

# **EBCC Hiangtam Lamka** DELIEF CENTRE

Hiangtam Lamka

Managed by Young Paite Association

Total Inmates Registered: 32\*

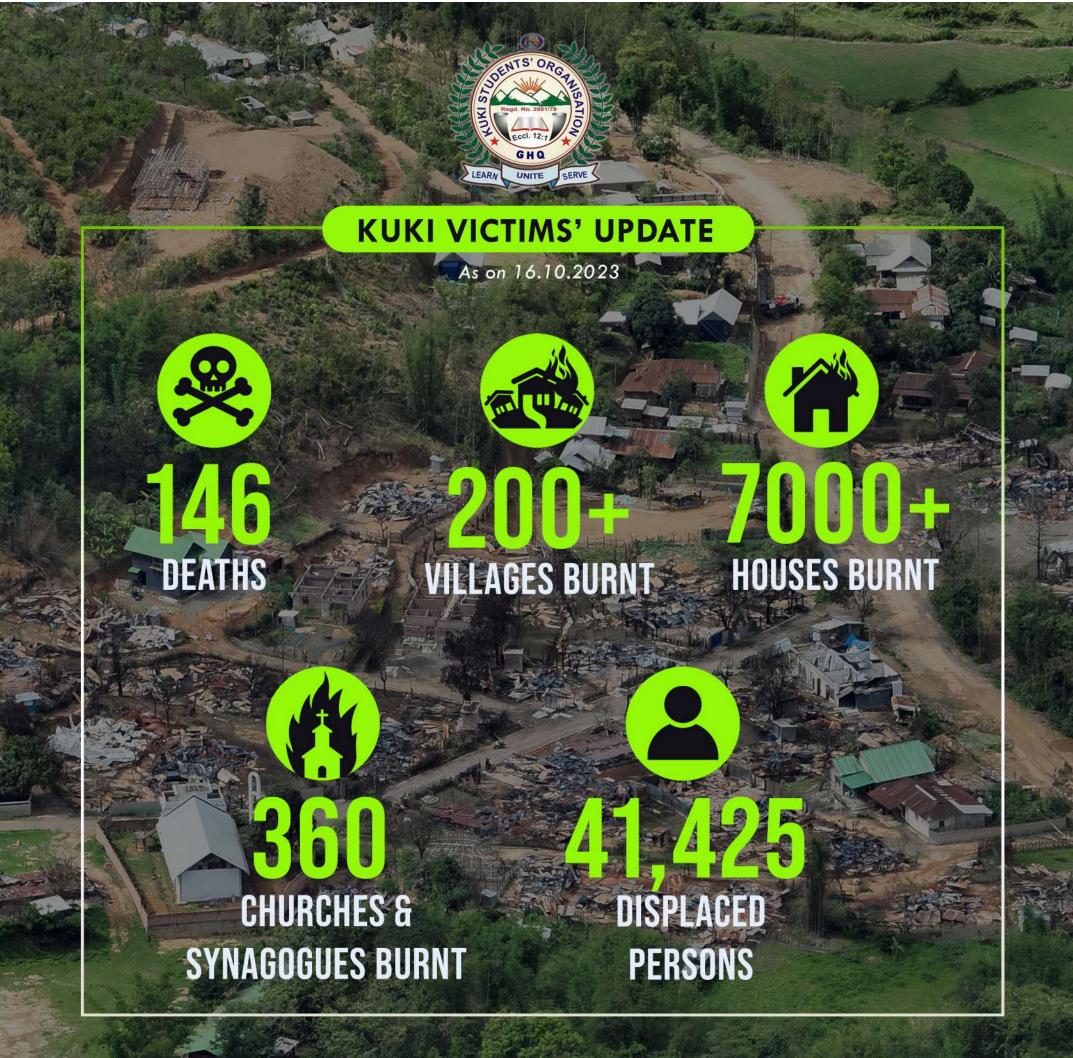
Male: 14

Female: 18

#### **VILLAGES COVERED**

P. Moulding, Sadar Hills Lamphel, Imphal Teikhang, Nungba Langvon, Sangaikot Kipmunnom, Lamka S. Bualjang, Lamka Pengjang, Lamka Mission Veng, Langgol S. Kotlian, Lamka





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.





## MEITEI POLICE COMMANDO: THE HARBINGER OF LIES & FAKE NEWS



The Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal district (KIT) on Monday expressed its anguish over the police commandos branding the three arrested Myanmar nationals as Kuki militants and alleging Moreh based civil organisations as supporting and patronising the illegal immigrants from Myanmar.

The police commando in Moreh town had arrested 3-Myanmar nationals who were believed to be drug users on October 22.

In its press clarifcation issued on Monday, the Kuki apex body of Tengnoupal ridiculed the police commando's assertion on branding the arrested trio as Kuki militants in Imphal based news. The commandos also alleged that Moreh civil society organisations had been objecting deployment of CDO in Moreh town so as to bring more Myanmar nationals in the state. The same was also uploaded by N Biren Singh in his social media accounts.

The Kuki Inpi has clarified that none of the Moreh based Organisations patronise illegal immigrants from Myanmar. At the same time they would never tolerate fake and concocted allegations from communal forces like Manipur police commandos.

"The KIT would like to clarify that the arrested Myanmar nationals are neither Kuki militants nor related with the Moreh public and organisations. In fact, they are drug users who were believed to be harboured by the police commandos," said KIT.

"It is well known to all the Moreh public that some police commando personnel are drug users. And the CDO harboured many drug users from Myanmar and used them as drug suppliers," it added. Moreover, KIT said, there are several instances in the past where state forces particularly police commando posted in Moreh and Tengnoupal were caught with drugs along the Imphal - Moreh road.

Ironically, the police commando released the three Myanmar nationals (drug users) after clicking photos for the media stunt.

"Spreading lies and fake propaganda and flashing baseless allegations and concocted news is one of the main activities of police commandos and some Meitei medias since the outbreak of Meitei ethnic cleansing. The state forces particularly the police commandos created fake and concocted news every time they came out of their complex which is why the Moreh public wanted them to remain inside their complex or to leave Moreh town."

The Kuki apex body asserted that the Assam Rifles and central security forces (BSF, RAF) in Moreh town had no issues with the public. They are neutral forces and public feel safe and secure in their presence.

But, KIT said, whenever and wherever the police commando moves out of their complex/outpost they come up with one or the other fake and concocted allegations.

This is not the first instance where the state forces created fake allegations against a particular community/organisation, KIT stated.

"Their motives clearly show that they are communal forces, they are Meitei forces which is why the CSO demanded for them to go back to the valley," it added.



# IF THE CONFLICT WAS PLANNED FOR YEARS, WHY THERE WAS NO LOSS OF MEITEI LIVES IN TRIBAL AREAS WHEN VIOLENCE BROKE OUT: ITLF REBUKES BIREN





Deeply offended by the remarks made by Manipur CM Biren Singh in his recent interview with the Times of India, where he blatantly lied about the cause of the sectarian conflict in the state, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) rebuked N. Biren Singh that all his accusations are bereft of evidences and facts.

In its press release issued on Monday, ITLF said, "Singh's accusation that the conflict was "planned years ago" by some section of tribals with 'illegal immigrants' goes against all available evidence and the fact that Kuki-Zo tribals faced the brunt of the violence - in the number of deaths, displaced, and the loss of homes and livelihood."

"If the conflict was planned for "years" by tribals, why was there no loss of innocent Meitei lives in tribal areas when violence broke out, while unwitting tribal civilians in Imphal Valley were slaughtered without warning? Which community was prepared and which was not?"

The tribal forum asserted that there are numerous national media reports quoting central security forces that say Meitei radicals like Arambai Tenggol carried out attacks on tribal civilians, and no corresponding tribal groups targeted Meitei civilians.

The CM's allegation of tribals starting the violence to demand a "separate nation" is ridiculous, as tribals have made it very clear that any demands they have because of the ethnic cleansing of their community comes under the Constitution of India, it stated.

"In fact, the May 3 violence scuppered a peace accord between tribal SoO groups and the central government which was to be signed on May 8. A report by The Wire news website said Manipur's CM was not in favour of the peace treaty. This means that the CM had a very good reason to start a conflict. Tribals did not."

The ITLF Spokesperson, Ginza Vualzong said that the Chief Minister's war on drugs, implementation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and his "illegal immigrants" rhetoric all targeted Kuki-Zo tribals and Kuki-Zo areas. "A certain amount of pushback from the community was only natural in the form of protests, rallies, and civil disobedience," he said adding that the Meitei militia groups like Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun were the ones preparing for a violent confrontation which led to the deaths of almost 100 tribal civilians in the valley, who were totally unaware of the conspiracy in the first two days of the conflict.

The ITLF, once again, urged the central government to recognize the physical and emotional separation between Kuki-Zos and Meiteis. "We do not accept a government that arms one community against us while attempting to portray us as the aggressor," said Ginza Vualzong.





### MINORITY MUSLIMS AT THE RECEIVING END OF MEITEI BARBARISM

The Committee on Peaceful Co-existence, Manipur Takhel to collect their cow, which had been entrusted to (CPCM) has condemned the sufferings faced her sister, Manbi Leibujam, when she left home in Takhel. by the Muslim community in Manipur due to the ongoing violence which began on May 3.

One such incident was the lynching of two Muslim drivers Sahir @ Sana of Khestri Bangon Awang Leikai and Abir Khan of Sora by a Meitei mob on October 19 where they were accused of being goods transporters for the Kukis.

It is to be mentioned here that, two Pangal drivers, Sahir of Kshetrigao, and Abir of Sora, were hired by two Meitei women, namely Sarabanu (Ibemcha Leibujam) and Victoria Leibujam, to transport their cow, which was handed over to the sister of Victoria Leibujam, Manbi Leibujam, the wife of Nanao Thounaojam of Takhel, Imphal East, when Victoria left home in May.

The six cows were handed over to her sister, Manbi Leibujam, by Victoria Leibujam when ethnic violence erupted in the state. This was because Victoria Leibujam's husband is a Kuki man, and she stayed with her Kuki husband in Takhel, Imphal East before the violence broke out between the Kuki and Meitei communities. Further, her husband fled to Motbung in Kangpokpi district due to the ongoing ethnic violence in May. Victoria Leibujam left her home in Takhel and stayed with her sister, Sarabanu, in Imphal.

On October 19, Sarabanu and Victoria Leibujam went to

Unfortunately, on that day, they were lynched by the people of Takhel on accusations of transporting goods for the Kuki people. Due to the serious injuries sustained during the lynching, one of the vehicle drivers, Sahir, passed away on October 22 at Raj Medicity Hospital in Imphal.

Accordingly, a Joint Action Committee (JAC) was formed against the alleged brutal Killing of Sangomsumpham Sahir, also known as Sana. The JAC organized a public meeting at Kshetrigao Community Hall to protest the brutal killing of Sahir.

The event was attended by representatives from AMMSO, PSO, CPCM, UMPC, MMWO, AMPACO, AMMOCOC, and all Kwakta Coordinating Committees, where several resolutions were adopted.

In the meeting, the JAC, unanimously demanded the arrest of all the accused persons within 48 hours from today, i.e., 23/10/2023, in order to obtain justice for Sangomsumpham Sahir's family.

Further, the JAC will not receive Sangomsumpham Sahir's body if the concerned authorities do not arrest all the accused persons within 48 hours.

### **ZORAMTHANGA NOT TO SHARE STAGE WITH PM NARENDRA MODI DURING HIS VISIT**

The incumbent Chief Minister of Mizoram, Zoramthanga, has Talking on the issue of refugees, Mizoram CM said said that he would not share stage with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, when he visits the northeastern State for election campaign last week of this month.

In an interview to the BBC Hindi news channel, Zoramthanga said that as the people of Mizoram are all Christians, and when the Meitei people burned hundreds of Churches in Manipur, it will be a big minus point for his party to share a stage with a person who has the same ideology with the Meitei people.

"To have a sympathy with the BJP at this time will be a big minus point for my party. Therefore, it will be better even if the PM comes alone he shares a platform by himself, and either a platform by myself. That will be better for both of us," he said.

it was a humanitarian aspect of showing sympathy. "Whoever comes from this land or that land, we cannot simply push them out because refugees from Bangladesh and Manipur are all Mizos and we are of the same people speaking more or less one language. So, they are our brothers and sisters, either from Manipur, Bangladesh or Myanmar."

With regards to solving the Manipur conflict, Zoramthanga said that if the Government of India and the Home Ministry really willing to solve the problem, it is very easy to solve. "Now there is a clear cut division, they do not mix together with each other and so I think that with the help of the Home Ministry and the Government of India, the problem can be solved so that the people can go back easily," he said.





### DO NOT BE CARRIED AWAY OR MISLED BY PROPAGANDA OF PEOPLE WITH VESTED INTERESTS: NSCN-IM RESPONDS TO BIREN SINGH'S REMARKS ON MEITEI-TANGKHUL BROTHERHOOD



With regards to the much talked about Tangkhul where ideological brotherhood and brotherhood and Meitei brotherhood after Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh recent remark in Ukhrul, the NSCN (IM), a Naga militant outfit, on Sunday said that the brotherhood history between the two is very clear and the story is, however, confined only to Hundung village and does not apply to the whole Tangkhuls.

In a statement, the NSCN-IM stated that though one cannot the Nagas, the Meiteis and the Kukis come from undermine the blood relationship between the Hundung royal family and the Meiteis and one should not take it too far to give a wrong meaning. "We should understand that all Tangkhuls are not part of the Hungdung royal family".

The NSCN IM pointed out that Hungdung was a big village in the Tangkhul community at that time. But that does not mean Hundung village represents the whole Tangkhuls.

Tangkhul and Meitei but the Hundung village royal family and few Meitei salais (clans) and royal The NSCN-IM then said, "We love our Meitei family in the Imphal valley," the statement added. and Kuki brothers and sisters and we respect

Stating that individuals inter-tribe marriage never mean a tribe-level bond when the relationship is only between two families, NSCN IM added that the Naga people should not be carried away or misled by such propaganda by people with vested interests to dilute the sanctity and distinct Naga national identity.

by bloodline. But things have changed at present Meiteis and the Kukis as well," the statement added.

in one faith count. Pakistan and India, East Bengal and West Bengal come from the same bloodline and they speak the same language and read the same scripts, but they were divided along the lines of religion and politics, the statement added.

NSCN IM went on to state that history says that a common ancestry and they are brothers of the Mongoloid family is a common knowledge.

The NSCN-IM also said history has it that one Tangkhul brother from Hundung village went down to the present Imphal valley and settled down there to live with the Meitei community. A story also says there are cases where some Tangkhuls and other Naga tribes who were married to Kuki women settled in their "Therefore, the relationship is not about the land and lived with the Kuki community, it added.

> them. But we know we have been living here together without a political foundation. We must live together but on the correct foundation."

Apart from the common bloodline, the NSCN-IM said one must speak the same political language and profess the same faith. "We must build our world on the foundation of a living history and not on a concocted history. All said The past generations traced their brotherhood only and done, there is no feeling of antagonism towards the







N Biren Singh, the mastermind of the pogrom against the Kuki-Zo people, is continuing to fuel the violence instead of admitting his mistakes and making amend to end the crisis. Admitting guilt is hard, yet there is no greater respect than for the man who realises his mistakes and boldly admits them without any excuse. N Biren Singh does not belong to the breed who easily admit mistakes. Rather, Biren Singh is taking a firm recourse and lives by the mantra of the Nazism law of propaganda – 'Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth.' This principle is not going to work favourably every time though. Instead of admitting mistakes, Biren pampered his ego and fabricated narratives to pass all the blame to the Kuki-Zo people whom he ruthlessly persecuted. The more he peddles manufactured lies and propaganda to cover up his misdeeds, the more frustrated he becomes. Now, his own ghost is apparently starting to haunt him.

His empty talks, his falsehood, mediocrity and importantly his misuse of his position, all resulted in the spiralling down of his popularity even among the Meitei population, who once endorsed his every move. Meitei mobs chanting the S\*\*\*\*u slogan against Biren Singh is simply telling. For now, any attempt to initiate dialogue between the warring groups would prove futile until Biren Singh is silenced and kept totally out of the picture.

In an interview he gave to the Times of India, N Biren Singh blatantly said, "though the immediate trigger was his government's war on drugs, implementation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and identification of illegal immigrants, the genesis was planned years ago with the demand for a separate nation."

His utterance was nothing but a figment of his imagination. Since the outbreak of the violence, Biren Singh resorted to making untenable and irrational statements in his attempt to put all the blames on the Kuki-Zo community for the violence he orchestrated. His hallucinatory statement has found no taker except for a few who have a different agenda.

Biren government's much-hyped 'War on Drugs' was a total failure as unmasked by officials and people closely working on it. It has been revealed time and again that Biren, along with his close associates including his immediate relatives are involved in the drug trade. Therefore, the war on drugs cannot be attributed to the violence besieging the State now.

Implementation of the Indian Forest Act or the contents of the Act never affects the indigenous Kuki-Zo community. The Kuki-Zos are very much aware that the Forest Acts are used as tools to dispossess them of their ancestral land by the present dispensation under Biren Singh. The issue of 'illegal immigrants' is overhyped. Official data always contradicted the claims of Biren Singh and his

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henchmen. They are amplifying, if not romanticising, the issue of 'illegal immigrants' to justify their misdeeds.

It was N Biren Singh and the secessionist Valley Based Insurgent/Underground Groups (VBIG/VBUGs) who were firmly committed to a separate sovereign Meitei country. The subversive activities of these inimical and anti-national elements are well-known by all and sundry. Notwithstanding, Biren Singh prioritises policy that ratifies the separatists agenda.

Biren was absolutely right when he said that the violence was planned years ago to press for a separate nation. Indeed, it was the Meiteis' perspective he was conveying although he twists it otherwise.

The fact is that he is the mastermind of the mayhem. It is unimaginable for the conflict to persist for such an extended period without the support of N Biren Singh. He still resorts to stoking communal passion by making unwarranted, provocative statements. Nobody in the Meitei society dares to speak out the truth, because he promotes vigilantism, and instigates radical mobs to attack anyone spilling out the truth, instances of such pernicious and wicked activities galore. The Central BJP leadership is committing a very serious mistake by entrusting its Manipur affairs to such an incompetent, insecure and biased leader in the person of N Biren Singh.





On 21.10.2023, Manipur Police detained 01 (one) active member of an underground group from Imphal-West District and recovered the following ammunitions and explosives:

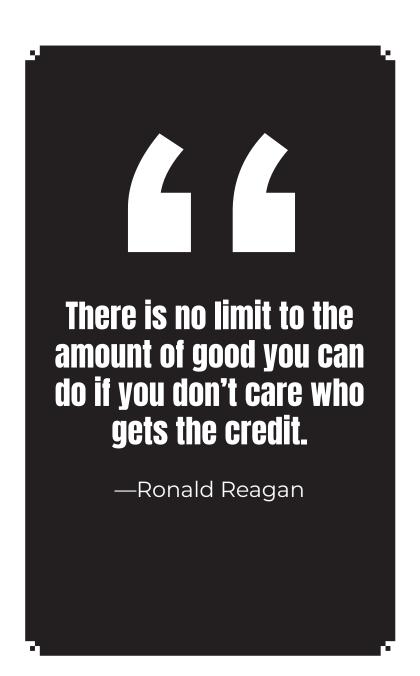
(i)68 (sixty-eight) nos. of live round of 40 mm Lathode Ammunition (UBGL).

(ii) 573 (five hundreds seventy-three) nos. of 7.62 live round Ammunition (iii) 294 (two hundreds ninety-four) nos. of 5.56 live round Ammunition. (iv) 379 (three hundreds seventy-nine) nos. of 7.62 live round Ammunition.

The accused person along with the seized items were handed over to the Imphal West District Police and later remanded into police custody.



10:45 PM · Oct 22, 2023 · **15.4K** Views







Dear Davids,

Amidst this ongoing conflict in Manipur, there is one name that stands apart from the rest which has now become a rallying cry. Not because the other names are not as important, forgotten or because the horrors inflicted upon them are any less but because in the sea of multi-syllable, tribe specific names of those slain by the Meiteis, this name stands out with its simplicity, its ease of recall and because the name cuts across tribe lines, is ubiquitous across the kindred Kuki-Zo tribes and is a name both Jews and Christians in the community hold in high regard.

The name is David.

Langza, the place where David hailed from is a small farming village, located about 33 kilometers to the east of the heart of Lamka town with many hillocks separating them. Its isolation and proximity to Meitei dominated areas had made it very vulnerable. Most residents of the village had already sought shelter in relief camps and villages closer to the main town leaving only a few sparsely armed volunteers to look after the village. Before sunrise on the 2nd of July, 2023, a Sunday, two months after the start of the ethnic conflict, Meitei militants under the cover of darkness that mirrored their evil intention attacked and burned down the entire village

including three churches. David Thiek, a 31 year old village youth who was one of the few volunteers keeping watch over the village was caught alive by the Meiteis who then proceeded to torture him by first gouging out his right eye, then both his arms one after the other while he was still alive. They then beheaded him and burnt whatever remained of his body. Volunteers who went to the village with security forces after the Meiteis had left found his decapitated head hanging on a bamboo fence and recovered some bone fragments from a pile of ash where his mutilated body had been burnt.

David was the older of two siblings. His mother died when he was six. He was working in the hospitality sector in Mumbai but he returned home after the pandemic in 2020 to take care of his disabled father. His horrific murder poured oil on a burning fire, reigniting the passions of an already incensed community. The slogan 'We Are David' became a new rallying call. Many social media warriors on X (Twitter) took his name; t-shirts with the slogan were printed and worn by many as a symbol of unity and resistance; posters were put up all over town. The brutality of his murder once again reminded a nation of the bestiality of the Meiteis; the manner in which his blood was spilled boiled his brethren's blood.

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That was on the 2nd day of July. Almost four months have again passed since, and almost half a year since the conflict was imposed upon us on the 3rd of May 2023. Most of our deaths came in those initial days when our people were hunted and slaughtered in the streets of Imphal and in the peripheral areas, all of them brutal beyond imagining. We all felt the horror, and we responded with tribal might. We all came together, stepping over our past differences, shaken out of our clannist identities, now bonded by the grief that we shared and a common enemy of godless militants out seeking our complete annihilation. Like our forefathers of old, we drew our lines and mustered our forces, their ghosts whispering to us tales of valor and promises of battlefield glory. With but God on our side and everything else on the side of the enemy, we took on the might of a state. We dug deep into our pockets and matched ten of their barrels with one of ours, held by a man worth ten of them. We countered them wherever the battlefield was - on the frontlines back at home where we exchanged bullets and traded casualties and in cyberspace where our diaspora, free of the stifling internet ban at home, rose to the occasion and fought lies with truth, taking our cause international.

But as the days, weeks and months passed, with our frontlines having some semblance of order, giving us the feeling of safety behind those lines and with attacks coming fewer and further in between, and in light of the inescapable fact that in order to sustain a war that shows no signs of a resolution six months in, we started coming out of the cocoon of war and restored some semblance of normalcy. Because if there is one thing that history has taught us it is this - our forefathers did not lose the fight against the British Empire for lack of bravery or might but for lack of sustenance. Hence we restarted our own economy. Activities that had been put to a grinding halt by the war slowly came back to life. Our deserted streets once again brimmed with life and our settlements that bore the silence of a nation in mourning and in war started fitting into the old pre-war clothes.

Fitting in too well, in fact. We have taken to the new normalcy a little too enthusiastically. Some have forgotten

that we are still at war. We have falsely equated a required normalcy with peace. We are getting too comfortable with the situation when we should still be very uncomfortable as the war is far from over. We should be squirming in our seats, on our beds, thinking about the violence and false vilification that has been inflicted upon our community, upon our people. In the valley, our enemy still bays for our blood. Not a day passes when those in the valley do not think about ways to break us; no time between sunrise to sunset and sunset to sunrise that they don't utilize for considering plans to end this war on their terms. They still train, radicalize and arm their people for war and churn the wheels of state machinery to their leverage whilst our memory of May 3rd, its following days, of July the 2nd, seems to have faded in the cacophony of our manufactured normalcy. We seem to have lulled ourselves into a false sense of comfort, learning to live with the war rather than actually trying to win it.

Remember your childhood, those glorious peaceful times before all this war when you didn't have a worry and the world was much simpler? We owe that kind of future to our children, the ones in our homes and the ones displaced, having a ghost of a life in relief camps. The outcome of this war will decide what kind of memories they will have looking forward. We cannot erase this nightmare from their memory, but we can fight so that they will never have to face this kind of ethnic-cleansing again, in a land rightfully ours without any pretender having the guts to spin false narratives to grab it from us, a land where they can grow up and grow old in peace. If we can present our next generations that peace for their future by fighting with all our might now, isn't that a fight worth fighting with all our might, attention, resources and will to the end? They caught us sleeping on the 3rd of May. We were rudely woken up to the war that was waged upon our very existence by a community of deceitful, dishonorable and now world-known disreputable people who feed on lies. Let us not fall asleep again. Now that we've been awaken, let us keep up the spirit and be at full alert. Let's not rest on what we have done so far because the fight isn't over. The enemy is waiting and hoping for us to

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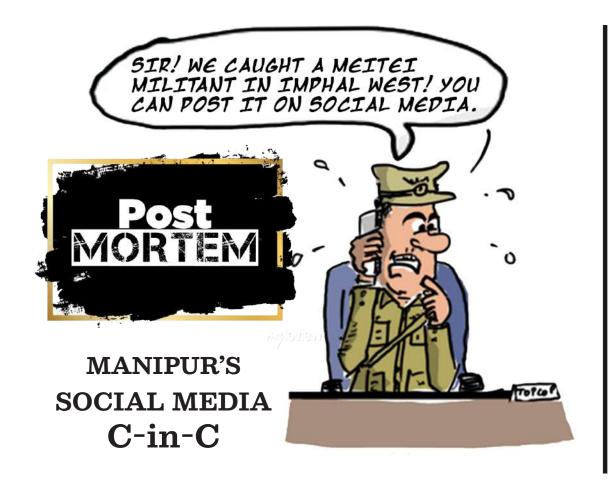
grow weary, or to give up, or to break apart inside. Let us resolve to turn their hopes into their nightmares. Let us make them regret the day they picked on us. They stated the war. Let us resolve to end it on our terms and not give up or grow weary till our future is secured.

News cycle is short. People's memory and attention to such things are usually short-lived. We gained the nation and world's attention when a video of our women went viral. That news cycle has long passed. North India faced a huge monsoon catastrophe recently. That news cycle too has passed. Who remembers that the Ukraine war is still going on? Now the attention of both the nation and the world is on Israel. We can forgive the outside world for having a short memory about a civil war going on in a little known corner of India and going about with their lives but we cannot afford ourselves the same forgiveness. You and I, people from the Kuki-Zo community directly affected by these events cannot let a passing day take down with its setting sun the gravity of the pain and anger felt on the 3rd of May. We cannot let it dilute the sense of unity and brotherhood that gave us a common purpose, a shared cause, not while the threat

still exists and our demand for a separate administration remains ignored and unfulfilled. We cannot afford to let our memories dim while our people still remain unburied and thousands remain in relief camps with no place to return to and call a home. We fight for something only for as long as we care about it. And we can care only if we remember and keep it in our hearts daily. Remember David. Remember LS Mangboi Lhungdim who gifted us with a song of unity, now baptized in his blood.

Remember the hundreds dead, the homes, lands and livelihood lost. Remember the pain. Remember the anger. Remember the brotherhood. Remember the Cause.

I am David. You are David. We are David. Remember why we remember. As long as we do not lose sight of who and what we're fighting for and what is at stake, we're in the fight. If we lose sight of that, we've already lost even though the war is still upon us.











**Tahchapa:** Dear, the news of our land and the future of Nation has compelled me to leave and defend our borders. What do you say?

Tahchanu: Why did you say that? Isn't that path, the path of death?

**Tahchapa:** Yes, the path I've chosen is the path death, but where we stand, ain't a place of hope either.

**Tahchanu:** You promised me you'd never leave me. Why all of a sudden you decided to leave?

**Tahchapa:** I never wished to leave you, but think about our land and people. The voice of the dead calls us. "Avenge us" they wail..

**Tahchanu:** I'm sorry, Please don't misunderstand but rather forgive me. How can I help you in this journey?

**Tahchapa:** More than any other, bid me farewell with all the blessings. Be strong for me while I'm gone.

Tahchanu: Dear, I bid you fond farewell. May God in Heaven guide you. May you not look back and may you and your comrades fullfill the hope and dreams of our nation.

### Tahchapa and Tahchanu:

When we are liberated and victory comes, embrace me in your loving arms. On that day, we will continue our story.

Tahchapa: Personal hopes and dreams may hamper my duty to our nation. Be my rock and together let's wade this tide for our land.

**Tahchanu:** May your sacrifices deliver us from tyranny. Dont you ever forget that you and your friends are our only hope and aspiration of this nation.

### Tahchapa and Tahchanu:

When we are liberated and victory comes, embrace me in your loving arms. On that day, we will continue our story.

Translated and slightly abridge by SG Haokip, from the song, "Kikhen poite neitin, Heu.." sung by Manglun and Linda, during the 90s.