by the police. Shots were fired at the home of another supporter, Mr. Okram Nutankumar by unknown individuals.

The experts have written to the Government of India to express their concerns and request further information, but have yet to receive a response.

## 3 days residential training programme on Pest and Disease Management in Horticultural crops inaugurated

ITNews  
Imphal, July 5,

A three days residential training programme on “Pest and Disease Management in Horticultural crops” under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan-Aspirational District Chandel was launched today at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre’s conference Hall, Lamphepat. The training programme is organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chandel in collaboration with Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Chandel and sponsored by MIDH,

Government of Manipur. Shri. K. Kipgen, Director, Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur; Shri. Ksh. Birachandra Singh, Joint Director (H), Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur and Dr. I. Meghachandra Singh, Nodal Officer, KKA – Chandel & Principal Scientist (Seed Technology), ICAR Manipur Centre were the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and President respectively. The launching programme was also participated by Dr. Deepak Singh, Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK Chandel and Honey Chara, District Officer, Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Chandel. The training is the third round of residential training under Horticulture for Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan.

K. Kipgen, Director, Deptt of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Govt of Manipur emphasized that management of pests and diseases are a very important factor to increase the yield of horticultural crops and their market value. He appealed to the farmers to fully utilise the talent and expertise of the resource persons so that the new technologies and knowledge gained will be reflected in their respective horticultural and crop fields. Ksh. Birachandra, Joint Director (H), Deptt. of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Govt of Manipur encouraged the farmers to utilise the training knowledge for increasing their income.

Dr. I. Meghachandra Singh, elaborated on the details of the activities taken up under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan in Chandel. He highlighted that Chandel District is identified by NITI Aayog as one of the Aspirational District in the country. Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan is taken up in war footing in 25 villages in 115 Aspirational Districts all over the country in a convergence mode with KVKs as implementing agency along with the line departments of the State Governments and will be completed by 31st July, 2018. He informed the farmers to remain organic in nature and reduce severe soil degradation by reducing deforestation so as to retain the soil fertility and stressed that planting horticultural crops will play an important role in reducing the impact of global climate change. The launching programme was attended by staff of KVK Chandel and Horticulture & Soil Conservation Department, Chandel.

# Hundreds of people gather at Kharsang for the homecoming of Mega Miss North East Mariam Longri



From our Correspondent  
Kharsang, AP, July 5,

5<sup>th</sup> July 2018: The quaint town of Kharsang in the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh was in a celebratory mood on Wednesday morning, as they geared up for the homecoming of their daughter Mariam Longri who was recently crowned the Sun Silk Mega Miss North East 2018. Mariam was accompanied by the winner of Garnier Men Mega Mister North East 2018, Pawan Chhetri and Founder of Mega Entertainment Abhijit Singha, who has been organizing the Mega Miss North East pageant since the past 16 years.

Speaking on the occasion,

Mariam Longri said, “This is such a heart-warming moment, I am truly grateful! So many people, elders as well as kids from various schools had gathered to welcome me, this is truly overwhelming. I was expecting to return home to my normal life, but the reception I received here was beyond my wildest imagination.”

The youngest of 9 siblings, and daughter of retired police officer Chatu Longri, Mariam won the coveted title of Sun Silk Mega Miss North East 2018 at the grand finale of the event held in Guwahati on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Mariam’s mother Rina Longri runs an NGO. Her family belongs to the conservative and peaceful Tangsa community, which

makes up the majority of population there. One of the major industrial towns of Arunachal Pradesh, Kharsang is laden with tea, coal and petroleum.

Speaking about the responsibility she holds towards her community as a youth icon, Mariam said, “I hope my victory will motivate my sisters from Kharsang to believe that if a simple girl like me can make it big in the world of fashion, even they can. I will be more than happy to guide them to go forward in the same journey that I went. Even I was inspired by Licha Thosum from Itanagar, who was the first runner-up of Mega Miss North East 2016. There is a lot of potential among the youth here, and pageants like these will help them get the stage that they deserve. I want to see my tribe achieving everything they deserve, not just in the regional platform, but nationally and internationally as well.” Mariam added that she has always been a decent student and a good multitasker, hence balancing her responsibilities as Mega Miss North East and education will not be a difficult task for her.

Mariam’s felicitation and welcome programme was graced by **Mr. R.K. Rai (Circle Officer, Kharsang)**, Korong Longri (Ex Zila Parishad Member), and members of Arunachal Pradesh Women Welfare Society, Tangsa Youth Association (Miao and Kharsang Unit), Kharsang Circle Unemployed Youth Association, Kharsang Badminton Club. In addition, many school students and people from different parts of the town joined the celebration, and homecoming of their daughter who made the Tangsa community and Kharsang proud through her achievement.

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## FIFA World Cup

# World Cup 2018, Uruguay vs France: We Can “Control” Kylian Mbappe In Quarters, Says Luis Suarez

Courtesy - AFP

**Luis Suarez said he had faith in the defence, which has conceded just one goal in World Cup 2018 so far, to nullify the threat from Kylian Mbappe.**

Kylian Mbappe, 19, was the star in France’s thrilling 4-3 victory over Argentina. © FIFA

Luis Suarez is confident Uruguay can nullify the threat from France’s teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe, as they prepare for their World Cup 2018 quarter-final clash later this week. Talking to reporters at the South American team’s Bor training camp near Nizhny Novgorod, where Friday’s last-eight match takes place, Suarez said he had faith in the defence, which has conceded just one goal in the tournament so far. “Everybody knows he’s

(Mbappe) a really good player, but I think we have a really good defence to control him,” said the Barcelona striker.

Mbappe, 19, was the star in France’s thrilling 4-3 victory over Argentina. The Paris Saint-Germain youngster scored twice and his pace and skill also forced a penalty from which France scored their first goal.

Suarez said there were more threats from France than just Mbappe, picking out Antoine Griezmann, who he said had a “brilliant left foot”. Mbappe and Griezmann have been singled out by Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez as the main threats to the South Americans but he suggested they would not get the same space afforded to them by the Argentine team.

Suarez was less convinced by recent claims that Griezmann was half-

Uruguayan because he plays with Diego Godin and Jose Gimenez at Atletico Madrid, drinks mate tea and even turned up at the airport wearing a Uruguay shirt to greet his teammates when they qualified for Russia.

“Antoine, no matter how much he says that he’s half-Uruguayan is French and does not know what the Uruguayan feeling is,” said Suarez.

“He does not know the dedication and effort that Uruguayans make from boys to be able to succeed in football with so few people.”

The Barcelona star added that the team would have to “wait and see” if his striking partner Edinson Cavani, who picked up a calf muscle injury in Uruguay’s 2-1 win over Portugal last-16, will be ready for Friday’s match.

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