

NHRC Directs Inquiry on Salwa Judum Victims

The <u>National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)</u> has responded to a petition, directing the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs and six state governments** to provide information on victims affected by Salwa Judum.

- It was argued that the displaced individuals, residing in forest areas across several states, have been deprived of essential welfare schemes, including land rights, tribal status, social welfare benefits, and Forest Rights Act entitlements.
- Salwa Judum is a group of tribal persons mobilized for resistance against outlawed armed naxalites. The group was reportedly backed by government machinery in Chhattisgarh.
 - In 2011, Supreme Court of India ruled against arming civilians in this manner banned Salwa-Judum and directed Chhattisgarh government to disband any militia force founded to combat Maoist guerrillas.

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