



Viral Photos of Two Meitei Students: Evil Hands at Work to Build up Sentiments

Evil hands are seen at play to win sympathy over the reported killing of two teenagers belonging to the Meitei community. The killing, as if it were the first in the course of the unending violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, is apparently being capitalised to stoke as much sensation and emotions as possible. As much as we empathize the killings of the two teenagers, our hearts also go out equally to tens and hundreds of innocents including children, elders, women, even mentally retarded ones who were mercilessly and brutally killed, who are still awaiting justice, in the course of the violence particularly in Imphal valley.

The dead toll from the Kuki-Zo side in the ongoing violence has reached 140. Most of them are victims of cold-blooded murder in broad daylight. The lists of victims included Government employees, hand to mouth bread earners, students, minors. Some are bludgeoned to death on open streets, some charred to death, beheaded, ill-fated ones met their end after being raped, and the list goes on. The brutality and savagery on these innocent victims failed to find their way to the 'State' media.

The nation awoke suddenly to the shocking reality of two Kuki-Zo women being paraded nude by wild Meitei mob. The incident sparked nationwide outrage after the viral video stormed the internet world. The widely shared footage led Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the country for the first time since the conflict broke out in Manipur, saying the incident 'shamed India.' Sympathy and empathy were shown to the victims. A community hanged their heads in shame. People condemned the perpetrators. Since then frantic attempts have been made to find out 'similar' victim(s) from the Meitei community. Some social media handles even openly called out if there are any rape victims among the Meitei women and encouraged, if any, to come forward so as to save the face of the Meitei community. Responding to the calls, one 'brave' Meitei lady made an audacious claim that she was a 'rape victim.' As a



panel has been set up and entrusted to probe the 'claim,' we may rest the case with them. However, the village authority of the locality where this particular rape incident (in Lamka) is said to have happened already made certain clarifications about the 'victim' and her antecedents in public.

Now, the video/photos of two teenagers before and after they were 'killed' somewhere in the hills has been circulated widely on social media. Among the hundreds of such cases since May 3, this particular case seems to stand out tall. The Chief Minister's Secretariat was swift in issuing a statement assuring its commitment to deliver severe punishment to perpetrators of 'this' heinous crime. The government is expected to show equal amount of eagerness and enthusiasm to deliver justice to hundreds of Kuki-Zo victims of ongoing violence.

Killings of students, minors, beheading of people, rape, attack on villages, and all kinds of killings must be condemned equally. None of any human beings are children of lesser god. Justice should be delivered to all the victims irrespective of their ethnic affiliations. All lives matter.

Biren Govt Closes All Schools/Colleges For Two Days; Protest Results in Atleast 30 injuries

In view of the prevailing law and order situation arising out of intense protest by protesters, the Government of Manipur has decided to close all Educational Institutions in the State for two days- 27th September (Wednesday) and 29th September (Friday).

The closing of Schools/Colleges include all State Government/Aided/Private Unaided Schools and Colleges functioning in the State.

Notably, even after the claims made by the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh over returning of normalcy in valley districts of Manipur, the situation is still tensed and sounds of teargas shells and mock bombs echoed in the capital city, Imphal, is a manifestation of complete breakdown of law and order situation.

Atleast 30 protesters sustained injuries in today's protest in and around Imphal valley, and mob violence continues in different places of Imphal till the filing of this report.

Mentioned may be made that the Manipur government has handed over the murder case of two young students to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), while the security forces have also initiated a search operation to nab the perpetrators, officials said on Tuesday.

Mobile Internet Services suspended Again For 5 Days

The Manipur government on Tuesday once again banned Mobile Internet Services through VPN within the whole jurisdictional area of the State for five days with immediate effect till October 1, 2023.

An order in this regard was issued by the Home Department, citing prevailing law and order situation in the state. The order was issued in view of the emergent law and order situation.

Internet services were banned in the state on May 3 following deadly clashes between the tribal Kukis and the Meiteis-the dominant community in Imphal Valley. The four month long ban on mobile internet services in the state was lifted three days ago citing improvement of law and order situation in the state.

However, the ban on mobile internet services, once again, just after three days of its revocation tells otherwise. The law and order situation in Imphal valley has deteriorated during the last few days. The constant clashes between law enforcing agencies and the general Meitei public is a testament to the deteriorating law and order situation in the state, mainly in valley area. The CM himself in his press conference on 24th September mentioned the improvement of law and order situation in the state, which lasted only for three days.

Displaying Extreme Hypocrisy, 24 Meitei MLAs Knocks UHM's Door

While maintaining stoic silences over the inhumane atrocities meted out to the Kuki women who were paraded naked, raped, murdered and a village volunteer beheaded amongst others, the nonchalant 24-Meitei MLAs displayed their hypocrisy by rushing to the Ministry of Home Affairs Office, requesting the Minister, Amit Shah, for urgent necessary action by CBI against guilty persons involved in the killing of two students in Manipur.

It may be noted here that when the case itself was already under the investigation of CBI, the action of 24 MLAs to rush to the Union Home Ministry's door looked more or less like a case of an eyewash.

Indeed, the gruesome murder of two Meitei intruders in enemy zone amidst the civil war is highly condemnable. However, the same enthusiasm must also be shown to the Kuki victims by all right thinking persons including the 24 Meitei MLAs.

The 24 Meiteis MLAs informed the MHA that the two students - Phijam Hemjit (20 years) and Hijam Linthoingambi (17 years) who have been missing since July 2023 have surfaced on social media today which led to widespread unrest and violence in the state today. The MLAs requested that the CBI may kindly be directed to take up urgent expeditious action so that the guilty culprits are brought to book and justice is served at the earliest.

The 24 MLAs includes Y. Khemchand Singh, H. Dingo Singh, Th. Basanta Kumar Singh, RK Imo Singh, S. Premchandra Singh, Sheikh Noorul Hassan, Kh. Ibomcha, Sapam Keba Singh, K. Robindro, Usham Deben, Kh. Loken Singh, Md. Abdul Nasir, Th. Arunkumar, M. Rameshwar Singh, L. Rameshwar, I. Nalini Devi, S. Kebi Devi, Dr. Th. Radheshyam, Nishikant Sapam, Dr. Y. Radheshyam, Th. Bishwajit, Kh. Raghmani and S. Rajen Singh.

Cop Shot Dead by Meitei Commander

A 36-year-old rifleman was reportedly shot dead by the commander of the Police outpost at Nongpok Sanjenbam, Imphal East district on Monday, an official source said.

The rifleman of the 6th Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB)-Apuna Kamei (Rifleman No. 6070571), belonging to Rongmei Naga community, was on his duty at the outpost when the incident happened, and was allegedly shot dead after an altercation with the Commander of the outpost at around 1:45 PM on Monday. He received two bullet injuries and died on the spot, the police said.

Meanwhile, the Joint Action Committee against Brutal Murder of Apuna Kamei submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh, demanding justice for the victim.

The JAC demanded that the culprit's service should be terminated immediately and should be awarded capital punishment. They also demanded that a suitable government job be offered to the deceased's family and ex-gratia and compensation to be paid to the deceased's family.

It also demanded that until the negotiation between the Govt. and the JAC, the post-mortem of the deceased body would not be allowed to be performed.

As the deceased, Apuna Kamei was murdered while on duty, the JAC urged the Government to provide his regular salary to the family till superannuation.

Apuna Kamei, a resident of Moirangkhom, Kabui Khul, Imphal, is survived by his wife and two daughters.

KWOHR Condemns Atrocities Meted Out to Minor Girl, Demands Stringent Action

The Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) has strongly condemned the inhumane atrocity meted out to a minor girl from Songpijang, Haflong Assam, who has been working as a helper in the house of an Army officer posted in Himachal Pradesh, and demanded stringent exemplary action against the perpetrators.

In its press condemnation on Tuesday, KWOHR stated that Miss Dimneihoi Singsit (17) D/o Henlen Singsit of Songpijang, Haflong, Assam, was grievously tortured by one Maj. Shailendra Kumar Yadav and his wife Kimi Ralsun Yadav on several occasions. The issue came to light only after the victim was dropped off at her house by the accused with several bruises and burns on her skin; a cut on her tongue, and fractures on several parts of her body.

According to the victim, she was tortured on various occasions; beaten with a rolling pin, forced to lick her own blood, burnt with a hot frying pan, forced to stand naked in front of a camera and even locked in a room.

KWOHR called on the attention of all concerned to initiate appropriate measures for the safety and security of women, especially young girls who are compelled to work as household helpers owing to the financial conditions of their families. "Human Rights, the respect for human dignity and integrity should be a genuine concern for all, and the country must allow and ensure everyone, irrespective of caste and creed, gender and social status, to live with dignity," it said.

Manipur High Court Bar Association Asked to Ensure No Lawyer Stopped

The Supreme Court on Monday directed Manipur High Court Bar Association to confirm that counsels were not being prevented from appearing before the HC amid allegations of lawyers being targeted for representing a particular community.

A bench of CJI DY Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra – while sending a note of caution to all lawyers to ensure access to justice – said that any violation would amount to contempt of court.

"There are nine judicial districts which covers all sixteen districts in Manipur. The State of Manipur along with the Chief Justice of the HC shall ensure that video conference

facility are set up and operationalised to ensure that any member of bar or litigant can address the court. The video conferencing shall be operationalised no later than one week of this order.

The members of the bar shall ensure that no lawyer is prevented from appearing before the court. Any violation of this direction shall be treated as contempt," the bench said.

The order was passed by the bench after considering submissions put forth by one of the counsels for the petitioners regarding lawyers prevented for representing members of a particular community.

SYMPTOMS OF A BROKEN STATE

A virus has crept into the structure of policing in Manipur. A virus of Meitei ethnic-nationalism that forces conscience of dutiful policing and allegiance to the Constitution of India to the backseat. A virus of exclusivism that blinds the posse of state security personnel to the illegal act of young men with looted weapons, camouflaged with military insignia and uniform. Several national media reported accounts of how civilians in possession of automatic weapons worked in cohort with state security personnel at several places. Forgery and deception are overlooked as long as it is devised to protect the integrity inspired by the Salai Taret flag. Civil-military relationship has totally taken a fatal turn for the past four months. While a policy of hyper-documentation has been effectively imposed to keep a check on infiltrators at the international border, the regular practice of securitization was deliberately left incapacitated to allow free flow of trigger-happy radicals as they persistently terrorized Kuki villages in their vicinity.

To assert its authority in the frontier regions, the tasks of securitization is a necessity to every nation-state. One significant approach of strengthening militarization is winning the trust of the people in the frontier. The complexity of the borderland site is that of people and culture pre-existing before lines were drawn to mark the power of sovereign states. Therefore, it becomes imperative of nation-states to devise policies and methods of eliciting cooperation and compliance from the people. At least that was one of the objectives when the 2014 conference of the Intelligence Bureau on policing was organized in Guwahati. The Prime Minister was also in attendance in this event that was organized for the first time outside New Delhi. Experts believed that this strategic location was an important hint revealing the centre's emphasis on decentralization while the Prime Minister emphasized on the need for sensitive policing involving the establishment of strong link with the people. The following year the conference was convened in the Rann of Kutch. The event is an example of how civil-military relationship is an imperative to the securitization

of the borderland regions. The people remain an important stakeholder in the processes of securitization of a region. And as surveillance remains an important element of the management of security, a form of civil-military relationship unfolds through a range of sociality dependent on an exclusive repertoire of emotions and affects between the state and its civilian population. A strong network of lateral surveillance develops when the military establishes trust from the civilian population. In many cases this trust can be misused by the dominant section of the society.

The chain of events in Manipur reveals the establishment of an exclusive and partisan civil-military relationship as lateral surveillance involves a troop of Nongshas under the banner of 'Manipur Kaiba Yaroi.' This form of surveillance rendered by the public went a long way in stirring communalism. Under the watchful eyes of the Chief Minister, labelling and hatespeech become prevalent as individuals or CSOs seem to acquire impunity to hate and hurt as long as the Kukis remain the object of humiliation. The processes of securitization of Manipur's international border has developed alongside a widespread paranoia built around the figure of illegal citizenship made synonymous with the Kukis who are perceived as a threat to the demography of the state. In this misgoverned state, the blurry line of separation between agents of law enforcement and those at the receiving end of policing is devised by political rhetoric that has a communal undertone for the past several years. This method of polarizing communities also helped incompetent leaders and elected representatives gain popularity among the masses. Much before May 3, the response of the state, particularly its legal and policing machinery, was always contingent on the identity of the person or group committing the crime. May 3, and the days and months following it, only reveal the symptoms of what ails Manipur.



**STRENGTH LIES IN DIFFERENCES,
NOT IN SIMILARITIES.**

– Stephen Covey



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.

UNDERSTANDING GRIEF: WAYS TO COPE WITH IT

With 5 months down the line but life still not returning to normalcy, many of us have undergone and are still undergoing the turmoil of emotions to deal with in our everyday lives. Our experiences and the inhuman nature of how we were/ are treated still gives us the chills and the pain whenever we are reminded of it. We have been drained out mentally, physically and emotionally. While we are still waiting for justice to be delivered to us, it is also important that we take care of ourselves and the people around us. Grief is also one such emotion we have been dealing with since the 3rd of May. Grief refers to the experience of coping with loss. We grieve when we lose our dear ones. We grieve when things don't happen the way we want them to be. We as humans also grieve when we lose our connections and relationships with people whom we once had a close connections with. Grief is also associated with losses experienced in a conflict. The experience of grief may differ from person to person. The manner in which we cope with it may also differ. There is no one method/ so called absolute method of coping with grief. Let us try to understand grief as explained by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. Kubler-Ross explained grief into five stages. The stages include:

- **Denial:** You may have difficulty accepting that a loss is real.
- **Anger:** You may direct anger at multiple sources, including people who couldn't save a loved one, God, yourself or even no one in particular.
- **Bargaining:** You may imagine reaching an agreement, so you don't have to deal with a loss. You may also regret past actions that you imagine could've spared you from the loss.
- **Depression:** You may experience the complex emotions associated with depression including emotional detachment.
- **Acceptance:** Eventually, most people embrace the reality of loss even if the pain's still there.

The five stages explained above is one method of understanding grief. However there is no such rule as people who grieve must grieve in the following order. Not everyone may experience all these stages and they may not happen in a particular order as such. It is important to remember that grieving does not fit or follow a particular timeline. The intensity of grieving may differ and the weightage of it may be lighter but it doesn't really leave us. It becomes engrained in our ongoing life story. So it is important to acknowledge and learn to cope with it in a healthy manner as it can affect our emotional, physical and mental well-being. Coping with grief takes time and patience. We may personally be grieving or we may act as a source of support for a person who is grieving. Given the present scenario of what we are facing, all of us are dealing with grief in one way or the other. Some of the ways in which we may cope with grief or how we can handle grief is explained below:

- **Practicing self-care.** Taking care of your mind and body

is essential when you're grieving. Exercise and eat regularly. Go for morning/evening walks. Meditate or have some quiet time for yourself. Prioritise getting seven to eight hours of sleep each night.

- **Sticking to a routine.** Grief interrupts your sense of normalcy. Sticking to a routine is a good way to regain a sense of control and regulate your emotions. Going to bed and waking up at consistent times is one way of doing it.
- **Attending to your emotions.** Resist the urge to distract yourself from difficult emotions by getting lost in work or hobbies. Grieving requires dealing with painful emotions. Move your grief outward by expressing your feelings in ways that make sense to you. For example, journaling, telling stories about what you are grieving about or singing a song that reminds you of them are all ways to process difficult emotions.
- **Reaching out to others.** One of the best ways to deal with loss is to remind yourself of the connections you still have. It's OK to need alone time when you're grieving, but don't isolate yourself. Remind yourself that not everything has changed even if it feels like it. There are people in your life who love you and want to support you. If your grief becomes prolonged, don't hesitate to reach out to professional counsellors/psychologists.

There are also times when we have to be a source of support for a person who is grieving. We can help them by simply being present and letting them know that they are not fighting this battle alone. Timely checking in on them about how their day went, listening to their stories, their experiences, not giving judgemental remarks such as by being ignorant or telling them that their loss is not a big deal and that they should move on already. Just a phone call or a text to them will help them to be more aware that they are not grieving alone.

Each and every individual experiences of grief is unique. How we experienced it emotionally, physically and mentally may differ but recognising these feelings and accepting them is a way forward to help us to cope with grief. Working through these complex and heavy emotions will help us to become more resilient and will give us the skills and the strength to move forward and get on with our daily life's. Moving on doesn't mean that you ignore/ have forgotten about the loss but that you have simply learnt to accept and handle the experiences of grieving. Let us not forget that we as a community are grieving at different forms in the present. Let us remember to practice patience, care and understanding to our own selves and also to the people around us.

FACT CHECK 07

CLAIM:

A distressing video from Myanmar showing a woman's beheading is viral online with the false claim that the incident took place in Manipur where Kuki militants dressed up as Meiteis and killed her. The video shows a man using a knife repeatedly to kill the woman lying down on the ground. Many Meitei's social media users have taken to various platforms painting it as the handiwork of the Kukis.

FACT:

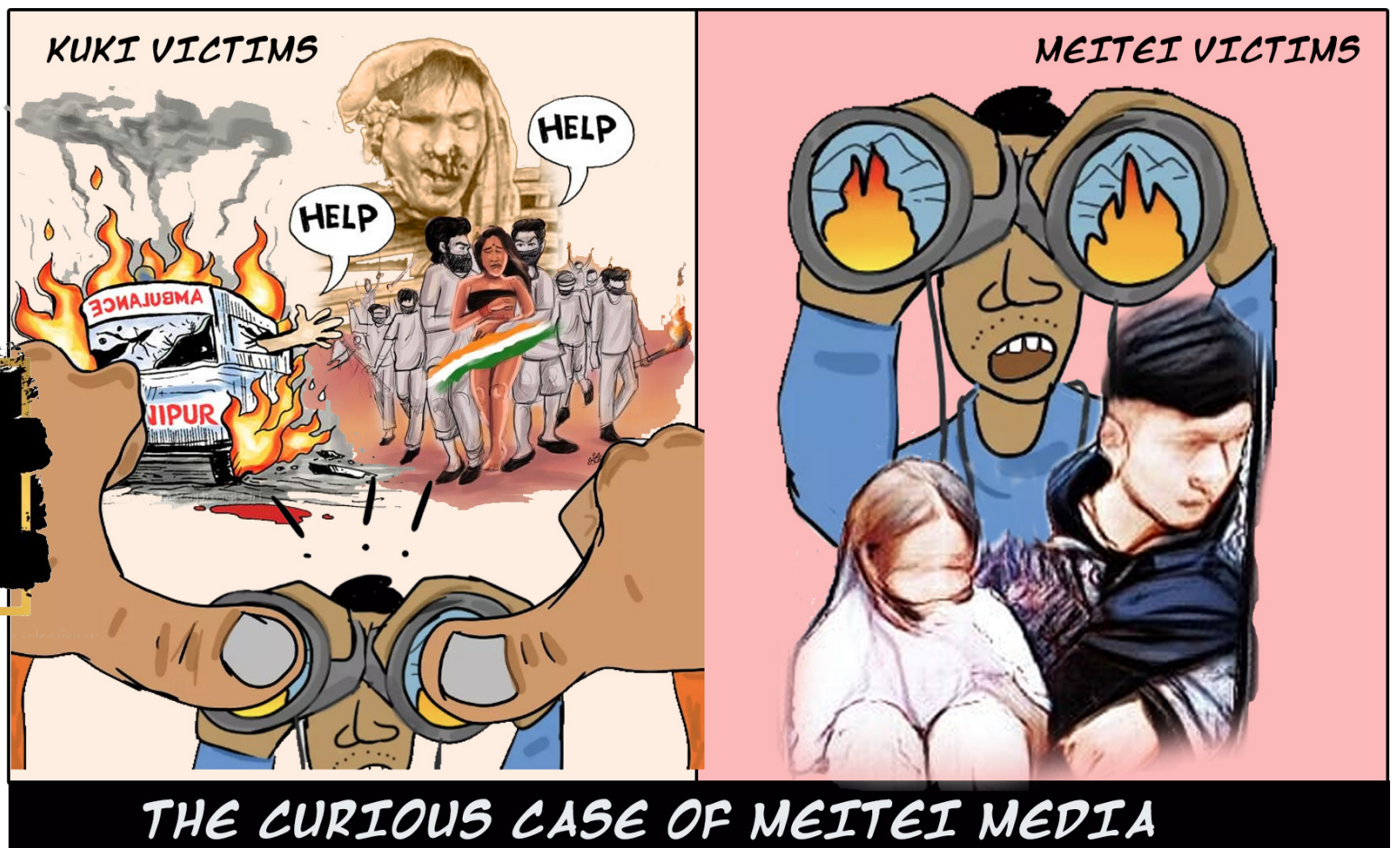
The video is from Myanmar and the incident took place on February 19, 2022 where members of the Pyu Saw Htee militia beheaded a woman named Nandar in the Myaing township in Magway.

FACT-CHECK RESULT:

FALSE, MEITEI LIES EXPOSED



Post MORTEM





HOME, LONG GONE

Abigail Misao



Where is home?
Is it behind the gloomy fences?
Is it behind the haunting red clouds?
Or is it behind the shallow ashes?
I can't seem to catch sight of it anymore.
My home has abandoned me, And left me in ruins.
My tears run like the river and I run along with it,
engulfed in ceaseless pain.
Wonderstuck; I cry out in agony,
I open my eyes and see the moving lights under
which we would lay,
I see the shaggy roads and our shadows dancing on them,
I see smiles across them, like a soulful summer song.
In a haste I sprint towards the lights
But I could no longer find them.
The sound of sirens and cries hallowed through
the blood-red streets,
A storm brewed before me and wiped away
the road to my home.
I could no longer find my way home.
Where is home?
Is it behind all the darkness?
Is it behind all the cracks?
Is it behind all the wails?
Is it behind all the bullets?
I'm afraid I've lost my home.

