

Date: 14 July 2026.

Land is Life Condemns the Arrest of Indigenous Human Rights Defenders Pranab Doley and Aditya Rabha in Assam, India

Land is Life strongly condemns the arbitrary arrest and detention of Indigenous human rights defenders Mr. Pranab Doley and Mr. Aditya Rabha on 12 July 2026 in Guwahati, Assam, India, and calls for their immediate release. On 13 July, Mr. Doley was transferred before the Bokakhat Police Station and remanded to seven (7) days of police custody. Mr. Doley is a member of the Mishing Tribe and is associated with the All Kaziranga Affected Communities Rights Committee, while Mr. Rabha belongs to the Rabha Tribe.

Mr. Doley's arrest is linked to his leadership in the peaceful opposition of Indigenous Peoples to the proposed Hyatt luxury hotel project at Ingle Pathar, Hatikhuli, Kaziranga, which has proceeded without the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the affected Indigenous Peoples. He has reportedly been charged under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) relating to criminal conspiracy, unlawful assembly, criminal trespass, rioting, and related offences. Mr. Aditya Rabha was arrested after participating in demonstrations opposing the proposed Satellite City project in Assam, which threatens the lands and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples.

Detaining a spokesperson while the underlying land dispute is sub judice constitutes retaliation for the legitimate exercise of the right to defend rights. These arrests are not isolated incidents. They form part of a widening pattern of criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and human rights defenders who peacefully oppose the imposition of projects on their lands, territories, and resources.

Land is Life calls upon the Government of India to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Mr. Pranab Doley and Mr. Aditya Rabha.
2. Withdraw all charges brought against them in connection with their legitimate human rights activities.



3. Ensure the protection of Indigenous human rights defenders in Assam and across Northeast India from intimidation, arbitrary arrest, and judicial harassment.
4. Respect the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before approving projects affecting Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories, and natural resources.
5. Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and uphold India's national and international human rights obligations.

Land is Life stands in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of Assam and all those peacefully defending their lands, territories, cultures, and collective rights.