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Condemnation – Bhagat Oinam's commentary on the brutal beheading of David Thiek

"Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

These words from Joseph N. Welch rang ceaselessly within my ears as I listened to the well regarded academic, Prof. Bhagat Oinam of Jawaharlal Nehru University, spewing hateful commentaries over the barbaric beheading of David Thiek on NEWS9 Live on July 3rd 2023.

> Manipur News | SC Calls for Updated Status Report | News9
> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8J2WXZEW-gc – starting at 7:42

Prof. Oinam nonchalantly argues that this brutal crime committed by the radicalized Meiteis should somehow qualify their demands to be included in the Scheduled Tribe list. He belittles the beleaguered struggles of marginalized tribal communities for generations not only in Manipur but all across India. His comments were deprived of any human decency at a time when sensitivites are crucially needed on both sides of the conflict.

As the philosopher Slavoj Žižek says, *"There is no longer ethnic cleansing without poetry …"* Prof. Oinam has joined the ranks of intellectuals who have laid the foundations necessary for this kind of barbarism to resurface in the 21st century. His intellectual brilliance has so blinded him to utter such dehumanizing words against his own species. He has become an enabler of crimes against humanity.

Allowing public figures like him to spew venomous comments like these on various platforms with impunity will further fuel the ongoing crisis and add to the the escalating violence. We call on all decent human beings to condemn his actions and demand an immediate retraction and an apology for his apalling remarks.

Lien Gangte
President: NAMTA Canada