

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 15, 2023



Circuit House RELIEF CENTRE

Bijang, Lamka

Managed by Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi (KKL) GHQ

Total Inmates Registered: 200*

■ Male: 93

■ Female: 107

VILLAGES COVERED

Leinom
K. Thenjang
Masemjang
T. Chavangphai
Gothol
Mantripukhri
Songdo
Sugnu Boljang
G. Mongjang
Pholjang

*As on 15th July, 2023



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.

KUKI WOMEN IN KANGGUI LAUNCH 24X7 NON-STOP PROTEST; REITERATE STAND ON SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION DEMAND



Drawing the immediate attention of the Government of India to the demand of the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur, the Kuki-Zo womenfolk in Kangpokpi district launched a non-stop 24x7 sit-in-protest at Gamgiphai till the demand for separate administration is realized.

Hundreds of Kuki-Zo women across the district congregated at Gamgiphai this afternoon to launch the round-the-clock sit-in-protest in the presence of the Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills Kangpokpi leaders.

One of the Kuki-Zo women leaders, speaking on behalf of the women folk said that the Kuki-Zo women collectively and unanimously decided to launch a non-stop 24x7 sit-in-protest from today to draw the immediate attention of the Centre in addressing our demand for separate administration and we have decided not to cease the sit-in-protest till our demand is fulfilled.

She said that our demand for a separate administration is very much legitimate and it is never against the Constitution of India and it is also not against the Government of India.

“Our demand is separation from the biased Government of Manipur and all we want is separation from the oppression and subjugation of Manipur Government”, she added.

She continued that having faith in the Government of India we have lifted the economic blockade along the National Highways and also decided to claim the dead bodies of loved and dear ones lying in the morgue. However, despite all possible support and cooperation, the Government of India has yet to turn its ears to our grievances which compels us to launch this protest, she added.

“We are very much dedicated to raising our voice till the Government of India turns its ears to our demand and our demand for separate administration is realized”, she further added.

She also said that national investigation agencies such as CBI and NIA have started investigations into different cases, so, we want equal treatment and justice.

“The investigations of the CBI and NIA should not be biased and free of nepotism”, she added.

The Kuki-Zo women of Kangpokpi district have also decided to continue their sit-in-protest even at night.

Slogans such as, “We Demand Separate Administration”, “No Solutions, No Rest”, etc. were shouted during the launching of the relay sit-in-protest.

MANIPUR WITNESSES GENERAL STRIKE AGAINST INTEGRATION WITH INDIA: NORMAL LIFE DISRUPTED IN VALLEY

Amid efforts made in full swing to arrest anti-national elements in the violent-hit Manipur by the National Investigating Agency (NIA), a 12-hour general strike called by the anti-national terrorist outfits went successfully in Imphal.

Normal life was greatly affected due to the strike on Sunday. All commercial establishments and markets remained closed and public transport was off the roads except for a few private vehicles. Inter-district public transport also remained shut, officials said.

The dawn-to-dusk general strike was called by the valley-based secessionist militant groups under the umbrella of Coordinating Committee (CorCom), who are listed under UAPA, to protest the merger of Manipur with India on October 15, 1949.

A statement issued by CorCOM had urged the people to abstain from all forms of celebrations and movements on Sunday. Notably, media, medical, and emergency services were exempted from the strike's purview to ensure that essential services continued uninterrupted. The Coordinating Committee (CorCom) comprised of a conglomerate of six terrorist organisations such as



the People's Liberation Army (PLA), United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL) and Manipur People's Liberation Front (MPLF).

On September 21, 1949, the then King of Manipur, Maharaj Budhachandra, had signed the merger agreement with India, which came into effect on October 15 that year. The day is observed as a "National Black Day" by the militant groups every year.

YOUTH OF MANIPUR APPEALS TO STOP GUN CULTURE IN IMPHAL VALLEY

Strongly reacting against the incident in Imphal where BYJM Ex-President, Barish Sharma and his companions fired bullets upon the residents of Sega Road on Saturday, the Youth of Manipur has demanded to stop gun-culture in Imphal valley.

The Youth of Manipur, newly formed in the backdrop of the ethnic conflict in the State, on Sunday appealed to all concerned including the MLAs and Ministers to take a firm resolution to stop the rising gun culture.

A leader of the Youth of Manipur (YoM), RK. Ichanthoi, while briefing to the media on the incident, said that their newly formed YoM has already drawn the attention of the State government regarding a possible gun culture arising in the State. The state government was also urged to take up necessary actions against any individual who are involved in gun culture, she said.



She said that the people all over India and the World would be raising questions whether the State government was sowing seeds for a civil war if a measure to end the rising gun culture is not put forward. She appealed to all not to resort violence for bringing any solution.

FIVE INCLUDING WOMAN INJURED AS BARISH SHARMA AND PARTY OPEN FIRE TOWARDS CIVILIANS IN IMPHAL

Five locals of Sega Road, Khwairakpam Leikai, Imphal, including a woman sustained bullet injuries after former BJYM President, Barish Sharma and his gangs allegedly fired upon the civilians, arising out of an altercation between the two parties on Saturday night.

The incident reportedly occurred at around 11 pm on Saturday when the miscreants covering their face, came in three vehicles and tried to capture Khaidem Bobo, a resident of Khwairakpam leikai. It was said that Khaidem Bobo had a post on social media platform-Facebook, which is critical of Barish Sharma's activities.

Condemning the incident and demanding the arrest of all those involved in the firing, Chongtham Iboyaima, Convener of the Joint Action Committee formed against the incident, said the firing could be an outcome of an exchange of words on a Facebook post between former BJYM President Barish Sharma and Khaidem Bobo.

"On Saturday night, at around 11 pm, masked men who came in three vehicles tried to capture Khaidem Bobo, a resident of Khwairakpam leikai. But, Bobo's wife and other locals in the surrounding resisted the masked men and pleaded for the release and safety of Bobo," said Convener of the Joint Action Committee.

In the midst of the scuffle between the two parties, one of the masked men fired upon the locals and injured 5 people including a woman at the spot. The injured persons were rushed to the Raj Medicity hospital, Imphal.

The JAC Convener urged the Chief Minister of Manipur to make sure that all those involved in attacking the locals are arrested within 2 pm of October 16, and that



the medical expenditures of those injured must also be borne by the State government. "The Home Department must take up immediate necessary measures and action against the armed men who were threatening the public in different parts of the State," he said.

Asserting that Mr. Barish Sharma had been involved in different cases in the past, Iboyaima said that necessary actions should also be taken up against him. The Convener also warned of launching agitations alongwith Club members and other civil society organisations of Tiddim road if the State government fails to arrest all the culprits involved in attacking Bobo at the earliest.

Wife of Khaidem Bobo, Khaidem Ongbi Ranjana said Barish came to their residence on October 12 at noon and told Bobo to give clarifications for his post/ comments in social media to which Bobo had agreed. However, on Saturday (Oct 14) masked men came to Bobo's residence and tried to forcibly drag him out of the house. The locals including the Meira Paibis resisted and thereafter a scuffle broke out between the two parties, she added.

KSO CCPUR TAKES-UP MEASURES TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION

In an effort to ease traffic congestion in and around Tuibong area, the Kuki Students' Organisation, Churachandpur, has set-up Temporary Market Shed at Peace Ground Tuibong.

The Temporary Market Shed will be opened to public from tomorrow, the 16th October, 2023.

With the growing population and urbanization at a rapid pace, Tuibong area has now become one of the main avenue for daily business activities. Vegetable shops and vendors of different varieties lined-up along the Imphal – Tiddim road making Traffic jam one of the

most common sights in the area. This has become a nuisance for the commuters and has caused traffic congestion with no available parking space for motors.

Considering this, the KSO Churachandpur, has set-up temporary vegetable market at an approach road leading to B. Vengnom village, while the newly constructed temporary market shed at Tuibong Peace Ground is expected to provide a more spacious avenue for pedestrians, thereby easing the problem of parking congestion.



TAPKONG HOULIM *with*
— Idea Exchange —

Arijit Biswas Kuki

TLM reached out to Pu Arijit Biswas Kuki, a native of West Bengal, who, in numerous occasions be it news channels or other Social Media platforms, has spoken of the truth and stood with his Kuki brothers and sisters. Here is the full interview.

Why did you add Kuki in your name?

First it started as a jive from Meitei, and I thought if someone is taunting and calling me with that name, I will embrace it. They thought that being called a Kuki is a sign of weakness. But when I accepted whole heartedly and called myself a Kuki it is no longer a weakness, and they can't taunt me with the name again. Moreover, I do not think that it is shameful to be called a Kuki. I wear it with pride.

What makes you say that you wear the name Kuki with Pride?

I believe in our Constitution where everyone has equal rights and equal respect, living a dignified life. When I saw the atrocities against the Kukis on 3rd and 4th May I saw a genocide in progress, committed against a minority by the majority where they were hunted like animals. I have accounts of Kukis who survive the genocide and they spoke to me and wrote to me, it was terrible. And I could not help myself but speak for the Kukis. If I did not support the Kukis I felt like I am not upholding my Constitution and not doing enough to support what my country stood for. I couldn't sleep for two months. My conscience would not let me not support the Kukis. That is something my conscience tells me to do. It adds to my pride. What else is bigger than me supporting my country by speaking up against the crimes committed against Kuki, who are as Indian as I am.

Added to this, Kukis fought against the British for 3 years, we fought alongside Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Kukis are one of the bravest tribes in India. Even the mighty British took three years to douse it. It takes a lot of guts



and knowledge to stand up against an Empire for a long time like the Kukis did.

Are these the main reasons why you supported the Kukis?

Yes and no. It is one of the reasons but more importantly it is about Humanity, being humane. This is what a human should do. Let's forget about being Indian or any identity for that matter. When genocidal acts are committed against a minority it is our duty to speak up against those atrocities. But people are too comfortable in their own space. Hardly no one is speaking up against these atrocities. I feel like humanity is ending but we all should still have faith in humanity.

Humanity and peace are never good for politics. Violence is very conducive for politics. If I am humane enough, I

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will never fight or destroy whatever is around me. But if I want power, I will select whom to hit where and when to hit and will try to benefit from the violence. Ultimately, we are human resources for conceited political gains. We can't expect justice in this kind of environment.

What are your thoughts on Kukis being portrayed as war-mongering tribes by Meiteis and other tribes?

Many often fail to realise that other tribes are also involve. So, singling out Kukis as warmongering is selective and it serves a devious purpose to demonise them. Moreover, tribes all over the world since antiquity have fought among each other. This is history. You can't say that Kukis are warmongers therefore they need to be eradicated. Wherever indigenous people were there, majority fight against them for land and resources. When Meites who are not tribes used state machineries to launch an ethnic cleansing pogrom, it is they who are the warmongers.

The go-to answer for the cause of the conflict according to N.Biren Singh and Meiteis alike is the issue of illegal immigrant, Narco-terrorism and Poppy cultivators. What are your thoughts on these allegations?

Illegal immigration issue is ever present in all border areas. To me its not a problem. It's a matter of humanity. People should be allowed to take shelter in our country if they are persecuted in their country of origin. A responsible government should be able to take care of the people and give them adequate shelter during their stay. Responsible government will never scapegoat one community for its lack of governance. Moreover, persecuting Kukis in the name of illegal immigrant is not justified.

Mizoram have over 50,000 refugees but the state is not in turmoil but Manipur with a little over 2000 illegal immigrants is struggling. How would you explain this?

If the govt. is humane enough, they will take care of it. Since Mizoram has been responsible enough to take care of its immigrant issue, there is no turmoil. Rather, the refuges are grateful that Mizoram have shelter them in time of ultimate horror. By being grateful to Mizoram means being grateful to India. Instead, in Manipur the exact opposite is happening. Kukis are also human beings. If you torture a person to unbearable levels after that the only way forward is retaliation.

What are your thoughts on demonising of the Kukis?

You can demonise and dehumanise people since you hold political power, and the state machineries are on your side. But at the end of the day, he/she will remain a human being where all human emotions of anger, frustration and vengeance is still present. When enough is enough people will retaliate. This will lead to more violence. So, abusing or demonising or dehumanising the Kukis should not have happened. The state govt. and Meitie CSOs should have been more sensitive in this regard.

Are all illegal immigrants only from the Kukis?

Not at all. This is textbook propaganda. They have to say something to justify the heinous act that they have committed.

What are your thoughts on Kukis as the only Narco-Terrorist groups and Poppy Cultivators?

Everyone is involved in this drug trade. There is no logical or reasonable explanation as to why one community has been singled out. Meiteis are involve, Nagas are involve, Politicians are involve, Meiteis Insurgent groups are involve. I saw Major Amit Bansal speech where he said that 70% of the drugs are synthetic drugs and these factories are in the valley, not in the hills. So, my question is if 70% of the synthetic drugs are coming from the valley and the valley is dominated by the Meiteis, then who are the real Narco-terrorists? Obviously and logically the Meiteis. I know that Kukis are also involve in poppy cultivation, but they are just that cultivators-farmers who are just trying to earn their livelihood. They can't synthesize nor have the financial and logistics to run this drug trade. The tag is just an alibi to shelter their own people (Meiteis) and perhaps they want to even become cultivators. They themselves have also admitted that they want to own land in the hill districts.

What are your thoughts on Meiteis living in the hills?

Trust me, even if they were able to somehow buy lands in tribal areas, they will not live on the land. They are planning to expand their business. Urban dwellers or for that matter those living in the valley areas are very

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much disconnected with nature. They don't need to learn how plants; animals and the entire ecosystem interact. Urban living gives you all the necessary comforts provided if you have enough money to afford it. If Meiteis starts to inhabit the tribal areas, I fear that traditional or indigenous knowledge of tribals will be lost forever. One cannot go to universities and colleges to gain all this knowledge. But tribals such as Kukis who have these ideas and knowledge are living in the hills. Its best if their lands and way of life is untouched.

Would you agree that Meiteis should respect the Kukis way of life?

Definitely yes. I come from an area where the Santhals have lived for ages. It was freed by the tribals from the clutches of the British. We should be grateful to them. But now hardly you would find a Santhal. They are voiceless now. I do not wish to see the same history repeat itself, this time for the Kukis.

What are your thoughts on the bonhomie relation between the Nagas and Meiteis?

First of all, there is a difference between Nagaland Nagas and Manipur Nagas. The Manipur Nagas are not considered as true Nagas by the Nagaland Nagas. It is just a political nomenclature for security purpose, perhaps. Meites and Manipur Nagas cannot be blood related brothers. For me, it's just a guise to garner support from the Manipur Nagas so that the Meiteis do not have to fight a two-front war. The bonhomie will not last. People tend to forget the tension between the Manipur Nagas or the Tangkhuls with the Meiteis in the early 2000s.

Hijam Rajen your co-panellist in Major Mohammed Ali Shah's Youtube channel said that Arambai Tenggol did not hold guns. Any comments?

When he said that I didn't know whether I should laugh or cry or shout. I didn't know how to react. He even said that they are a socio-cultural organisation. I don't care what type of organisation you are. The fact is that they have looted thousands of guns in the State armouries. To me they are terrorist organisations. They are terrorists. I understand his position because if he did not defend them, he could have been silence in a forceful manner just like Brinda and Babloo.

Any sensible person will not endorse what these organisations are doing. I don't know why not many people are coming up to raise against their voice against them. Manipur is burning largely because of these organisations. And many Meiteis are defending them out of fear not out of love. There is no democracy in Imphal but there is 'Gun-ocracy' where these organisations are running the show with their looted guns. They are like militant outfits for the state. I know Meiteis who are sane and sensible, but they dare not speak against them in the open. They are unofficial state forces operating right now.

What is your take on Pramod Singh a.k.a Mr. Blow?

Apart from the atrocities committed by the Meiteis, it was his interview with Karan Thapar that got me deeply involve with this conflict. When I saw the video, I commented and one Meitei guy DM and threatened me. What Pramod Singh said on National Media is something that one should not be saying in a democratic country.

What is your assessment of the role of the Union govt. in handling the situation?

The Union govt. is handling the way it planned. Not more, not less. They gave the state government the full go to complete this pogrom. If that is not the reason, then why did they not enforce presidential rule after 10 days of violence?

Do you believe in Separation is the Only Solution?

Separation is completed. Whether or not the govt. or the Meites wanted to admit, there is distinct separation between the hill and the valley now. Buffer zones have been created. I don't think Kukis will go back to the valley. Therefore, separation is the only way to achieve peace. Meiteis can stay in the valley peacefully and likewise the Kukis in the hills.

The situation in the Manipur is like a marriage gone wrong where the husband is completely a chauvinistic person. He doesn't want his wife to go away, and he wants to hold her back, but there is no love left. The wife wants to leave, and she knows that if she stays back,

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she will be subjected to all kinds of violence. The husband can go crazy any day and kill her. That is the situation.

It was the responsible of the government to handle it before situation escalated but now Separation is the only solution. And that solution is in terms of a Union Territory. However, UT must come with adequate constitutional safeguards for the Kukis. Moreover, with a separate administration the imbalance allocation of resources between the valley and the hills will be solve. Kukis can benefit directly from the Centre. I believe that developments in the hills will happen and may even surpass the valley. Maybe one of the reasons why Meiteis don't want separation is that their pound of flesh in terms of financial aid from the centre government will be decreased.

Kukis are known for their valour and warrior instinct. We even fought against the mighty British Empire. Moreover, many Kukis were also enlisted under INA under the same name. If regiments like Gorkha, Jat, Assam and Naga exist in the Indian Army why not a Kuki Regiment?

Yes, why not. Kukis contribution for India have been equal if not more. To be honest, I don't know how a regiment is inducted. But I don't see why a Kuki regiment should not exist. Kukis have fought for the country, fought alongside Netaji. Their valour and sacrifice need to be recognised. It's a fair question. Younger generation Kukis who know the land and the people, who are in proximity with the Southeast Asian countries could be a great asset for the country. India can benefit a lot from the Kukis in her Act East Policy.

Would you like to send out a message to the Kuki Community?

We are in it together, everybody, from the frontline warriors to medical personnels, philanthropic organizations, academicians, students, leaders, and masses alike who are toiling day and night for our cause. This is a good fight. Let's not give up. Let's give it our best shot. Let's get our own administration under the constitution of India. War is not helpful for anybody. It does not benefit anybody. The economy is affected, society is destroyed, people minds are not in the right place, and everyone is going through some kind of trauma. After seeing the atrocities committed against the Kukis wherein I saw people getting burned, butchered, and paraded naked, it changed me. I did not realise that such atrocities could be done to a fellow human being. Let's fight this war in whatever way we can so that we don't have to face such horrific atrocities again.

Any words of encouragement to KSO and the TLM team?

You guys don't need my encouragement. On the contrary, it is your efforts which inspires and encourage people like us. Keep doing what you are doing. Throughout history when students raised their voice, and they changed societies for the better. Keep raising your voice against Injustice.



IN THE END, WE WILL REMEMBER NOT THE WORDS OF OUR ENEMIES, BUT THE SILENCE OF OUR FRIENDS.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

IN OTHER NEWS: MANIPUR'S MINISTER EMBROILS IN PHYSICAL FIGHT WITH ARMY PERSONNEL OVER 'GIRLFRIEND'

Amid tension in the state, a cabinet minister in N. Biren Singh's Government has been allegedly embroiled in a fierce fight with an Army personnel over a girlfriend- a well-known Meitei actress, inside a restaurant in Imphal.

The incident reportedly occurred at around 8:00 PM on Saturday, when the said Minister along with his escorts found his girlfriend sharing a table with the security personnel in a restaurant located at Mantripukhri, Imphal. For a reason best known to him, the Minister started a heated argument with the man after which a physical confrontation broke out.

The identity of the persons involved in the incident are yet to be revealed officially. However, a WhatsApp message which went viral on Sunday, has identified the names of the Minister and the actress.

Two cases have been reportedly filed at Heingang Police Station in connection with the incident, according to reports.

After the physical fight, the Army personnel reportedly ran inside a security camp located nearby the locality. A team of Manipur Police led by the Imphal West Superintendent of Police rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation, sources said.



Satirically, the Meitei Leepun Chief, Pramot Singh, took up the incident by poking the Minister concerned. He wrote in his status, "Jagoi oja" which literally translates into English as "Dance Teacher", indicating that he knew the Minister involved in the incident well enough.

**Post
MORTEM**



RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

By: *Dr. George T Haokip*

In a world where greed and power scheme,
Biren Singh and Meitei leaders, in a heartless dream,
Spotted the Kukis, vulnerable and near,
A chance for war, fueled by dread and fear.

Militants armed, their sinister plot laid,
Chaos beneath the sky, in shadows they played,
On May 3, 2023, a day of profound sorrow,
Innocence shattered, promising no tomorrow.

Claiming right, they blinded the world's sight,
Kukis helpless, lost in power's endless night,
To God above, their desperate cries did soar,
He heard, and answered, their anguish He bore.

Zo United arose, born from strife and care,
In war and peace, their unity rare,
No divisions, no hate, could touch their core,
God's promise, a shield forevermore.

Unity, unyielding, their greatest might,
Against oppressors, they'd stand and fight,
No discord within, no enemy guise,
In battles fierce, their unity would rise.

Once weak, the Kukis now stood tall,
United, they'd never again fall,
No powerful leaders, no weapons of might,
In unity, they'd vanquish the fight.

A force unstoppable, a profound bond,
In God and unity, their victory would respond,
In the darkest depths, they'd find their way,
In unity, they'd forever sway.

No earthly force, however grim,
Could shatter the strength found within them,
For in unity, they'd eternally prevail,
In the face of darkness, their unity wouldn't fail.

