

## ULFA ready to resume talks with government



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United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) hints at resuming talks with the Centre even as the government has yet to react.

Disclosing this in a statement, the proscribed militant outfit says they are not averse to talk to the Centre but the issue of national rights and dignity must not be trifled.

The statement reads: the peace process abruptly came to a halt. However, neither of the two sides has called for withdrawal of the process and instead both have mutually invited each other for talks.

“Either chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa or chief of army staff Paresh Baruah was ready to sit for talks. But the issue of our national rights and dignity was repeatedly trifled and ULFA cannot swallow this,” the ULFA says in the statement.

The militant leaders say, “there is no alternative for the peoples of Assam other than a united struggle against this colonial game of India.”

Agency report here say the government has yet to react. Assam Chief Minister says, “let them first give us in writing that they would sit for talks and not indulge in violence.”

He further adds: 'We welcome a solution through talks and would like appeal to the ULFA to shun violence and come for negotiations.'

In yet another development, peace broker and award winning writer Dr Indira Goswami says, "a top ULFA leader telephoned me recently and said the outfit could consider holding talks with the Centre if it receives a formal letter from New Delhi."

She says she wrote a letter to national security advisor M.K. Narayanan requesting the Centre to write a formal letter to the ULFA for holding peace talks.

"Mr Naryanan has instead asked me to get a letter from the ULFA expressing the outfit's desire for talks," she informs.

The ULFA further says "to pave the way for the peace process, the ULFA sent a letter to Manmohan Singh (in 2005) informing him about the suspension of two of our three preconditions - UN mediation and venue for talks in a third country."

Notably, the peace process ended in a logjam with the ULFA capitalising its anger on the Hindi-speaking people in January.

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