

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Don Bosco High School RELIEF CENTRE Salem Veng, Lamka

Managed by
Young Vaiphei Association, General Headquarters (YVA GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 1093*

■ Male: 545

■ Female: 548

*As on 24th October, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.11.2023



146
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.

AMONGST MISSING FOUR, TWO MURDERED; WHEREABOUTS OF THE OTHER TWO REMAINS UNKNOWN

A dead body of a woman suspected to be one of the four missing persons in the Kangchup-Chingkhong incident was recovered in Tairenpokpi area of Imphal West on Wednesday. Police said that the body was found with bullet wound on the head, and later sent to RIMS Imphal for post-mortem examination.

Another body of a man in his forties was found in Takhok Mapal Makha area of Imphal East district late on Tuesday night. The deceased was found with a bullet wound on his head and his hands tied behind his back. The body was sent for post-mortem examination to JNIMS.

The body of the woman is believed to be one of the persons who were waylaid and abducted by the Meitei mob at Kangchup-Chingkhong. Several reports suggested that the missing persons were

taken over from the central security forces by the Meitei militia and later tortured and lynched in broad daylight in the Death Valley, which is corroborated by the recently viral video of a tribal man being chased around at Uripok the day before.

The identities of two bodies are yet to be confirmed. Police sources have said that “FIR is registered and investigations is on”. But the past few months have shown that the lives and dignity of the Kuki-Zo victims come last in the ‘order of importance’ to the Meitei police force.

Thus, the intervention of the central institutions is a must. The whereabouts of the missing individuals, whether they are alive or killed is a question the Centre must answer since the Meitei forces have no regards for Kuki-Zo lives.

KUKI INPI CHANDEL DEMANDS REMOVAL OF MEITEI AR COMMANDING OFFICER POSTED IN SEHLON

Vehemently condemning the action of the 1st Assam Rifles Commanding Officer posted at Sehlon, who was allegedly colluding with the separatist Meitei militants without upholding his oath to serve the interests of the nation, the Kuki Inpi Chandel on Wednesday demanded the concerned authorities to remove the Meitei AR CO with immediate effect.

In a statement, the Kuki Inpi Chandel stated that on 8th of November, 2023, the villagers of Aivomjang came to learn about the infiltration bid by Meitei militants from Myanmar into Indian soil with the collusion of a Meitei Commanding Officer of 1 Assam Rifles posted at Sehlon village, Kheingjoy Sub-Division in Chandel district. The Assam Rifles CO had reportedly planned to transport the militants to Imphal valley and made prior arrangement for the same.

On being alerted about the nefarious plan of the AR CO, the womenfolk of the area stormed New Samtal Assam Rifles outpost to foil the infiltration bid of Meitei militants

into Manipur. In retaliation, the said Meitei AR officer harassed the womenfolk and misused his power against the locals by forcing them to comply with his plan, it said.

Mention may be made that the Kuki-Zo people of the said area had protested on September 2, 2023 against the posting of the Meitei officer at Sehlon village. The Kuki Inpi Manipur had earlier written to the DG Assam Rifles on the 25th July 2023 regarding the same issue citing the apprehension of the local populace considering the ongoing ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo tribals by the Meiteis. In response, a communiqué was received from the General Staff Officer-I (Operations) on behalf of the DG Assam Rifles vide No.III.11011/128/GS(Ops)/2023/978 dated 8th August 2023. In the communiqué, it was clearly mentioned that no AR personnel shall function in one’s own capacity and that appropriate disciplinary action will be initiated against the offenders.

ABDUCTION CASE: KUKI APEX BODY DEMANDS STRINGENT ACTIONS AGAINST MEITEI CRIMINALS AS PER LAW OF THE LAND

Stating that a bestial act of crime against humanity upon innocent Kuki-Zo civilians by the Meiteis remain unabated in the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom, the Kuki Inpi Manipur has strongly demanded the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Home Affairs to promptly take stringent measures in nabbing the culprits and punish them in accordance with the law of the land.

In a statement released on Thursday, the Kuki apex body said the gruesome murder of two Kuki-Zo individuals who were among the five individuals forcibly abducted by the Meiteis categorically declared the outrageous intentions of the Meiteis and the Meitei-led Manipur State Government against the Kuki-Zo community.

“In this most horrifying incident of violence, swift and strict measures should be taken up by the central security agencies against the Meitei community in the same manner operations has been conducted at the Kuki-Zo areas. The central government has the bounden duty and responsibility to ensure impartial justice to be delivered to the Kuki-Zo victims without further delay,” KIM said.

Janghaolun Haokip, Secretary Information and Publicity, KIM, said in the morning of 7th November, 2023, five Kuki-Zo individuals namely Mr. Manglun Haokip (65), Nengkim (60), Neilam (55), John Thangjalam Haokip (25), Jamkhothang (40) were going to L.Phaijang Village, Kangpokpi District, to perform nuptial customary practices. The Meitei militia and members of the Arambai Tenggol intercepted their vehicle at Kangchup Chingkhong, and mercilessly murdered two of them. The intervention of the central security forces barely helped rescue Mr. Manglun Haokip, a 65 year-old, resident of L.Bolkot, Lamka, who is now being hospitalised in critical condition while the whereabouts of the two others are still unknown.

Haokip said: “In the wake of the endless atrocities perpetrated by the Radical Meitei Militia in connivance with the Meitei-led Manipur State Government, it is crucial for the central government



to realise the intensity and gravity of the ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo community by the collective Meitei leadership, and therefore ensure appropriate security measures for the Kuki-Zo people and expedite the political dialogue for urgent political solution for peace and stability in the region. At the same time, the central government must firmly respond to the anti-constitutional policies adopted by the meiteis; to safeguard the unity, integrity, and sanctity of the country.”

Moreover, the Kuki Inpi Manipur was also deeply concerned of the sluggish approach of the law enforcing agencies against the demands of the Kuki-Zo civil societies for the safety of the abducted individuals. The concerned authorities must comparably take stringent and immediate action against the gruesome murder of the two individuals and the forceful abduction and detention of the other two whose fate lies on the commitment of the Central Government, it added.

INTENSE PUBLIC MOVEMENT RESURFACES OVER BRUTAL MURDER OF ABDUCTED KUKI-ZO TRIBALS; TENSION HIGH IN KANGPOKPI

Tension ran high in Manipur Kuki-Zo dominated Kangpokpi district as intense mass movement resurfaced once again creating an atmosphere resembling a situation like that of the initial stage of Manipur mayhem that had erupted on May 3 following the four abducted Kuki-Zo brutal murder image got viral on social media.

The situation in Kangpokpi had already been very tense since the abduction of wedding party goers from Churachandpur abducted on their way towards Kangpokpi side at Kangchup Chingkhong area allegedly by the Meitei mob on November 7 morning and also the alleged illegal arrest of two innocent Kuki-Zo by Manipur police in connection with the missing two Meitei boys on November 5.

Enraged mob at Kangpokpi protested in front of SP Kangpokpi's office yesterday afternoon as no outcome has surfaced after the expiry of CoTU's 24-hour ultimatum to the authorities concerned to rescue and bring back the abducted Kuki-Zo wedding partygoers safe and sound and also release the two arrested Kuki-Zo.

Hundreds of Kuki-Zo people across the district in more than five locations along the National Highway-2 began mass demonstrations since November 8 evening, though there was no disruption of the highway but intensified checking and frisking of vehicles along the highway.

Today, at around 4:30 p.m. the Kuki-Zo people across Kangpokpi district congregated at Brig. M. Thomas ground at Kangpokpi town and carried out a massive mass rally against the alleged illegal detention of two innocent Kuki-Zo at Senapati Police Station and the abduction/kidnapping of the four Kuki-Zo.

The rallyists approached the office of SP Kangpokpi via the National Highway-2 and held a protest in front of the SP office.

The protestors shouted slogans such as "Released the illegal detention of two innocent Kuki-Zo", "handover the four abducted Kuki-Zo", "We want justice", and "We want separate administration".

Five Kuki-Zo from Churachandpur's Bolkot village on November 7 en route to Kangpokpi's L. Phaijang village to perform nuptial ceremony practices were waylaid on their way and abducted by the Meitei mob.

A 65-year-old Manglun Haokip, father of an Indian



army soldier, who was one amongst the five individuals, had a narrow escape with critical injury as the Assam Rifles managed to rescue him. He was later airlifted to a neighbouring state and is under medical treatment in a critical condition.

The whereabouts of the four others, two male and two female, namely, Nengkim (60), wife of the rescued individual Manglun Haokip, Neilam Haokip (55), wife of Ginkhai Haokip, John Thangjalam Haokip (25), son of T. Paoboi and Jamkhothang Lhanghal (40), son of Semkhohao Lhanghal, had been not known after their abduction until the image of their brutal murder was viral this evening.

However, there is no report of any arrest in connection with the incident till the filing of this report.

Meanwhile, two individuals from the Kuki-Zo community were reportedly arrested by security forces in connection with the missing case of two Meitei boys on November 5. The police claimed the duo to be cadres of KRA (U) under Suspension of Operations with the Government. They were reportedly remanded in police custody till November 17.

However, the Kuki-Zo people strongly refuted the police allegation and claimed the duo as innocent civilians, and demanded their immediate release.

After meeting the SP Kangpokpi, one of the Kuki-Zo womenfolk said that they had put up their demands to the SP Kangpokpi and also aired their disappointment over various issues concerning the enforcement of law and order, and administration with regards to dealing with the Kuki-Zo people. She continued that as the public movement had begun,

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they would no longer tolerate any ill-treatment and stepmotherly treatment towards the Kuki-Zo people. She also said that the sentiment of the Kuki-Zo people in Kangpokpi district has been deeply touched and the people will not tolerate the illegal detention of the two Kuki-Zo by Manipur police at Senapati.

She then said that the two Kuki-Zo illegally detained by Manipur police must be released without condition at the earliest.

She also said that the dead bodies of the four Kuki-Zo people brutally murdered must be handed over within 24 hours to their respective families.

The Kuki-Zo women's leader warned that if their demands are not met within the stipulated time, they will no longer remain silent and intensify the mass movement.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), Sadar Hills Kangpokpi district imposed public agitation in all Kuki-Zo-dominated areas in connection with the arrest of two Kuki-Zo individuals and the brutal murder of the four Kuki-Zo people. Ng. Lun Kipgen, CoTU's Media Cell Coordinator said that in

pursuance of the expiry of the 24-hour ultimatum served to the concerned authorities to bring those five kidnapped family members of a wedding party from Kangchup Chingkhong on November 7 by Meitei miscreants for their safe return; it is however learned that two of the five have been brutally murdered and one was rescued by the Centre Security forces but the whereabouts of remaining two individuals remains yet to be ascertained.

He also said that it has been learnt that two Kuki-Zo individuals, Lunkhosei Chongloi of C. Aisan village, Saikul and Satgougin Hangshing of Khomunnom Village in Litan were arrested on alleged abduction cases of one Avinash Maibam and Ningthoujam Anthony of Akham Awang Leikai by the Senapati Police.

The Committee on Tribal Unity is constrained to impose public agitation in all areas dominated by the Kuki-Zo communities in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi w.e.f. from November 9 evening until the rest of the kidnapped family members are safely returned to their families and the concerned authority released the two Kuki-Zo individuals who are detained at Senapati Police Station on false charges of abduction without any condition.

ZO UNITED MEETS MIZORAM NGO COORDINATION COMMITTEE IN AIZAWL

The leaders of recently formed Zo United and Mizoram's Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) Coordination Committee today held a fruitful meeting at Central YMA Committee room at Aizawl, Mizoram.

The Zo United executives were led by its Convener Albert Renthlei, Co-Convener Ch. Ajang Khongsai and Secretary Rev. Dr. Vanlalnghakthang. The team comprised of 23 members.

In the meeting, leaders of the Zo United extended their heartfelt gratitude to the people of Mizoram for the relentless supports extended to the Zo people of Manipur. The leaders also informed the Coordination Committee that more than 203 villages and more than 8166 houses have been burnt down in Manipur violence. More than 50,000 people have been displaced as a result of the ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo people and more than 150 people have already lost their lives. This had led to the establishment of more than 200 Relief Camps and 42 people have lost their lives while staying in the relief camps due to poor healthcare facilities.



The Mizoram Co-ordination Committee led by its Chairman Pu Lalhmachhuana and others spoke during the meeting. NGO CC Chairman Pu Lalhmachhuana said that the people of Mizoram would not stop helping their own Zo brethren of Manipur and for that matter Zo United had been set up for a better co-ordination. The Chairman assured the visiting leaders to any kind of assistances in every possible ways in the future too.

The Zo United leaders on November 8 had also held a meeting with Zohnahthlak MLAs and SoO groups at Aizawl.

INDIGENOUS TRIBAL LEADERS' FORUM (ITLF) MEETS MHA OFFICIALS IN LAMKA

The representatives from the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) today met officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, at the Intelligence Bureau Office in Lamka Headquarter veng, Churachandpur, at around 10:30 AM.

The MHA was represented by Joint Director IB (NE) Dr. Mandeep Singh Tuli and SoO interlocutor AK Mishra. The Deputy Commissioner of Lamka Dharun Kumar, Joint Director IB (Imphal) Gnanasambandan and Asst. Director IB (Lamka) Soiminthang Thangsing were also present in the meeting.

The MHA officials from Delhi and the ITLF reviewed the matters and progress of the August 8 talks between the ITLF and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi. In the said meeting, the tribal body had demanded for the withdrawal of Manipur Police Commando from tribal areas. Amit Shah had said that the centre does not have absolute control over a state government but promised to keep check on the activities and operations of the personnel posted at tribal areas and that they should act in accordance with the command of the central forces. The ITLF expressed their displeasure over the recent events at Moreh which has brought to light the failure of Amit Shah and his promises. Dr Mandeep reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to not allow such things from happening again, and informed them of the government's plan to depute a Kuki-Zo Police officer at Moreh.

The members discussed on the issue of burial of the deceased Kuki-Zo martyrs and could not come to a satisfactory conclusion and thus postponed the issue to be discussed on a later date.

The tribal body also expressed their displeasure over the highhandedness of the CBI and NIA in nabbing the alleged and suspected culprits in the case of two missing Meitei youths within the tribal areas and reminded the central officials of the atrocities meted out to the Kuki-Zo, citing examples of David Thiek, Tonsing mother and son, Imphal Car-Wash incident, Naked Parade of the Kuki women, mob attack on MLA Vungzagin Valte and his driver, and how the same CBI and NIA have left the cases unattended till now. The officials reassured the tribal leaders that justice would be served to all albeit the time consumed in delivering the same, and that the CBI and NIA should be pushed to speed up the process of investigation.

On the issue of transfer and release of Kuki-Zo inmates in Imphal Jails, the tribal body leaders thanked the officials over the recent releases and transfer of some of the inmates and further requested the officials to expedite



the process for complete transfer and release of the remaining inmates who are still stuck in Imphal jails.

The meeting also discussed the issue of arms looted in Imphal valley by the Meitei community. The tribal body leaders appealed the officials for expediting the recovery of looted arms. The MHA officials reassured them that the operation for the same is underway and requested the tribal body to also surrender the arms looted within the district of Lamka. The ITLF reassured that it shall be done right and only after it is done in Imphal.

Over the tribal body's question on the issue of IDPs, the Deputy Commissioner of Lamka, Dharun Kumar highlighted the efforts of the government in handling the IDPs situation and also briefed the meeting on the future plan of action from the government.

AK Mishra, the interlocutor, on the question of the situation of political talks, said the political talks with the SoO groups that began in 2005 is still underway and the government has stood firm on its stand and not moved away from the gist of the talk till this moment. He said that the concerned groups, post the outbreak of the ongoing conflict, have defined and clarified the substance of the demand for Separate Administration to the centre government and that he has submitted the demand to the government of India and government's approval is now awaited.

Mishra further said that there is a need for peaceful environment for any political solution and the outbreak of violence impeded such processes. He requested the tribal body to pursue their political demand through democratic processes. Speaking on how the centre government wants for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo, Mishra said that for such a solution to occur, certain elements are affected in the process and such elements need to be properly handled and dealt with. He requested the tribal body to put their trust on the government and to abstain from violent means but rather follow the democratic means of protests in their demand for a Separate Administration.

MANIPUR NAGA STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SUSPENDS ECONOMIC BLOCKADE TEMPORARILY

The All Naga Students' Association Manipur (ANSAM) has temporarily suspended its ongoing economic blockade along the National Highway 102 with immediate effect on Thursday.

"In view of the dire hardship faced by the general public in the midst of ongoing conflict and following the assurance committed by the Convener, Naga Legislator Forum, Mr. Awangbow Newmai, Hon'ble Minister, on behalf of the government to fulfill the two legitimate demands of ANSAM, the Emergency Meeting of ANSAM, Executive Council, Units of ANSAM and Representative of Naga Legislature Forum which was held at Shelley Chara Memorial Hall, ANSAM Secretariat, Tahamzam (Senapati) on 9th November 2023 has resolved to suspend the ongoing economic blockade being called by the association temporarily," ANSAM said in a press communique today.

Acknowledging the process of restoring mobile internet with partial opening of the same in some parts of the District headquarters and while appreciating the difficulty faced by the government, ANSAM made it very clear that government should take prompt action for opening of mobile internet in all the areas in the state not affected by the violence including the interior villages and provide permanent and uninterrupted services as assured by Minister and the pending result of Assistant professor (145+45 ST Special Drive) be declared promptly as per the assurance.

It said the ongoing agitation shall be resumed anytime in the event of failing to implement the agreements of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed on 26th Oct, 2023 between govt. of Manipur and ANSAM in the presence of the Chief Minister of Manipur.

The association also expressed its strong condemnation against Major Deepak Kataria of 16 Assam Rifles, Hengbung, for his heinous act of intimidating the ANSAM volunteers at



OFFICE OF THE
ALL NAGA STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION, MANIPUR
Oking : Tahamzam, (Senapati) – 795106

Email: ansam1970@gmail.com

Ref. No.

Date:

PRESS COMMUNIQUE
9th Nov. 2023

In view of the dire hardship faced by the general public in the midst of ongoing conflict and following the assurance committed by the Convener, Naga Legislator Forum, Mr. Awangbow Newmai, Hon'ble Minister on behalf of the government to fulfill the two legitimate demands of ANSAM, the Emergency Meeting of ANSAM, Executive Council, Units of ANSAM and Representative of Naga Legislature Forum which was held at Shelley Chara Memorial Hall, ANSAM Secretariat, Tahamzam (Senapati) on 9th November 2023 has been resolved to temporarily suspend the ongoing economic blockade being called by the association.

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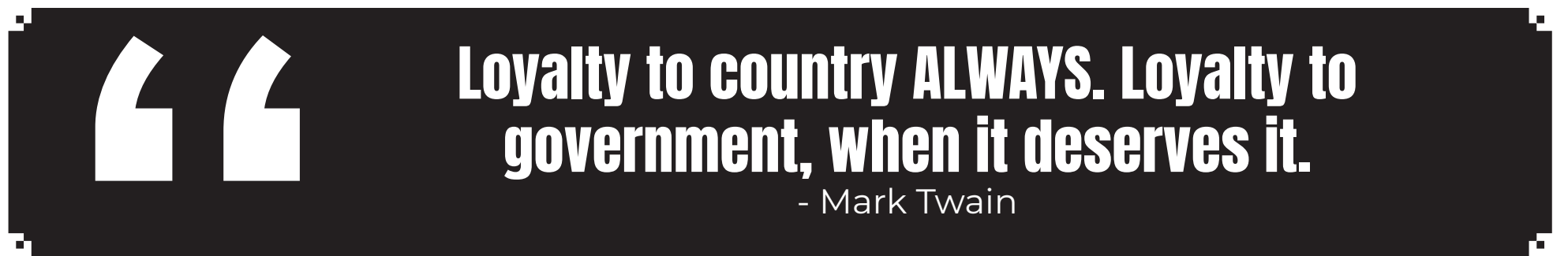
The association expresses our strong condemnation against Mj. Deepak Kataria of 16 Assam Rifle, Hengbung for heinous act of intimidating to the ANSAM volunteers at T. Khullen while enforcing the aforementioned agitation. Such hostile attitude and high handedness of the Assam Rifles towards the student community is highly questionable and uncalled for. The notoriety of Assam Rifle surfacing again at this juncture is unfortunate and a matter of great concern. Therefore, association cautioned to the rank and file of Assam Rifle not to repeat such act in the coming days to usher in peace in Naga areas.

Information & Publicity Wing
All Naga Students' Association, Manipur

T. Khullen while enforcing the aforementioned agitation.

"Such hostile attitude and high handedness of the Assam Rifles towards the student community is highly questionable and uncalled for. The notoriety of Assam Rifles surfacing again at this juncture is unfortunate and a matter of great concern," ANSAM said.

The association cautioned the rank and file of Assam Rifles not to repeat such act in the coming days to usher in peace in Naga areas.



NESO PROTESTS OVER MANIPUR VIOLENCE ROCK NORTHEAST, CENTRE SLAMMED FOR 'INACTION'



The Northeast Students' Organisation (NESO), on Thursday (November 09), staged massive demonstrations across seven Northeast states – Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura – over the six-month-long violence in Manipur.

Students' bodies from each of the seven Northeast states, who are members of the NESO, staged sit-in demonstrations in respective state capitals demanding permanent peace in Manipur.

The demonstrations, besides demanding peace in Manipur, also slammed the BJP-led central government for its alleged 'in-action' to bring normalcy in the strife-torn Northeast state.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) – member of the NESO – organised a one-day demonstration for permanent peace in Manipur at the NEFA club building in Itanagar. Bengia Pilia, vice-president of AAPSU, and Pritam Sonam, IPR secretary of NESO, briefed the media, expressing concern over the ongoing violence in Manipur.

Both AAPSU and NESO criticized the central government for its failure to control the situation in Manipur and urged for an amicable solution to resolve the ongoing crisis.

Students in Mizoram staged a sit-in demonstration at the Vanapa Hall grounds where a brief program was held.

During the program, H. Lalthianghlina, President of Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), expressed their deep disappointment

regarding the unresolved Manipur issue. He emphasized the urgency for the central government to take swift action, urging them not to overlook the matter from a distance. Lalthianghlina also expressed their hope for a visit by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the newly elected Chief Minister of Mizoram to address the dispute once they form a government.

Ricky Lalbiakmawia, NESO Vice Chairman, also spoke at the event, condemning the prolonged Manipur conflict and urging the central government to take immediate, unbiased action to resolve it. He emphasized that NESO had come together to demand a fair and prompt resolution to the issue.

In Tripura, the Twipra Students' Federation (TSF) held a sit-in demonstration demanding permanent peace in Manipur.

In Manipur also the All Manipur Students' Union (AMSU) staged a sit-in protest at Keishampat Leimajam Lekai in Imphal.

In Nagaland, the Naga Students' Federation (NSF) under the aegis of NESO demonstrated near the Raj Bhavan in Kohima demanding permanent peace in Manipur.

Similar demonstration was also organised at Shillong in Meghalaya by the Khasi Students' Union (KSU).

In Assam, NESO along with the All Assam Student Union (AASU) staged a protest at Swahid Nyas Bhawan in Guwahati, demanding immediate restoration of peace in Manipur.

NEWS IN PICTURE

As many as 7 Kuki-Zo youths from Manipur attended the recently concluded two-day Northeast Youth Leaders Conclave on "Empowering Youth Leadership: Bridging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Inclusive Socio-Economic Development" on 7th and 8th November 2023 at the Capital Convention Centre Kohima, Nagaland. The conclave was organized by the National Foundation for India (NFI) and co-funded by the European Union and NEIMUN as the knowledge and technical partner.

The conclave brings together 100 youth leaders from the North Eastern Region (NER), engaging in relevant discussions, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative actions related to the SDGs.



THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

Simon kinson @spkinson

Hamas kidnapped Israeli citizens took them into Gaza, paraded and killed them.

Yesterday Meitei militants did the same. Kidnapped a Kuki Zo citizen, made him run around the city, then killed him.

Modi spoke up about Hamas, but ignores his own country.

[#Manipur_Violence](#)

3:58 PM · 09/11/23 from Earth · 67 Views

SiamPhaipi @SiamPhaipi

[#Humanity](#) is long dead in [#Manipur](#).

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) @BJP4India Govt. couldn't give a shit who lives and who dies. When 5 (five) people who are just going to perform a Tribal wedding ritual can just be lynched by [#MeiteiRadical](#) mobs just because they belong to the Tribal Community, then yea, Humanity is long dead in Manipur.

It's a joke. Absolute clowns are running the state of Manipur and the nation of India.

[@UN](#) [@UNHumanRights](#)

[#ManipurGenocide](#)
[#Kuki_ZoLivesMatter](#)
[#TribalLivesMatter](#)
[#MinorityLivesMatter](#)

**OPINION****WHY UNDERSTANDING MANIPUR IS IMPORTANT FOR INDIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY****JAIDEEP SAIKIA**

Manipur is today a divided state. Even six months after the Meitei-Kuki conflict began, the situation has not returned to normalcy. Indeed, it is only exhibiting signs of worsening with recent acts of sniper attacks on security personnel and mobs attempting to takeover armouries. Urban warfare is on in the “Bejewelled Province”.

Having visited Manipur in October, this author's clear summation (after having conferred with all the stakeholders including the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, civil society organisations, traders' union, journalists and visiting relief camps) that it would be a while before durable peace can return to the state.

This column examines the issue of national security management in the context of the atmospherics in Manipur. After all, sooner than later, a post-mortem has to be undertaken.

It is also not comprehended as to why the problem is being allowed to fester for so long. Is there a long-term plan that the policy planners have in mind? Do they feel that a “fatigue factor” will set in sooner or later and the warring groups will one day, on their own accord, go back home and to business as usual? A close reading by this author, especially after his whirlwind visit in October, informs that there is more going on in Manipur that meets the eye.

It is also one of the considered view of this author that violence (even if there were, eventually, to be an end, since violence too has a grammar of its own) should not be permitted to incubate. Manipur has set and showcased a nasty precedence for onlooking formations across the country. Anti-national elements could well be taking a page out of the manner in which complete lawlessness has taken over an Indian state, and with the state watching the unfolding of the scenario with helplessness.

In any event, a few points that are necessary for correct national security management are being flagged for consideration. After all, Manipur has also provided the Indian state with an opportunity to review its strategies, objectives and policies.

The blueprint for such a review should stem from the following:

(a) The national security management team or even the head of such an apparatus must be endowed with a sound comprehension of the history of India's traditional and non-traditional security issues. The waypoint from where the history of such a subject matter began cannot be easily determined. Indeed, one can go back all the way to the time when Vedic civilisation came to be comprehended or even

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when the Greco-Bactrians sought to enter the Indian subcontinent. But such an enterprise would be both an extended one that could go astray and one that could become the theme of debate.

Therefore, the undemanding way out (and one that would be somewhat effortless) could be to begin with India's independence and the various national security issues that have come to the fore since 1947.

The history of Manipur, certain observers would say, is shrouded in the shadows of mystery. But the fact of the matter is that the state is an integral part of India. This is notwithstanding the fact that myriad insurgencies have come to the fore since the time of its incorporation and have refused (in most parts) to be mainstreamed.

It is also true, Manipur has always been resistant to counter-insurgency interventions. It is perhaps the only state in India that has an innate robust insurrectionary character and the insurgent-terror disposition has found strong roots in India's near-abroad, particularly in Myanmar's Sagaing Division and, to an extent, in China.

Therefore, if Manipur is taken as one of the important case studies for a national security management team's "schoolwork", then it would not only be important to understand the imperatives that entailed the "Merger Agreement" of "Meetei Leipak" with India on 21 September 1949, the manner in which Hijam Irabot formed an underground Communist Party of Manipur on 29 October 1948, but also the conduct of the Coordination Committee (CorCom)—a conglomeration of six Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) (now five, G-5, with one group exhibiting its willingness to enter into a dialogue process with New Delhi)—in the three neat clusters of Myanmar. After all, it cannot be the case that only a current central agency report about say these VBIGs presently entering Manipur via the Somra Tracts with the aid of the NSCN (IM) to lead the anti-Kuki terror that can provide the basis for a ground knowledge of India's national security imperatives as it pertains to Manipur. India's national security managers need to be better

prepared to deal with the issue at hand. There should also be a humility to be educated. National security management, after all, is serious business.

(b) National security managers have to also have a full-bodied vision of what a strong India should be like in the immediate future. Factors such as Kashmir, left-wing Left-Wing Extremism, the North East and even aspects such as problems with India's neighbours have to be taken into account when a blueprint is being sought to be constructed. A clear design that can be acted upon in real time has to be drawn up.

(c) The management team that is expected to oversee national security management must also be completely non-partisan in its outlook. Such an exterior has to be coupled with impeccable integrity and clarity that national security is not subservient to a political ideology.

(d) It is important to be both foresighted and farsighted. Simply put, the national security manager should have the ability to realise the faultlines before they become unmanageable. This author is of the considered view that if the central agencies had been alert in the immediate aftermath of the Manipur High Court judgement or even during the Solidarity March of 3 May 2023 or had even sent red alerts to New Delhi that all is not well in the state, then Manipur could well have been rid of the agony that it is presently experiencing. It is also possible that alerts were sent from Imphal but were not taken seriously by the competent authorities in New Delhi. In the case of Manipur, the inability to read the entrails of calamity that have come upon the state is in ample evidence. Simple rear-guard action to pre-empt the situation would have prevented the escalation.

(e) A person who is advising the chief executive of India has been chosen for not only his proven track record of internal security management but also because he was expected to be a person of extremely well-honed and high intellectual calibre. A question mark seems to adorn the above when the question of Manipur is taken into account.

Contd.

Contd.

(f) The person should also have been a wizard who can cobble together an iron-clad and consistent doctrine for India's national security, including counter-terrorism. The inability to do so is holding the country to ransom and is both incomprehensible and very disturbing.

(g) The national security manager should not have been straitjacketed in a past that refuses to permit "out-of-the-box" solutions, including international negotiations that would usher in peace for India. A beginning seems to have been made in this direction, primarily with Myanmar, but the present necessitates an accelerated pace of action. The same is the case with the India-China boundary issue.

(h) The national security team leader should have been a reliable team player who leads by example and commands the respect of the entire national security set-up of the country. In other words, although the national security manager is not expected to be omniscient, his writ pertaining to the national security

of India—which would be arrived at after great deliberations and discussion with peers—must not have opposing views that hurt the country's image inside and outside India.

The atmospherics of the present seem to be exhibiting aspects quite to the contrary. Manipur is being debated in the European Parliament, and protest marches are being staged in Washington DC. The sight of a feeding mother in a relief camp in Churachandpur with a three-month-old infant on her lap and her inability to lactate (as this author was witnessed to) brought forth tears, disgust and anger.

Such a state of affairs in a state of the Republic of India is unacceptable.

The author is a Conflict Theorist and Bestselling Author. Views expressed in the above piece are personal and solely that of the author.



**THE UNKNOWN
MEITEI POLICE**

Original Illustration:
Satish Acharya





The Escape

In the woods, we waited:
Three of us, for three days like a hawk;
Monitoring the enemy's movements.
I'd do it for you, you'd do it for me.

This brutality of the enemy:
To take what's ours, to steal and kill.
I had taken a stance to defend what's ours,
I will continue taking such stances.

In the woods, we were spotted.
From the woods, we had to flee:
Hunted like a prey with the sound of gunshots.
For a moment there, I thought of death.

Against camouflaged men
And their twisted intentions:
For Moreh and for Zalengam:

~USB Lhungdim