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Assam's Eviction Drive: When Democracy Becomes a Tool for Fear



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In recent years, Assam has witnessed a series of eviction drives that have displaced thousands, predominantly targeting Muslims of East Bengali origin. These individuals, often referred to as 'Miyas', have faced allegations of being 'illegal immigrants' despite possessing valid Indian documentation. The state's actions have raised concerns about the underlying motives and the implications for democracy and human rights.

Political Motive Behind Evictions

Experts argue (<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2025/Aug/10/assam-eviction-drives-aimed-at-creating-narrative-before-assembly-polls-experts-2>) that these eviction drives are strategically timed ahead of elections to create a divisive narrative. The ruling BJP is accused of attempting to foster a Hindu-Muslim divide, with some local organizations already holding 'anti-Miya' protests. Political commentator Barua suggests that such measures are likely to cease after the 2026 elections, indicating their politically motivated nature.

Legal and Constitutional Concerns

Legally, the eviction of citizens without proper judicial procedures and rehabilitation plans violates constitutional rights. The Deccan Herald (<http://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/editorial/evictions-and-the-politics-of-exclusion-3667179?>) editorial highlights the communal bias in the government's land eviction campaign, noting that while the state claims to reclaim forest lands, the affected populations are predominantly Muslim.

Economic Interests and Development for Few

The Guwahati Plus (<https://www.guwahatipius.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-assams-eviction-drives-reveal-development-for-few-displacement-for-many>) editorial points out that the eviction drives often serve corporate interests under the guise of development. Large tracts of cleared land are being earmarked for industrial projects, benefiting a select few while displacing many. This raises questions about the true beneficiaries of these so-called development initiatives.

Global Parallels and Human Rights Implications

The pattern of targeting minorities under the pretext of legality is not unique to Assam. Similar tactics have been observed globally, where vulnerable communities are marginalized through legal and political means. These actions not only violate human rights but also set a dangerous precedent for democratic institutions.

The eviction drives in Assam raise critical questions about the intersection of politics, law, and human rights. While the state justifies these actions as necessary for development and national security, the underlying motives appear to be politically charged and economically driven. As citizens, it is imperative to scrutinize these developments and advocate for policies that uphold the principles of justice, equality, and human dignity.



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