

## Homelessness

I am narrating a story of the people who had been forced to carry the memories of twinge and distress to an area not known to them, instead of living in the midst of their very own social setup, their known ambiance, the smells they are familiar with, the views they are born with. The Reangs had been forcibly evicted from their place and driven out from Mizoram by the numerically strong Mizo people for retaining their ethnic dominance over their state.

The Brus or more commonly known as Reangs have settled down in Tripura and Mizoram for a long time. As a tribal group in Mizoram they are principally dependent on Jhum cultivation. Since early 90s there had been a sort of political awakening among the Bru community in general which demanded an Autonomous District Council from the Mizoram Government on the basis of their numerical strength. They had cited the case of the Chakmas and Lais who had their respective District Councils. Their demands were summarily turned down under the pretext of safeguarding the cultural identity of the Mizos, as if the Reangs were out to destroy their Mizo identity. Mizoram for the Mizos were their political war cry. The result was the brutal suppression and torture of the largely peaceful Reang community, which finally culminated in the large-scale displacement of the Reang community from Mizoram.

This presentation emphasizes on the following aspects

- Events leading to the displacement of the Brus:
- Immediate Post displacement situation with special reference to Tripura Relief Camps.
- Conditions of the Relief Camps in West Tripura.
- Future of the Reang community in the context of Mizoram Government's official position: