

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 06, 2023



Siemat Bible College (SBC) RELIEF CENTRE Siemat, Lamka

Managed by Hmar Youth Association GHQ

Total Inmates Registered: 51

■ Male: 23

■ Female: 28

■ Children: 28

■ Adult: 23

(As on 13.09.2023)

VILLAGES COVERED

Phailengjang, Sadar Hills
Phailenching, Tengnoupal
Laika Mualsau, Lamka
Kangchup, Sadar Hills
New Ningthiching, Lamka
Sokom, Chandel



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 05.10.2023



143
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

CoTU Begg Modi to Visit Strife-Torn Manipur Even for Five Minutes to Set System Right as It Protests over Attack on Kuki Villages

Hundreds of people across Kangpokpi came out along the National Highway-2 today to protest against the attack at New Keithelmanbi and the torching of houses at L. Jangnomphai village allegedly by the armed Meitei militants.

The protest rally held under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District along the National Highway 2 at Bongmol village begs Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit them at least for five minutes purely on humanitarian grounds keeping aside politics.

The CoTU's protest rally also vehemently negated and condemned the narrative of the Meitei that the Kuki militants attacked them and created violence in the New Keithelmanbi areas.

CoTU's General Secretary, Lamminlun Singsit said that on October 4 evening at around 10:30 p.m., the armed Meitei groups disguised in security uniforms set ablaze their own Meitei farmhouses at Moidangpok to look as if it was done by the Kukis and later indiscriminately attacked New Keithelmanbi areas in the buffer zone which was resisted by the central forces who manned the vulnerable areas.

He continued that a violent confrontation occurred between the Gorkha Regiment and the Meitei armed groups, but, instead of retreating, the Meitei armed groups took refuge in the border area during the night and renewed their attack in the wee hours of the next day on October 5.

He clarified that the fresh firefight was between the Meitei armed groups and the central security forces who resisted the attack and it was not between the Kuki Village Volunteers and the Meitei armed groups as narrated by the Meitei community.

He also said that at least five houses belonging to the Kuki-Zo community including a residence belonging to one Kuki-Zo AR personnel at New Keithelmanbi and another four houses at L. Jangnomphai village, near New Keithelmanbi along the National Highway-37 was burnt to ashes during the violent incident.

CoTU Women Wing's Convenor, Neinu said that such an act of unceasing terror committed by the Meitei terrorists in attacking and burning down the Kuki-Zo houses at New Keithelmanbi and L. Jangnomphai village even after five months is unacceptable.

She continued that the Kuki-Zo people will no longer tolerate



the superior mentality of the majority Meitei community.

She then appreciated the Central security forces for their swift action and sought sympathy to provide complete security to prevent such a terror attack in the future.

Questioning the accountability and sincerity of the Union Home Minister, Neinu said that it has already been more than five months now and why is the Union Home Minister unable to control the communally motivated Meitei mobs and militant groups in attacking our people and burning our houses.

CoTU's Media Cell Coordinator, Ng. Lun Kipgen said that Meitei's narrative of being attacked by the Kuki militants and protesting at Imphal is nothing but to gain sympathy and attention from the Centre while the reality is they are the ones who keep on attacking us till today since the mayhem began on May 3.

He said that the Kuki-Zo people were not good actors like them but law-abiding citizens who trusted in the law, who knew there was a Constitution, judiciary, and a system, so, we did not protest like them even when our Kuki-Zo women were paraded naked and gang-raped.

“But, their false narrative has become intolerable, so, we want the Prime Minister to at least visit us even for five minutes purely on humanitarian grounds keeping aside politics”, Lun added.

He also urged the centre to instruct the incumbent Government under the leadership of N. Biren Singh to stop what he is doing.

The protestors shouted slogans, “We want Justice”, “we want Separate Administration”, “Stop false allegations”, “Stop false narratives”, etc.

ITLF: No Ex-Gratia, Compensation or Pre-Fabricated Houses From Manipur Government

As per its consultative meeting with the affected victims on the 14th of September, 2023, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) had resolved not to apply for any ex-gratia, compensation, or pre-fabricated houses from the Manipur State Government as the compensation amount fixed by the Manipur State Government was far too meager and inadequate.

Moreover, ITLF stated in a press communique on Friday, the application format, especially the Declaration Clause, included therein, cannot be accepted in its present form.

Despite the above-said resolution, ITLF said, it was gravely regrettable that some individuals have applied for ex-gratia/compensation from the State Government of



Manipur. In such instance, the tribal forum has notified that the applicants did so at their own risk and free will, for which the ITLF should not interfere in their application and, henceforth, the applicants should not seek any kind of help, support, or relief from ITLF.

ITLF has advised that eligible victims may kindly approach the District Legal Service Authority for victim compensation from NALSA or other statutory bodies.

Kuki Prisoners in Valley Reach Their Homeland Safely



18 prisoners from the Kuki community, who were kept in Sajiva jail, Imphal, were handed over to G.Sapormaina Police Station, Kanggui (Kangpokpi), on 6th October 2023 at around 9:30 am by the 22nd Assam Rifles.

The transfer was possible due to the continuous effort of various Kuki Civil Societies. This is a positive move by the Assam Rifles to safeguard the Kuki Prisoners. There have been cases of Kuki prisoners being killed while they were in custody during the initial days of the violence.

These are strong indications that Kukis are no longer safe under the hands of the Meitei government. Some of the prisoners are from Churachandpur and Pherzawl but they were taken to Kangpokpi district.

The main reason here is that they must pass many Meitei dominated areas before reaching Churachandpur and the fear is that these Kuki prisoners could be assaulted by Meitei mobs again. The fear of Meitei wrath is ever present, and one should always be calculated and cautious.

Internet Ban Extended for Another Five Days; Naga Student Bodies Call for Immediate Restoration

The Government of Manipur has extended the suspension/curbing of mobile internet/data services, internet/data services through VPN in the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Manipur for another 5(five) days with immediate effect till 07:45 P.M. of 11-10-2023;

The curbing order stated that there are still reports of incidents of violence like confrontation of the public with security forces, trying to mob elected member's residences, civil protests in front of police stations etc.

To thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property, the Government said it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest, by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours, through various social media platform such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. on various electronic equipments like tablet, computer, mobile phone etc. and sending bulk SMS, for facilitating and/or mobilization of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, which can cause loss of life and/or damage to public/private property by indulging in

arson/vandalism and other types of violent activities.

Meanwhile, the Northern area students' union of Ukhrul district, Raphel Katamnao Long (RKL) and the Naga Students' Union, Chandel (NSUC) have urged the government to revoke the ban on internet services in their respective districts, citing the peaceful atmosphere in their areas as the reason.

The Naga students' bodies have warned the government that they would be compelled to take up necessary actions which could deteriorate the ongoing crisis if the Government does not restore mobile internet services in the districts immediately.

The Senapati District Students' Association (SDSA) had began economic blockade along the National Highway-37 in protest against the government failure in restoring suspension of internet services in Senapati district since yesterday. The association had earlier given 24-hour ultimatum to the Manipur government for revocation of internet ban in the jurisdiction of their district- Senapati.

Naga People's Organisation Advises SDSA to Call Off Economic Blockade

The Naga People's Organisation (NPO) has advised the Senapati District Students' Association to call off the economic blockade along NH 2 immediately as it is in violation of an NPO resolution adopted on June 28, 2011.

The NPO said it has sent a letter to the President of SDSA, cautioning that the 'Tribe Hoho' shall call back their representatives from SDSA if the blockade is not called off and that the Tribe Hohos shall ensure that no volunteers are deployed in their respective jurisdiction and no economic blocked are enforced in their area.

The letter stated that a joint meeting of NPO executive, Tribe Hoho and tribe representatives held a meeting on October 6 at NPO President's chamber and resolved to re-affirmed the NPO's standing resolution not to allow any activity by any organization/association without the prior approval of the district by the apex body (NPO, Senapati).

As such, SDSA should withdraw the volunteers and call off the economic blocked immediately, it stated.

Not Involved in Teens' Murder, Clarifies KNF(Z)

The Zogam faction of Kuki National Front, KNF (Z), the Kuki armed outfit, currently under Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the Government of India and Manipur has issued a clarification that S. Malsawm and Paominlun Haokip, the two males who were among the four arrested by the CBI on Sunday from Churachandpur in connection with the abduction and murder of the two teen students from Imphal are not members of KN(Z) nor have any affiliation with KNF(Z).

The release claimed that they are president and general secretary of Kuki Student Organisation (KSO) Leimata Block and condemned the disinformation alleging the two KSO leaders as KNF (Z).

Further, the press communique stated that one Nohgin Baite is not a member of the outfit in any capacity. The clarification comes after a viral social media message on Sunday claimed S. Malsawm and Paominlun Haokip are KNF (Z) cadres and Nohgin Baite is the KNF-Z commander of Joujangtek area in Churachandpur district.

SPEAKING OUT TRUTH COSTS HIM DEARLY: ACTIVIST'S HOME VANDALISED, FORCED TO WITHDRAW HIS STATEMENT

Speaking out the truth has cost a human rights activist dearly in Manipur. After a forced intimidation of Th. Brinda, a former cop officer, for speaking out the truth, the internationally acclaimed human rights activist from the Meitei community, Babloo Loitongbam, has faced the brunt of violence for his critical views on the radical groups of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun - accused of fanning violence against Kukis in the ongoing ethnic conflict.

Some goons from the radicalised Meitei militia groups on Thursday night attacked Babloo Loitongbam's residence by vandalising his properties including his vehicle in Imphal. Not only the vandalism, he was forced to withdraw his earlier statement made in the month of May about the state of violence in Manipur, especially on the role of radical organisations.

The police sources said that the assailants were angered by the statement he made to the 'NewsClick' against the Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tenggol, radical Meitei organisations.

In a special interview in May, journalist Bhasha Singh of the NewsClick spoke to Babloo Loitongbam, Director of the Human Rights Alert organisation in Manipur, on the wave of horrific violence in the state and its causes. Loitongbam elaborated on the reasons behind the violence among Meitei and Kuki communities, the burning of churches, and the killing of hundreds of people.

In the interview, the activist alleged hate politics in guise of the Meitei-Kuki conflict, and that the Meitei Leepun and Aarambai Tenggol have "injected" militancy into the minds of people. "They have articulation like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Not a single church stands in the valley now. All churches are being destroyed," Babloo had said.

B. Loitongbam is a prominent voice in Manipur known for his critical remarks against the Chief Minister, N Biren Singh, and radical Meitei groups like the Arambai Tenngol and Meitei Leepun. Since the ethnic conflict broke out on May 3, Loitongbam has been demanding the resignation of N. Biren Singh, a Meitei Chief Minister, from his post.

In his latest interview for ['The Wire'](#) with senior journalist, Karan Thapar, three days ago, Babloo Loitongbam reiterated his critical observation against N. Biren Singh's continued reign over top post even after five months of 'no rule of law' in Imphal valley, amidst students' huge protest and the Youth of



[Click here to watch the full interview](#)

Manipur's itinerary to change the Chief Minister post.

Babloo said, "Honestly, it is time for a fresh person to take over Manipur, because we have already given him a good five months time to the present Chief Minister, who had ample opportunities (to control the violent situation). But clearly, a peace process is unlikely to happen so long as he is at the helm of affairs. What is needed in Manipur's today is a peace process where things can be calmed down a little bit. And, if he is not doing that for the last five months, it is about time that we give an opportunity to another person, either from the BJP itself."

He explained the BJP was not so deprived of any able leadership than Biren Singh and a fresh attempt for leadership change would be the good of BJP for its own electoral prospect in Manipur. "But, if things go from bad to worse, you see a huge reversal, in terms of the people's faith and trust of Biren Singh; and if this continues, it will not be good for the BJP either," he said, asserting that when such kind of lack of leadership continues, ordinary people suffer on the ground. "There is no food to eat in relief camps, ...it is the most desperate situation in Manipur."

When raised about the Kukis' allegation of "selective justice" done by the central agencies over the killing of a Meitei couple, Babloo said that every allegation of all those previous crimes has to be investigated promptly, thoroughly, impartially and in independent manner. "There cannot be an ethnic lens when crimes are concerned. Crimes against Kukis need to be

Contd.

Contd.

investigated as promptly and thoroughly as much as crimes against Meiteis. There cannot be discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, caste or creed. A crime is a crime and it should be dealt with most impartially," he said.

Talking on the allegation of discriminatory extension of AFSPA in the Hills, excluding the valley areas, the activist said he was with 100% in agreement with the Kuki leaders' demands for withdrawal of the same. "AFSPA is an outdated law. It needs to be scrapped from the statute book of India. Repealing of AFSPA is all we have been demanding all these years," he said.

With respect to the unwarranted statement of Biren Singh over the NIA investigation, Babloo Loitongbam told Karan Thapar that partiality on the part of Biren Singh was the reason why the people of Manipur are still suffering for the last five months. "That is why, Manipur needs a fresh person, a fresh mind and a fresh heart to take charge of Manipur situation," he reiterated.

On the issue of Biren's active consideration for the

disqualification of 10 Kuki MLAs, Loitongbam pointed out the current leadership mindset problem by quoting Abraham Maslow's famous quote- "If all you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail."

He said, "Every approach always is of high-handedness, a kind of bullying and pressure tactics rather than any signs of diplomacy, vision or empathy of trying to understand what is happening on the other side of friends. That is why, we continue on this line."

"The problem is on the vortex of the violence that is going to get deeper and deeper, and it can be extremely difficult to extricate ourselves out of it," Loitongbam cautioned.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights office said it was alarmed by threats to human rights defender Babloo Loitongbam by Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tengol groups in Manipur for speaking out on inter-communal violence since May. The UN body has urged the authorities to protect him, his family and home, and hold perpetrators accountable.

From the desk of The Shillong Times Editorial

The Manipur Conundrum

On the 30th of September, The Shillong Times published an editorial titled, "Manipur Conundrum". Here is an excerpt of that article.

"What has caused consternation is that violence has been allowed to continue for so long under a Chief Minister who, from all accounts failed to handle the situation. If the Constitution was followed to the letter, then a breakdown of law and order in any state for over 3 days should have been followed by President's Rule which means that the central government would take over the reins of governance and restore order without fear or favour. This was not done in the present case and the situation is such that travelling out of Manipur from the hills requires a tortuous road journey via Nagaland or Mizoram. Such is the divide that even volunteers wanting to travel to the hills for relief work are subjected to strict scrutiny at several points and sometimes held up at the Imphal airport for hours. This situation is unprecedented and requires adept handling. The question is why is the Centre turning a blind eye to the sufferings of people in Manipur? And why is the Prime Minister of the country so insensitive as to not visit the troubled state which is in need of healing? It's a curious situation and a political game that smacks of unconcern for what happens in India's Northeast, except during elections".

It is true that travelling has become difficult especially during the monsoon season. Many from Lamka are very aware of the long and arduous journey of NH102. Students and the public alike face difficulties and the ever-present danger of mishaps and accidents along the way. Added to the woes many have lost their lives due to lack of medical supplies and facilities.

The centre government must step up its effort not only in relief and rehabilitation alone but also ensuring proper infrastructure such as all weathered roads especially the National Highways. Road connectivity between Lamka and Sadar Hills must be constructed properly, and security must be provided for safety of the travellers. Connectivity between Lamka, Chandel and Tengnoupal districts must also be secured. Before the conflict hill to hill connectivity was never a priority. We had to travel first to the capital city and only then could we travel to other hill areas. This is also an indication of Meitei centric governance under the Manipur government. These are also evidences of the need for a separate administration for the Kukis.





FEDERATION OF
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Ref. No. ^{45-100/JSB-IPW/20/2023}

Date

URGENT NOTICE
Lamka, the 6th October, 2023

This notice is issued for all DMU and MU students of all degrees i.e., undergraduate and above, affected by the ongoing unrest in the state for submission, in person of their educational details such as semester, course, registration number, etc... and other details such as preferred alternative educational institute for continuation of their studies, within a period of five days i.e., 07-10-2023 to 11-10-2023, at the time and place mentioned below.

Time – 10:30 AM to 04:30 PM
Place – ZSF Information Centre (IC), Royal Academy, D. Phailen.

Issued in Public Interest
Education Cell, Joint Students Body (JSB), Lamka.



UN Human Rights
@UNHumanRights

Follow ...

#India: We are alarmed by threats to human rights defender Babloo Loitongbam by Meitei Leepun & Arambai Tengol groups in **#Manipur** for speaking out on inter-communal violence since May. We urge authorities to protect him, his family & home, & hold perpetrators accountable.

1:23 PM · Oct 6, 2023 · 112.8K Views

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on October 6 urged the authorities to protect the family of Manipur-based human rights activist Babloo Loitongbam whose house was attacked by Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tengol groups in the conflict-hit State a day earlier.



“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

-Elie Wiesel



CLAIM:

As usual many Meiteis on social media and local newspapers jumped to a conclusion to accuse whom they call Kuki militants of torching down several Meitei houses in Keithelmanbi area on 4th Oct 2023.

FACT:

However none other than the Manipur Police had clarified on X/ Twitter that the arson was from a firewood burnt by some unknown persons which was later doused off by the security forces. Not a single house was torched as claimed by the Meiteis.

FACT-CHECK RESULT:

FALSE, MEITEI LIE EXPOSED



Fire Service seen rushing towards KEITHELMANBI as #KukiTerrorists reported torched down multiple #Meitei houses today. Further details are awaited.

#KukiAtrocities #SaveMeitei
#SaveMeiteiSaveManipur
#ThisIsKuki_ZoStory #KukiMilitants #Manipur
#ManipurUnrest #ManipurAgainstZRA



As regards to the incidents of arson reported by various local newspaper today, it is clarified that unknown miscreant torched some firewood belonging to a Meitei family of Keithelmanbi. The same was doused by the security forces. The area was visited by DIG(R-I), Shri N. Herojit Singh and Shri Manoj Prabhakar, SP/KPI to take stock of the situation today and security has been beefed up in the area. Meanwhile a massive joint combing operation was carried out in and around the area by Civil Police, CRPF/BSF & AR/Army.

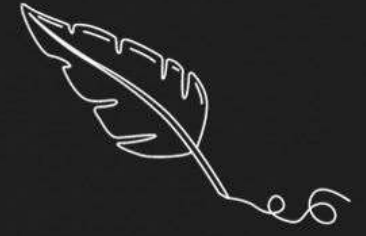


WONDER HOW LONG THE HONEYMOON WILL LAST?





DISUNITY PLAGUES FALLING NATION



**In shadows cast by embers' eerie glow,
A nation crumbles, unity brought low.
Disunity, a poison to its core,
A plague that spreads, leaving wounds and more.**



**Once bound by common goals, they stood as one,
Now fractured, rifts revealed, their strength undone.
Divisions sowed by discord's wicked hand,
Tear asunder what was built on sand.**

**The fabric frays, unraveling the thread,
As bitter words and hatred now are spread.
A nation's soul, once vibrant, full of grace,
Now weeps in sorrow, longing for embrace.**

**Oh, mend these rifts, with love and empathy,
Restore the bonds of unity, set free
The spirit that once made this nation strong,
And heal the wounds of disunity's wrong.**



Jeffrey Paojalal Hangshing