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Discovery of skeletal remains, human skulls Public meet demands probe under Enquiry Act

File pic of the human skulls

IMPHAL, Feb 8: A public meeting held today at Kwakeithel Akham Leikai community hall has adopted a resolution which demanded the Government to constitute an enquiry commission under the Commission of Enquiry Act 1952 for thorough investigation into the discovery of human skulls and skeletal remains from the erstwhile Tombisana High School campus.

The public meeting was jointly organised by the Committee on Mass Grave at Tombisana School (COMGATS) and local Meira Paibis of Kwakeithel Akham Leikai.The meeting resolved that an enquiry commission headed by a retired High Court Judge or Sessions Judge and comprising of experts in different fields should be constituted to investigate the startling discovery.

The second and third resolutions of the meeting said that until the investigation process is over, all construction works at the erstwhile school campus should be suspended. The spot where the skulls and skeletal remains were discovered should be excavated systematically.Revocation of AFSPA and implementing all the demands of the Families of the Involuntarily Disappeared Association Manipur (FIDAM) into action were some other resolutions of the meeting.

There is a strong possibility that the skulls and skeletal remains discovered from Tombisana High School campus on December 25 last year were of those people who disappeared without

any trace after they were picked up by Army and paramilitary forces who have been operating in the State with the impunity guaranteed by AFSPA, said COMGATS convenor Phulindro Konsam.The startling discovery cannot be dismissed lightly. It deserves a thorough investigation, Phulindro asserted.Advocate Th Premlata of the Human Rights Law Network said that they filed a PIL at the High Court of Manipur in connection with the skull discovery.

But the PIL was withdrawn following the State Government's response which said that the matter would be handed over to CBI.Another petition can be filed seeking the Court's intervention so that the case is handed over to CBI without undue delay. At the same time, FIDAM can urge the Government to conduct DNA test of the discovered skulls and skeletal remains.

Premlata said that she would consult COMGATS in legal matters regarding the discovery of skulls and human skeletal remains.AMUCO vice-president Ph Deban Sharma questioned whether any criminal case handled by CBI in Manipur had been brought to their logical end and the guilty punished according to law.

In Manipur, even CBI has proved ineffective. As such, there is an urgent need to launch mass protest movements ahead of the forthcoming budget session of the Manipur Legislative Assembly, Deban added.

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