

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 21, 2023



## VK Tawna High School RELIEF CENTRE

Vengnuam, New Lamka

Managed by Young Paite Association (New Lamka Relief Committee)

**Total Inmates Registered: 61\***

■ Male: 27

■ Female: 34

**VILLAGE COVERED**

H. Gamlen Village

\*As on 6th September, 2023



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.10.2023



**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.

## MOREH PROTEST AGAINST INDUCTION OF STATE FORCES IN HILL AREAS, KUKI INPI TENGNOUNPAL SUBMITS CHARTER OF DEMANDS



*Sit-in-Protest at Moreh town under the aegis of Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal*

The people of Tegnoupal district have come out in large numbers against the induction of state forces in the Hill Areas by staging a sit-in-protest at Moreh town, today. The sit-in was held under the aegis of Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal (KIT).

Strongly denouncing the forceful induction of state forces in the Hill Areas, the KIT also submitted a charter of demands to the Deputy Commissioner of Tegnoupal.

“Despite the adequate strength of security forces already deployed in Moreh, a small town inhabited by a small size of population, and much against the wishes and continued objection of the people of Moreh, the Manipur State Government’s repeated attempts to deploy additional state forces (Commando, IRB etc) is questionable,” said a letter addressed to the Deputy Commissioner.

The Kuki apex body urged the Government of Manipur to disclose its exact intention to the people of Moreh.

It stated that Moreh is predominantly inhabited by Kuki-Zo group of people. But no Kuki-Zo officer is being deputed or posted to run important Government departmental offices such as Police Station, etc in Moreh or Tegnoupal district headquarter. There is no law and order problem in Moreh and Tegnoupal areas, and deployment of state forces is totally unnecessary, it said.

“It would be wiser for the State government not to disturb the existing peaceful atmosphere in Moreh. The existing central forces are strong enough to protect the public, control and maintain law and order. Hence, the Manipur Government’s decision of inducing more and more state machineries is nothing but hidden strategy for resettlement of Meiteis,” KIT said.

The Charter of Demands included no resettlement programme until Political settlement; to appoint tribal Kuki-Zo officers in Tegnoupal and Moreh Sub-Division; no further induction of state forces- Police CDO, IRB and MR in Moreh/Tegnoupal; No chopper services for IRB, CDO and MR; to remove Meira Paibis checkpoint at Kakching lamkhai and other areas; to disallow and release essential commodities still blocked at Kakching area; to remove all CDO posts and disallow CDO patrolling in and around Moreh; replacement of Manipur CDOs with Gorkha Regiment or any central forces; proper re-verification of all state force personnel posted within Tegnoupal district and furnish a written response/assurance to the demands above.

The Charter of Demands were arrived at a joint meeting of all CSOs of Tegnoupal district today, the 20th October, 2023 comprising of KCA Tegnoupal, KCA Moreh Block, HTC, KSO, KKL, KWU&HR and MYC.

## GLOBAL PEACE RALLY IN SUPPORT OF SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION DEMAND ON THE PIPELINE

The Zo United, an apex coordinating body of the Zo brethren, in its executive meeting on October 21 resolved to organise a Global Peace Rally in support of Separate Administration demand in all Zohnathlak inhabited district/states/countries within November 2023 or before the winter session of the Indian Parliament.

During the 3rd Zo United Executive Body meeting, held at MPC Office, Lamka, the Secretary gave a report of their Mizoram tour by highlighting various activities and other related issues to be followed-up from the tour. And the report was supplemented by the Convenor. The members present in the meeting appreciated and accepted the report with gratitude.

The Committee highly appreciated and acknowledged the Hmar Inpui initiatives for land filling and repairing of the road between Sipuikawn and Tuivai under National Highway 150.

The Committee also resolved to induct Manipur Tribal Forum Delhi (MTFD) as a co-opted member of the Executive Body to the Zo United with immediate



effect. It resolved to have a meeting with Lamka based Church leaders at the earliest and entrusted the Cabinet to finalize the details of the meeting.

The Committee proposed to organise 'Unity and Mobilization Tour' in the following districts and states – Kangpokpi, Chandel, Tengnoupal, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

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## STAGED COMBING OPERATION IRKS COTU

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), Kangpokpi, has vehemently condemned the alleged staged-operation and recovery of arms by the state forces on several occasions.

The CoTU Women Wing leader said that on October 17 there was a claim regarding a search and cordon operation between Nungshun village and H. Khopibung village under the jurisdiction of Sagolmang police station Imphal East, where numerous arms and ammunition are said to be recovered.

She said that the Kuki-Zo locals were completely unaware of the said operation and later it was affirmed that it was a staged-operation.

She also pointed out that a similar incident occurred in the Khamenlok areas on October 20 while adding that the staged-operation was targeted to malign the Kuki-Zo volunteers for possessing illegal arms. She then said that such a cheap narrative is the handiwork of the partisan government to depict the minority as the aggressor.



"It has now become imperative that the public and national media should be cautious while dealing with valley-based media houses," she said.

The CoTU Women's Wing leader also said that the Kuki-Zo women of Kangpokpi district who are on an indefinite relay round the clock sit-in-protest will not back off and continue with the protest until Separate Administration for the Kuki-Zo is materialized.

## BIREN'S MEITEI-TANGKHUL BLOOD RELATIONSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT IS BEREFT OF ANY SOUND LOGIC, SAYS TANGKHUL APEX BODY; REJECTS UKHRUL BECOMING MANIPUR'S SUMMER CAPITAL

The Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL), an apex body of Tangkhul, has declared that it did not recognize the authority of N. Biren Singh to define the blood relation of the Tangkhul tribe - either as head of a State government or in his individual capacity.

In response to the public declaration made by the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh three days ago at Ukhrul about the Tangkhul and Meitei being blood brothers, the Tangkhul apex body stated that it did not dismiss or disregard instances of relationships between certain families or clans of Tangkhul and Meitei communities. However, trying to blanket the entire Tangkhul community under such stray historical and genealogical definition is bereft of any sound logic. Such a declaration holds no bearing for and meaning of TNL, it said.

TNL also stated that the Tangkhul people are competent enough to know their own history and the tribe also believe in their destiny as an integral part of the Naga nation and did not wish their land to become a summer, second or any other Capital of Manipur.

In its statement on Saturday, the TNL stated that they were constrained to issue a statement to clear the air in the backdrop of widespread public outrage and confusion regarding the visit of N. Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, to Ukhrul and related activities thereof.



“Tangkhul Naga Long, as the apex Tangkhul body, is in no way connected to the State Cabinet meeting held in Ukhrul during the Chief Minister’s visit and it is also not a party to the joint memorandum submitted by certain Tangkhul civil voluntary organizations,” it said.

Further, TNL stated that they welcomed and appreciated every move by the State government regarding development works in the district and called for an understanding that the State government was merely doing its mandated duty and not bestowing any extraordinary largesse to Tangkhul tribe.

## LAMKA-AIZAWL WINGER COUNTER OPENED

To ease the hardships faced by commuters along the Lamka-Aizawl-Lengpui (Airport), the Kuki Students’ Organisation Churachandpur District and Zomi Students’ Federation GHQ have launched a Winger Service from Lamka to Lengpui Airport via Aizawl on this day; the 21st October, 2023.

The said project has been undertaken by the Joint Students Body Lamka which is a conglomerate of all Kuki Cognate tribes.



## OBJECTION RAISED AGAINST PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF CRPF

The Kuki-Zo village chiefs of Leisan, Berea, L. Cananphai, G. Songel and Patjang under Churachandpur district have raised objection to the proposed deployment of CRPF at Tangjeng village without the consent of adjoining village chiefs and other security forces deployed in the same location.

In a letter to the Superintendent of Police Churachandpur on October 19, the village chiefs cited grounds for raising their objection to the proposed deployment of the CRPF.

The village chiefs stated that the present arrangement and deployment of the Para-military/Central Forces, such as 10 and 49 ITBP companies and 36 Assam Rifles in the entire area of both Tangjeng and Leisan Villages are considered absolutely adequate in terms of the security apparatus/measurement being taken up by the Government.

Besides, one Company of 13 BSF, which is already deployed across the Manipur river bank of Tangjeng Khunjao under Kakching District, is also at the other side of the river bank of Tangjeng Village.

In a letter addressed to the SP, Churachandpur, the village chiefs expressed that as of now, they do not feel the necessity to deploy Central Forces like CRPF across the river bank of Tangjeng Village, which is located in between the deployment of many Para-military/Central Forces, whereby Tangjeng and Tangjeng Khunjao villages were situated on both sides of the Manipur River Bank.

If deployment of more Central Forces like CRPF is considered necessary, the said forces may be deployed across the Manipur River bank of Tangjeng

Khunjao under Kakching District, as firing often came from that side in the past, and the firing is also likely to happen again in near future, it said.

In the case of Tangjeng and Leisan sides, ITBP and AR personnel have manned the whole area very well and no security loophole or lapses were witnessed so far. And as such, there is no need of sending CRPF to Tangjeng at this juncture, as the said CRPF being deployed at Khodang did not prevent mobs from burning down Khodang Village on May 28, 2023, the chiefs stated.

The chiefs reiterated that peace and tranquility which began to prevail in the entire area of Tangjeng and Leisan since last 5 months and till date must not be disturbed in the name of proposing to deploy more forces like CRPF at Tangjeng Village, until the centre brings a solution to the ongoing crisis between the two communities.

Further, the letter stated that villages like Napat, Tangjeng, Pombikhok, Chandongpokpi, Leingangtabi and Khoijumantabi are situated within Dampi Reserve of Churachandpur District in terms of geographical location/area but since the inhabitants belongs to Meitei community, the villages were brought under Bishnupur District for administrative convenience.

As such, it is considered mandatory for the Unified Command/State government to seek consultation and obtaining consent of the adjoining village chiefs and district administration of the Churachandpur towards any sort of security arrangement to be taken up in those villages, the chiefs added.



**The problem with the world is that the intelligent people are full of doubts, while the stupid ones are full of confidence.**

— Charles Bukowski

## A KUKI-ZO YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS ETHNIC CONFLICT AT UN INDIGENOUS YOUTH FORUM IN ROME



At the invitation of the Indigenous People Unit of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Dennis Lallienzuol Hmar attended the 2nd Biennial United Nations Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF) held in Rome, Italy from 16-20 October 2023.

The UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum is the only Indigenous-related high-level forum hosted by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This UN Forum results from a 2017 recommendation from UNDESA to FAO through the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), which built upon FAO's work with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) in 2017 and the Rome Declaration on Indigenous Youth.

At the Forum, Dennis Lallienzuol represented the Kuki-Zo people and raised a range of issues his community faced with regard to tribal issues, land rights and control, agri-food systems and indigenous knowledge systems. He also highlighted the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur, India on the sidelines and the complexities tribals in his region face.

Further, Dennis advocated an array of issues Asia is facing and highlighted his work on indigenous youths and people of his region with Rural Women Upliftment Society and Highland Impact Foundation.

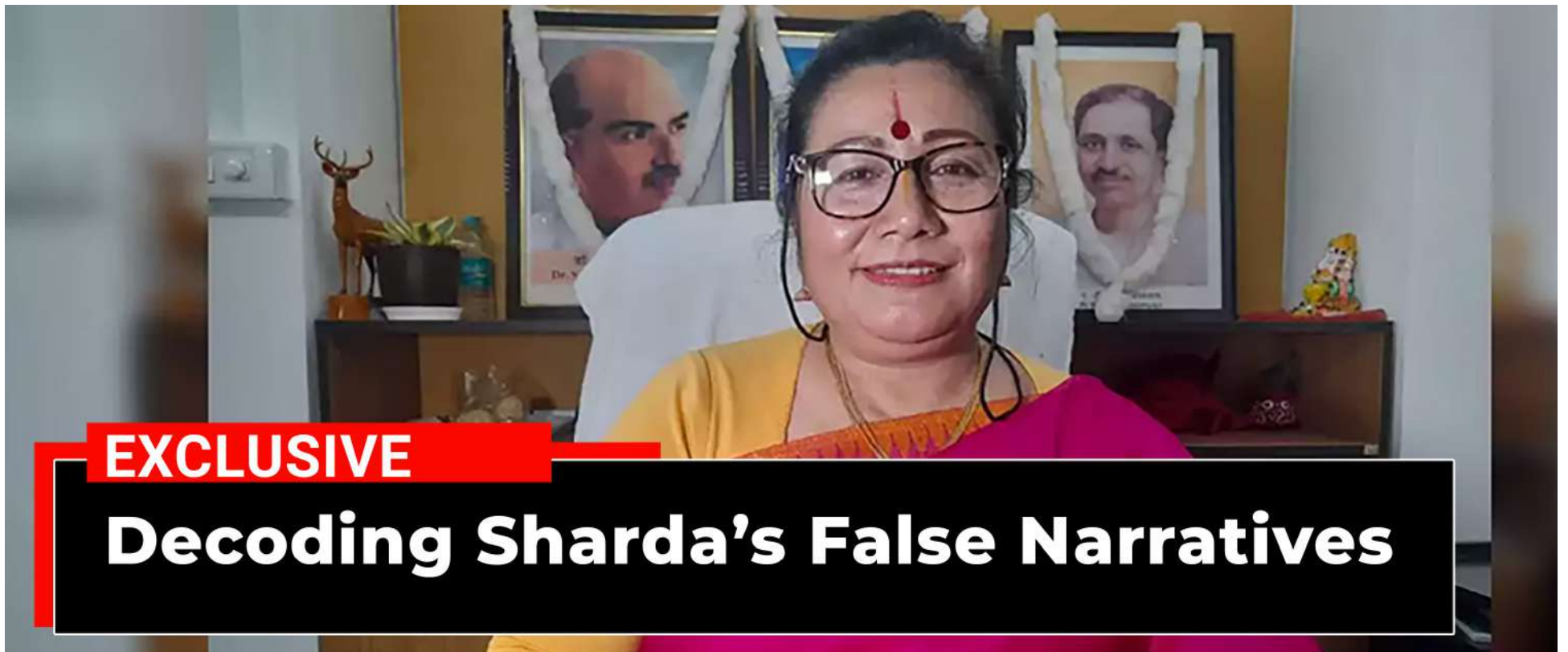
He intervened in the #UNGIYF2023 circle session on 'My Food Vision Is...Keeping the Lifeline of Nutrition Alive' with Dario Mejía Montalvo, Chair of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Jessica Vega Ortega, UNGIYF Coordinator, Advisor of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Latin America & the Caribbean; Mikaila K. Way, Indigenous Youth Focal Point of Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO) along with experts in food/ nutrition and Indigenous Youth Leaders.

As a part of the Asia Delegation, he actively negotiated regional priorities and lobbied with the seven socio-cultural regions of the world. As an outcome, the Rome Declaration on Safeguarding Seven Generations, and the Rome Declaration on Policy Recommendations to the United Nations Organs, Agencies, Funds, and Organisations, Member States, and Non-Government Organisations were formalised and read out on the last day of the Forum.

Organised by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the World Reindeer Herder's Association, and the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, the Forum provided a space of dialogue between Indigenous Youth and Countries, UN Agencies, Universities, Research centres, and other stakeholders to issue policy recommendations affecting the future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in the context of climate and biodiversity action. In parallel with the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum, FAO will host the World Food Forum, Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum as well as the Science and Innovation Forum.

Dennis Lallienzuol is also a Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme Fellow of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism who was invited earlier on June, 2023 to speak at the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, 2023 side event hosted by United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism on how climate security & conflict multi-dimensionally impacts young people sharing his testimony of survival as an internally displaced youth and his experiences at the margins of conflict. (Source: [India Today NE](#))

**EXCLUSIVE**

## Decoding Sharda's False Narratives

On the 20th of October, A Sharda, the BJP Manipur Pradesh President, addressed the media at their Nityaipat Chuthek office, emphasizing that no BJP MLA was advocating for separate administration. Instead, she attributed the rising demand for separate administration to misunderstandings among the communities.

On the 3rd of May, tensions escalated as ethnic cleansing began, leading to ten Kuki-Zo MLAs issuing a joint statement in favor of a separate administration for their ethnic group on the 12th of May. The Meiteis, who have historically been at odds with the Kuki-Zo, responded with strong opposition. They went as far as threatening the Chief Minister to disqualify the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs.

Curiously, there was a shift in the tone towards these ten Kuki-Zo MLAs. A Sharda's true intentions remained a matter of speculation, but the way she spoke about the Kuki-Zo MLAs seemed to carry an air of understanding. Meitei politicians, irrespective of their party affiliations, always put the interests of the Meitei community first. This marked a rare instance where a Meitei seemed to empathize with the predicament faced by these ten MLAs.

A Sharda appeared to grasp the underlying reasons that prompted the Kuki-Zo MLAs to call for a separate administration. Instead of openly accusing them, she seemed to offer them some protection. However, what she couldn't conceal in her message was her disregard for the Meiteis' role in the escalating conflict. Referring to it as a mere misunderstanding was seen as an affront

to the Kuki-Zo community and their representatives.

The Meitei government may believe that they can engage in discussions with Kuki-Zo leaders to restore peace in Manipur. Yet, have they truly comprehended the sentiments of the Kuki-Zo public, who have been treated as outcasts and subjected to violence in both valley and hill settlements at the hands of the Meiteis? While some leaders may have yielded to the Meiteis' tactics, motivated by financial incentives, will the public follow these leaders? Can the government genuinely absolve itself of blame by portraying the MLAs as unrelated to the demand for a separate administration, citing a mere misunderstanding between communities?

It is essential to remember that the ten Kuki-Zo MLAs did not ignite the demand for separate administration; rather, the Meitei government's covert dealings with Meitei radicals Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun played a significant role. The call for a separate administration was not premeditated but arose out of a necessity for survival. While the Meiteis may employ sweet words to conceal their true intentions, they are unlikely to gain the trust of the Kuki-Zo people and their 10 MLAs. The writing on the wall is clear: the Meiteis will find it difficult to hide their intentions. The only path to lasting peace in Kangleipak is coexisting harmoniously with the Kuki-Zo, but only as neighbors.





**EXCLUSIVE**

## The Paradoxical Meitei CM

In his address on the occasion of Manipur Police Raising Day on October 19, N Biren Singh, notoriously known for wearing a 'Meitei Crown,' persuaded the State police forces to shed their ethnicity or ethnic affiliation once they don the police uniform. The day before making this statement, the same N Biren Singh, on October 18 at Ukhrul to be precise, preached that the Meiteis and Tangkhuls are 'brothers.' N Biren Singh is the chief minister of Manipur, after all.

In Ukhrul, he was playing to the gallery by hard-selling the Meitei-Tangkhul brotherhood. There is nothing to deplore about the assertion of fraternal ties by two communities. Rather it should be appreciated particularly at this time when the relations among the ethnic communities in Manipur are quite fragile. Again, Biren was prompt in advising the police forces not to stick to their ethnicities when discharging duties. What was hard to digest or the paradox is the fact that this 'Meitei CM' dissuading others from becoming one such.

Ever since Biren Singh ascended to the chief minister's seat, he has openly professed his infamous Meiteism and has been preoccupied with Meitei centric agenda only. His obsessive preoccupation with the Meitei-centric agenda offers fertile ground for the prevalence of schism among the various ethnic groups of Manipur and the rest, as they say, is history. The present crisis besieging the State now is the outcome of his reckless persuasion of jingoism and chauvinism. However, Biren Singh refuses to acknowledge the truth and rather makes frantic attempts to evade the reality. Instead of admitting his

mistakes and rectifying his wrongdoings, Biren Singh coined terms such as 'terrorists,' 'narco-terrorism,' 'illegal immigrants,' 'aggression by external/foreign elements,' etc to give the entire blame on the Kuki-Zo community. His misdeeds or misadventures do not end there.

Once again donning the crown of a 'Meitei,' he defiled the sanctity of the office of the chief minister as he put in full public view his ethnic leanings or his Meiteiness. In Ukhrul, Biren Singh had completely forgotten that he was the chief minister of Manipur. The esteemed office of the CM should not be misused to reinforce ties, whatever, of particular communities. Manipur is a multi-ethnic State often compared with a garden where flowers of varied species bloom together. Instead of preaching peace and unity among all communities, he chose to resort to exclusivism. N Biren's rhetoric of the 'brotherhood' ties of the Meiteis and the Tangkhuls was nothing but another attempt to further alienate the Kuki-Zo community, and importantly to curtail the Southern Nagaland aspirations or Naga integration sentiments. It is to be seen whether the rhetoric pays any dividends.

Biren Singh is not yet done with the Kukis, his antagonism against the Kukis is heightened. He is engrossed in grouping, aligning and pitting other communities of Manipur against the Kukis through the reputable office of the Chief Minister. He is still a 'Meitei CM' is a fact proven beyond doubt. Now the ball is in the court of the Centre – whether to allow such narcissists to continue reigning the affairs of Manipur.



A SERIES ON HUMANITARIAN WORKS-04  
**Fellowship Ashram Kids' Garden Project**

The Kids' Garden Project, among displaced children in relief camps in Churachandpur, is an initiative of Fellowship Ashram, Gujarat, in association with the Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS), Manipur.

The main objective of this project is to ensure that education is not lost among the children and to support their mental and physical well-being in the relief camps. Through this initiative, we aim to restore hope in the young hearts of the children, educationally, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.

Under this project, tuition centers are set up in different relief camps with support from the respective camp in charge. At the onset of the project, approximately 1900 children from 46 relief camps across the town enrolled. These children are taught by 55 enthusiastic young volunteer teachers, some of whom are internally displaced persons (IDPs) themselves. A few of the children have been fortunate to receive sponsorships from various organizations and individuals, so the number of children may fluctuate.

The curriculum that the teachers focus on includes general education, arts and crafts, and lessons from the Bible to help restore the students' spiritual lives.

The volunteer teachers are each assigned one camp with children ranging in age from 3 to 15 years. They spend 3 hours a day, 5 days a week with the students, with different time slots according to different age groups.

Each student under this project is provided with basic stationery items, color pencils, and chart paper. The volunteer teachers report to the General Coordinator daily regarding the details of their visits and send in their lesson plans weekly. The Coordinator, in turn, follows up with the teachers and tries to visit different camps each week. Once a month, the volunteers meet together to discuss and share their experiences, challenges, and encourage each other.

Presently, the project focuses only on displaced children who are unable to attend schools for various reasons. The project is expected to phase out once all the children can gain admission to regular schools for a formal and structured education.

Relief centers, especially those far from the town area, are diligently sought out to find more children who do not have the privilege of attending proper schools. Currently, we have 1300 children in 50 relief camps.



**Some of the challenges we face are:**

1. Many camps have no dedicated rooms for classes since most of them have insufficient space. Hence, many of them have classes outdoors.
2. There are no proper desks and benches, so the kids usually sit on the floors.
3. There are no proper study materials and toys for the children since we can only provide the basic necessities currently.

NEWS IN PIC



The releasing ceremony of IGAM HILOU HAM, a song translated and sang in 9 (nine) different dialects of Kuki-Zo by the Joint Artistes Association was organised today at Peace Ground, Tuibong, Lamka. The song is composed by Pu (L) LS Mangboi Lhungdim, a prominent song-writer of the Kuki-Zo community who was martyred in the line of duty as a volunteer defending kuki-Zo villages on 31st August 2023.

Post MORTEM

Manipur



Israel Palestine War



# IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS

[Esther 4:14]

In such a time as this  
A stint of dejection with no bliss  
An epoch so excruciating stuffed with crisis  
Twenty-four hours of despondencies it is  
S'ven days a week of dysphoria it is.

W'men, never stop praying  
For God is ceaselessly answering  
For His love is never-ending and blistering  
Sisters, may your heart be filled with thanksgiving  
For He was ceaselessly there fortifying.

Men, empty your wallets  
Big time we shift our gears and mindsets  
For we call for your all to rack up the targets  
Brothers, do not lose heart despite the upsets  
Until you're back home triumphant with trumpets.

In such a time as this  
Always know by heart that we are His!

*-Letginmang Singsit*