

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Gamnomphei RELIEF CENTRE

Gamnomphei Community Hall, Sadar Hills
(Camp Code: KPI-2-03)

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 105



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 27.01.2024



159
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.

CoTU VEHEMENTLY OPPOSES DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL STATE SECURITY FORCES IN KUKI-ZO AREAS

Considering the presence of state security forces and Valley-Based Insurgent Groups in the Kuki-Zo-dominated areas as pouring oil on the flame, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills vehemently opposed the recent deployment of additional state security forces across the foothills of Kuki-Zo dominated areas.

The committee also alleged that on January 30 the surrendered UNLF-Pambei group clandestinely intruded into Khoken village in New Keithelmanbi areas of Kangpokpi district at around 3:00 pm stating that it was nothing but a clear indication of wanton exercise of political dominance by the majoritarian Meitei community over the minority Kuki-Zo community.

It stated that there is always ample peace in all areas dominated by the Kuki-Zo until shattered by the valley-based armed militias, the Arambai Tenggols and secessionist militants, UNLF-MPA groups with the tactical and logistical support of fascist political leadership of the state of Manipur.

“In hindsight, the Committee is in conjunction with the state of Manipur in matters pertaining to securing all borders areas between the two geographical divide by a neutral security force”, it added.

However, the state security apparatus, which is already compromised in terms of its credibility, should not believe in itself to fulfill such noble duties, it further added.

It also stated that the state is welcome to provide security and succor to its citizens within the valley district and for the Kuki-Zo the presence of central security forces in the hills is sufficient to maintain the status-quo.



COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL UNITY (CoTU)
Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District
Administrative office : Kangpokpi DHQ
Email : cotukangpokpi@gmail.com

Ref. No.

Date

Press Communique
1st February 2024

The Committee on Tribal Unity vehemently opposed the recent deployment of additional state security forces across the foothills of Kuki-Zo dominated areas including the candelstine intrusion of UNLF-PAMBEI Groups into Khoken, New Keithelmanbi area on Tuesday around 3pm, which is nothing but a clear indication of wanton exercise of political dominance by the majoritarian Meitei community over the minority Kuki-Zo community.

Mentioned be made that there is always ample peace in all areas dominated by the Kuki-Zo until shattered by the valley-based armed militias, the Arambai Tenggols and secessionist militants, UNLF-MPA Groups with a tactical and logistical support of fascist political leadership of the state of Manipur.

On the hindsight, the Committee is in conjunction with the state of Manipur in matters pertaining to securing all borders areas between the two geographical divide by a neutral security forces.

However, the state security apparatus, which is already compromised in terms of its credibility, should not believe in itself to fulfill such noble duties. The state is welcome to provide security and succor to its citizens within valley district and for the Kuki-Zo the presence of center Security forces in the hills is sufficient to maintain the status-co.

The Committee would also like to urge the incumbent Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh and the erstwhile titular king, Mr Sanajaoba (MP) to not to inflamed yet another animosity or waged a futile war against the minority on the pretext of security reasons. It is pertinent to mention that the Kuki-Zo community will never accept the presence of any state security forces especially IRBs, MRs, CDOs and the valley-based armed militias or any secessionist Meitei militants into our lands.

Information & Publicity
Committee on Tribal Unity

The Committee asked the incumbent Chief Minister N Biren Singh and the erstwhile titular king, Leishemba Sanajaoba, MP to not inflame yet another animosity or wage a futile war against the minority with the pretext of security reasons.

“The Kuki-Zo community will never accept the presence of any state security forces especially IRBs, MRs, CDOs, and the valley-based armed militias or any secessionist Meitei militants into our lands”, it asserted.



TENGNOUNPAL'S KUKI TOP BODY IMPLORES SUSPENSION OF BORDER FENCING

The Kuki Chiefs' Association-Tengnoupal, or the KCA-T conveyed deep dismay over the alleged blatant disregard for its sincere appeal against the proposed border-fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border.

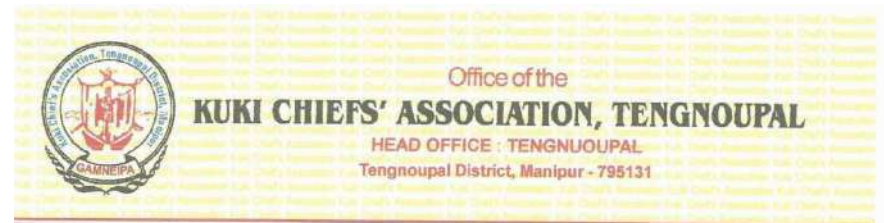
The association stated, in the face of vehement public opposition, the implementation of the border-fencing has not only raised significant apprehensions but also elicited deep concerns within the Kuki community.

“This brazen action signifies a stark betrayal of democratic values, as it silences the collective voice of the people, undermining the very essence of democratic principles”, it asserted.

It also stated that the Kuki Chiefs Association-Tengnoupal, having clearly outlined the reasons for opposing the project, will be steadfast in its opposition to the construction of border fencing, which threatens the cultural and traditional rights of the Kukis residing on both sides of the border.

“In a resolute advisory stance, we implore the pertinent project-implementing agencies for the immediate suspension of the border fencing of the Indo-Myanmar border”, it stated.

While calling for a reconsideration of these actions to preserve the peace and harmony in the region, the



Ref. No.....

Date.....

PRESS RELEASE

Tengnoupal the 1st February, 2024

Kuki Chiefs' Association-Tengnoupal (KCA-T) is deeply dismayed by the blatant disregard for its sincere appeal against the construction of border fencing along the India-Myanmar border.

In the face of vehement public opposition, the implementation of the border fencing has not only raised significant apprehensions but has also elicited deep concern within the Kuki community. This brazen action signifies a stark betrayal of democratic values, as it silences the collective voice of the people, undermining the very essence of democratic principles.

The Kuki Chiefs Association-Tengnoupal, having clearly outlined the reasons for opposing the project, will be steadfast in its opposition to the construction of border fencing, which threatens the cultural and traditional rights of the Kukis residing on both sides of the border.

In a resolute advisory stance, KCA-Tpl implores the pertinent project-implementing agencies for the immediate suspension of the border fencing of the India-Myanmar border. Any arbitrary and coercive efforts to persist with the project will instigate public unrest, posing a significant threat to regional tranquillity and stability. The KCA-Tpl fervently calls for a reconsideration of these actions to preserve the peace and harmony in the region.

Issued by
Department of Information and Publicity
Kuki Chief Association Tengnoupal.

Association further stated that any arbitrary and coercive efforts to persist with the project will instigate public unrest, posing a significant threat to regional tranquillity and stability.



**In warfare, there are no constant conditions.
He who can modify his tactics in relation to
his opponent will succeed and win.**

– Sun Tzu

UNITED ZOU ORGANISATION OPPOSES GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO FENCE THE INDO-MYANMAR BORDER, URGES CENTRE TO REVERSE ITS DECISION TO ABOLISH FMR

The United Zou Organisation, General Headquarters (UZO, GHQ) has opposed and condemned the Government's intention to fence the Indo-Myanmar border without taking into account the socio-historical implications and the existence of the Zou/Zo people.

The Zou/Zo are trans-border communities who have long lived in the former Manipur-Chin (now Indo-Myanmar) boundary regions, the British Colonial Overlords divided the region, neither consulting nor with the consent of the inhabitants and gave them to Manipur and Chin Hills during the late 19th century, says UZO in a release issued on Thursday.

The UZO stated that the British referred to the Zou/Zo inhabited regions which were located on Manipur's southern border as the "neutral zone", "no man's land", or "crossed-hatched area". For a very long time there has been no clear boundary between Manipur and Myanmar.

According to colonial records, there were around nineteen Zou/Zo (or Yo) villages, with 630 households, living in the present-day border regions between India and Myanmar. These villages paid taxes to the British administration of the Northern Chin Hills until September 1892. However, sixteen of these nineteen Zou/Zo villages were "awarded to Manipur" in 1894 when the boundary between Manipur and Chin was drawn. Following, more boundary demarcations were carried out, completing the Zou/Zo people's final partition into India and Myanmar, says the United Zou Organisation.

The release stated that the Zou/Zo population in India and Myanmar are one and the same, sharing the same origin, speaking the same dialect, and upholding the same customs and traditions.

The Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar facilitates socio-cultural and economic exchanges, allowing individuals on both sides of the border to regularly interact beyond this arbitrary border.

UNITED ZOU ORGANISATION

[Zou is a recognised Scheduled Tribe vide Government of India, MHA Notification No.SRO 2477A Dated 29/10/1956; S.C. & S.T. list (Modification) Order, 1956, Manipur]
General Headquarters, Zoveng, Zehang Lamka-795128, Manipur, India.



PRESS RELEASE 1st February, 2024


The United Zou Organization, General Headquarters (UZO, GHQ) opposes the government's intention to fence the Indo-Myanmar border without taking into account the socio-historical implications and the existence of the Zou/Zo people. We also condemn the Central government's decision to remove the Free Movement Regime (FMR).


The Zou/Zo are trans-border communities who have long lived in the former Manipur-Chin (now Indo-Myanmar) boundary regions. Without our knowledge or approval, the British colonial overlords divided up our inhabited regions and gave them to Manipur and Chin Hills, in the late 19th century. The British referred to the Zou/Zo inhabited regions which were located on Manipur's southern border as the "neutral zone", "no man's land", or "crossed-hatched area". For a very long time there has been no clear boundary between Manipur and Myanmar.

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We want to stress that the Zou/Zo population in India and Myanmar are one and the same, sharing the same origin, speaking the same dialect, and upholding the same customs and traditions. The Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar facilitates socio-cultural and economic exchanges, allowing individuals on both sides of the border to regularly interact beyond this artificially drawn border.

Therefore, it would be a flagrant infringement of indigenous people's rights to try to stop the same people from having individual and socio-cultural exchanges. We implore the Central Government of India to use caution, resist the allure of some majoritarian propaganda aimed at the Kuki-Zo minority communities, and reverse its decision to unilaterally abolish the FMR and erect a border fence in the middle of the Zou/Zo ancestral territory. Last but not the least, we would like to ask if the Government of India has abandoned its vision of Act East Policy.


(Thangzang)
President, UZO GHQ


(Upa Chinkhenpau)
Gen. Secy., UZO GHQ

Therefore, it would be a flagrant infringement of indigenous people's rights to try and stop the same people from having individual and socio-cultural exchanges, stated the release.

The United Zou Organisation implores the Central Government of India to use caution, resist the allure of some majoritarian propaganda aimed at the Kuki-Zo minority communities, and reverse its decision to unilaterally abolish the FMR and erect a border fence in the middle of the Zou/Zo ancestral territory.

The United Zou Organisations also questioned if the Government of India has abandoned its vision of Act East Policy.

NO PEACE IN THE STATE SINCE LAW AND ORDER HAS NOT BEEN MAINTAINED SAYS ANSAM, OPPOSES SCRAPPING OF FMR

All Naga Students Association, Manipur has appealed to both the Kuki and Meitei to not drag the Naga community into the ongoing conflict.

The apex Naga student body is also of the view that there is no peace in the State since the law and order has not been maintained in the State.

Addressing media persons at Manipur Press Club, Imphal on Thursday, president of ANSAM M. Luikang Luckson said the Nagas have been neutral in the ongoing crisis and peace committee was initiated under the initiative of the United Naga Council with the hope of bringing peace in the State.

The Naga bodies have met the Kuki Inpi Manipur and Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity with the hope of bringing peace. However, there is no peace since the State government is unable to maintain law and order within the State, said Luckson.

Informing that there have been a series of incidents that the Nagas underwent in the ongoing crisis, the ANSAM president said that such incident is very unfortunate and that the Nagas will not remain silent over such incident.

If the State Government is not capable of maintaining law and order in the State, the Central Government must immediately intervene to bring peace and normalcy, he added.

Even in the month of January 2024 alone, there are several incidents against the Naga community, he said and added that such incidents are possible because of lapses in security measures.

There are many instances of harassment, tax collection and extortion along the highways which the Naga communities have been the victim of. However, the



Nagas have not reacted against all of it since they want peace in the state, Luckson added.

While commenting on the Free Movement Regime, Tribunal member of ANSAM AC Thotso said they have submitted a memorandum to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah through the Governor of Manipur disapproving the scrapping of FMR.

Thotso said, ANSAM appreciates the initiatives of the Central Government in trying to bring peace in Manipur, however, scrapping of FMR and sealing the Indo Myanmar border is not the solution, he added.

ANSAM and Naga people are also concerned about the influx of illegal immigrants but sealing of the border is not the solution. Instead, the Government can invoke other mechanisms such as implementation of NRC with base year as 1961 and effectively implementing the Inner Line Permit.

Besides, the sincerity of the law enforcing agency in mending the border is also equally important to curb the influx of illegal immigrants, said Thotso.



ANALYSIS

History Repeating: Kangleipak Kanba Lup's Nunggoibi Ritual Sparks Concerns of Shahid Minar-Like Consequences

Welcome on board to Manipur, where once one could be arrested for a critical comment against a chief minister but now you can post an advertisement for recruiting a SUPARI for abduction and murder free of charge. What changed? The chief minister is no longer the sole head of the government but shares his power and position with coalition partners whose sole goal is to establish a sovereign and independent Kangleipak country by making Kukis a scapegoat to create chaos.

The Kangleipak Kanba Lup with a massive following of around 49000 followers on Facebook posted on their Facebook page a reward of Rs 1 lakh to anyone who can abduct members of the Kuki community along with the purpose of the abduction - the abducted Kuki man/woman shall be sacrificed to their goddess of war at Nunggoibi.

In the past, after beheadings at this sacred place (known as Nunggoibi), the heads of slain enemies were buried with rites known as 'Huiyen Lallu Chanba' when the kings returned victorious from battles.

Kangleipak Kanba Lup must have been emboldened by Professor Bimol Akoijam who had once, on national television, defended their act of beheading a man as proof of them being tribal, but the constitution of India thinks otherwise. It is a heinous crime culpable

of rigorous punishment or life imprisonment. A person is likewise prohibited under the constitution from making any comment that incites others to commit a crime; freedom of speech and expression doesn't cover it up. As far as using human sacrifice is concerned, freedom of religious practice cannot come to their rescue either. The top court said the old practices of "human sacrifices" and 'sati' amounted to murder under the law and could not be upheld on grounds of "essential religious practice."

Timely action is necessary to prevent the spillover effects in other parts of India against Kangleipak Kanban Lup. But this is Manipur. Who will hold them accountable? Who will punish them? Meitei State police force who can be seen pro-actively engaging in the arson of schools and houses will applaud them. Some of them will be busy guiding and serving Arambai Tenggol members and their leaders. The rest have been looted of their uniforms and guns by Arambai Tenggol and other Meitei militant outfits like UNLF.

The constitutional institutions like the legislature and the executive surrendered officially to the

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Taliban like the militia group Arambai Tenggol at Kangla Fort, where Nunggoibi itself is located. If constitutional institutions that shall implement and ensure the enforcement of the Constitution in the state itself are surrendered, then it is only natural that the constitution, its institutions and laws are just cheap paper, worth throwing in the garbage. Other laws and rules operating in India that are not written in the constitution will not be any better if the constitution itself is stepped upon.

The silence of the central government on the state of anarchy and Talibanisation of Manipur is very worrisome. Within the political territory of India, as presently recognised by the constitution and the government, there reside other than Meiteis, other groups of minorities who are Indians as well, one among them being the Kukis against whom the Meitei state government sponsored genocide pogrom is ongoing. The other minority groups are at the mercy of the whims and fancies of Meitei mobs and Arambai Tenggol. Isn't it the responsibility of the central government to ensure the functioning of the constitution in the states? Isn't it the duty and responsibility of the central government to protect its citizens both from internal and external oppression and danger? What happened to the India that could retaliate even against a country like Pakistan? Are Arambai and their think tanks too powerful for India that the central government's buck stops at their gate?

Both the President of India and the Governor of Manipur have a lot to reflect upon. Under their rightful watch, atrocities against a tribal community are committed but despite being tribals themselves they choose to close their lips. Tribal history in India won't remember you both kindly either.

As the last piece of advice, let's rewind history to remind Kangleipak Kanba Lup of what happened when Meiteis did the human sacrificial ritual at Nunggoibi. In 1891, five British officers including Mr. Quinton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam were beheaded and their heads were buried here. That caused massive outrage in England. In the consequent battle, the British won. The king and his general were hung at the place where today's Sahid Minar is situated in Imphal West.

As long as Kangleipak sovereignty is not official, like it or not, as an Indian citizen, rather than believing in superstitious practices, perform your fundamental duties such as developing a scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform. Abide by the Indian Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the national flag and the national anthem, and cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom.



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FEATURED ARTICLE

Diktat by Arambai Tenggol: From Democracy to Mobocracy

NGARANMI SHIMRAY

Rule of mobocracy and majoritarianism of Meitei community has been heralded by Arambai Tenggol in Manipur ignoring the rights of 42% tribal population. The 24th January 2024 incidence displayed an abject capitulation of the Manipur government to the rule of mobocracy. The capitulation to a mob rule has in one single stroke stripped 42% of the state's tribal population of their democratic rights. Henceforth, the fear is only Meitei agenda which will be dictated by Arambai Tenggol (AT) to an emasculated state government will be considered for implementation.

The democratic participation of 20 MLAs from the hill districts in policy formulation and decision will now become meaningless. Democracy has been thrown out of the window and is replaced by rule of mob by the majority community. There is no space in the government for the tribal representatives in mobocracy. The changing scenario will now push even the Naga population to wonder about the benefits of being part of Manipur when only the Meitei agenda and their point of view will be the overriding factor in decision making. In this context the capitulation of the state government to a radical Meitei organisation may be the last straw that broke the camel's back.

The other concern which has been weighing on the minds of the tribes is the Meitei community demand for Scheduled Tribe status primarily to grab lands from the "hill areas" of Manipur.

The dictionary defines mobocracy as a mob that has power, or is in control. In a mobocracy, large angry crowd, especially one that could become violent, tries to force its will on the people and terrorise the population. It is a term describing an oppressive majoritarian form of government controlled by the common people through the intimidation of more legitimate authorities.

Lawlessness is a major problem in mob rule and leads to anarchy. What has just happened in Manipur on 24th January 2024 with 37 MLAs including the Chief Minister, Meitei ministers and two MPs, one of whom is a Union Minister of state (MoS), capitulating to AT a radical Meitei organisation will go down as a turning point in the history of Manipur. The action of the Chief Minister (CM) and his cabinet colleagues succumbing to the diktat of AT, who has come in possession of guns looted from the state police armoury, would be understood as abdication of its authority to an NGO who sets Meitei-centric policy agenda and dictates terms to the government.

The acceptance of the six agenda of AT by taking an oath has reduced the state cabinet to a mere rubber stamp. In one stroke the CM, ministers and MLAs, all from the Meitei community, are no longer

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in the driving seat and have been degraded from tall leaders to figure-head soldiers of AT.

The subjugation of the MLAs will have far reaching consequences in the politics of the Imphal valley and the state as common people through the intimidation of legitimate authority will wield the power of the state in a mobocracy.

The adverse impact of majoritarianism and rule by a mob may set the ball rolling for the minority communities to wonder whether their future is still aligned to that of Manipur ruled by a dominant community totally under the sway of radical organisations.

In a democracy policy formulation and policy decisions are in the hands of elected representatives. There are elaborate processes to be followed starting with proposal formulation by the department concerned, inter-departmental consultation and thereafter placing it for deliberation and decision of the council of ministers. The common people may demand from the legislators to introduce new laws or policies or carry out policy changes, and it is the duty of MLAs to take up the matter with the government. This will henceforth be no longer the case.

Consultation with various stakeholders in a mobocracy is not in the agenda anymore. Manipur is now witnessing subversion of democratic norms and constitutional provisions where a duly elected government and its legislators are summoned by an NGO which has already displayed its violent side. The elected members have been publicly humiliated and made to take an oath presided over by non-official private entity bereft of any constitutional and legal responsibilities. The administration of an oath by the NGO is unprecedented and displays a total breakdown of state machinery. The state government has fallen from its highest pedestal and has lost all credibility in the face of the world. This incidence indicates a serious breakdown of democratic norms and onset of chaos as the state government will be seen as soft, pliable and puppet in the hands of an NGO.

The total subjugation of the state government to the diktat of a Meitei NGO has alarmed the tribals and its confidence on the state government has already started

to erode. The only way out of this crisis, when the demands of AT do not materialise in the desired manner, could be to impose President's rule in the state and put the state machinery on its rails again. The incident also raises another question; is the NGO representative of various people of the state? A resounding No!

The AT is solely composed of Meitei people and does not represent 33 recognised tribes of Manipur and the Pangal (Muslim) people. Manipur is composed mainly of two communities; the Meiteis and the tribals constituting 53% and 42% respectively of the State's population. It appears that the majoritarian society led by an NGO has taken over a democratic elected state government abandoning all consultative processes of the government and laying down Meitei-centric policies that suits only the majority society and totally ignores the minority communities.

The ultimatum given on 24th January 2024 is to have six agenda laid down by AT implemented within 15 days. The approach adopted by AT and forced upon the Meitei MLAs amounts to forcing the minority communities to accept the policies of the majority people with scant or no regard to their rights. In other words, the interest of the Meitei community only is to be served and implemented and that the interest of minority community is subservient to that of Meitei community.

Tribal voice does not exist. To understand the impact of the six demands each one of them is discussed briefly:-

1. National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been a topic that has seen protests and violence across the country for some years now. NRC is useful and no genuine resident of a state would oppose detection of illegal immigrants. But the tricky part has always been the cut-off year, availability and reliability of detailed data and information of households. Census of 1951 is the cut-off year demanded by AT and this could be problematic as there may not be

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sufficient data and detailed household information to establish the progeny of families. NRC will affect not only the Kuki-Zo but Muslims too. Implementation may be easier in Muslim inhabited areas in terms of its geography, but it would be difficult in Kuki-Zo areas especially in a hostile environment. If the fear of the Meitei community is the demographic shift in Manipur on account of high population growth rate of tribals, the government should consider addressing backwardness and poverty in the tribal areas to check high growth rate of population rather than hope for large scale detection of illegal immigrants through this policy.

2. Abrogation of Suspension of Operation (SoO)

with the Kuki militant groups may be appealing to the masses, but may not be acceptable. Firstly, the issue of impartiality will arise. Why should Government of India (GoI) adopt a biased policy for similarly placed militants hailing from different ethnicity? The GoI can keep SoO arrangement with UNLF Meitei militant group entered recently, but at the same time snap several years old peace deal with Kuki militant groups? Secondly, it would also mean opening up more fronts making it even more difficult for the security forces to deal with the ongoing ethnic conflict for which a solution is being explored? Thirdly, it could push the cornered Kuki militant groups to seek new re-alignment with other militant groups, for example the NSCN(IM), which would change the entire geo-political scenario in Manipur and the north east.

3. Myanmar refugees in detention centers have entered Manipur not by choice but for fear of losing their lives from aerial bombardment and ground forces attacks by Myanmar army. Now biometrics of the refugees have been taken and proper records are being maintained. It can now be safely assumed that when peace returns to Myanmar the refugees will go home and start their normal life in Myanmar. The refugees who had sneaked in earlier and have set up settlements was on account of Manipur's policy of 'push back on detection' should pose no danger as they too will go back when peace return to Myanmar. The earlier refugees who entered Manipur illegally had no alternative but to set up their own living units in

the forest as the state government did not provide them shelter and any humanitarian assistance at the border. What needs to be done now is to document them properly and not to harass and dehumanise them by deporting to Mizoram. It is difficult to understand why the refugees are a threat to the Meitei community. The refugees constitute mainly of women, children and elderly persons and should be allowed to stay on humanitarian grounds till peace returns to Myanmar. In the meantime, the state government should take all actions that is necessary to ensure that they do not leave the detention camps and are all accounted for when they are finally homeward bound.

4. Free Movement Regime(FMR): From north to south, the Patkai Range, Naga Hills, and Chin Hills form the border between India and Myanmar. To the south of these are the Rakhine Mountains (Arakan Mountains). The India-Myanmar International Border stretches for about 1,643 kilometers (1,021 miles) along the northeastern states of India and the western regions of Myanmar. Fencing of the Indo-Myanmar border will amount to scrapping the implementation of Free Movement Regime which was allowed for this region based on historical facts when boundary was arbitrarily drawn by then Prime Minister Nehru and Premier U Nu of erstwhile Burma. FMR has enabled the tribes who have their tribal blood related brethren living on both sides of the border to continue their age old social, cultural and ethnic interaction. The Meiteis do not have any villages adjacent to the border and border fencing, which amounts to removal of FMR, would not affect them. Any action on this agenda taken by a Meitei dominated government and GoI, who is suspected to have a soft corner for Imphal valley, could be seen as a biased stand taken against the interest of Naga and Kuki-Zo tribes. To make matters more complex, besides the opposition to border fencing and removal of FMR by the Chief Ministers of Nagaland and Mizoram, the NSCN(IM) has come out against the very idea and has cautioned that it will disrupt peace. The states affected by border fencing and FMR are

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Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Meiteis have already antagonised the Kuki-Zo, but why make enemies with the Nagas of Nagaland, Arunachal and Manipur? The Nagas are not into cross border immigration.

5. Replacement of Assam Rifles with other paramilitary forces from the valley is unnecessary.

All paramilitary forces are under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). They have been imparted the same basic trainings including public relations. It is not the regiment that matters. What may be of concern is the high number of local people in the Assam Rifles who are sometimes perceived as bias and partial by other communities where they operate. It would be better for MHA to explore the option of limited posting of local personnel to their native places till peace returns to Manipur.

6. Delisting of Kuki-ZO. In the current list of ST of many north eastern states, the entry “Any Kuki Tribes”, Kuki and “Any Kuki Tribes including:” are found mentioned. In respect of Manipur, there is no tribe mentioned with the name of “Kuki”, but as “Any Kuki Tribes” and “Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes” along with the individual names of Kuki and Mizo tribes.

The usage of word “Any” before the name of a tribe is not an isolated case for Manipur State alone and it is found in Meghalaya as “Any Kuki Tribes including:”, “Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes” and “Any Naga Tribes”. In Mizoram too, the names “Any Kuki Tribes”, “Kuki” and “Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes” are found listed along with the names of Kuki sub-tribes. In Tripura “Kuki, including the following sub-tribes:” is found listed implying that “Kuki” is also a tribe. In Nagaland just the word “Naga” and “Kuki” are listed without the list of any sub-tribes or tribes. It can be seen in the ST lists that “Kuki” is mentioned as a tribe in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura along with Kuki sub-tribes, but no sub-tribes are listed for Nagaland against the tribe name “Kuki”. From these facts, it appears that “Kuki” is a separate tribe. If the matter for deletion of “Any Kuki tribes” along with “Any Mizo (Lushai) tribes” that is being currently demanded by AT is examined in the context of the entire north eastern region, it would be clear that the tribe “Kuki” is

listed in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur. In Manipur it is mentioned as the words “Any Kuki tribes” which does not preclude “Kuki” tribe, but included Kuki tribe. It would therefore be absolutely wrong to think that “Kuki” tribe can be removed if “Any Kuki Tribes” is deleted as the mother tribe i.e. “Kuki” would need to be inserted in the ST list of Manipur as a consequence of deletion of words “Any Kuki Tribes”. It can also only be deleted if the matter has been considered in depth by the state government to ensure that no other “Kuki tribes” are left unlisted in the ST list of Manipur. Basing on the premise that they are recent entrant in the state raises the issue as to how they are listed in five other states in the north eastern region (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura).

A word of caution: what is the necessity of antagonising a large section of Manipur society namely the Kukis if the motto is to live together as one in Manipur. After more than eight months of strained relationship between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities, the agenda for deletion of “any Kuki tribes” from the list of STs of Manipur would only serve to widen the fissure.

Capitulation to mobocracy has pushed Manipur closer towards a break-up. The longer the estrangement, the chasm between different societies in the state will widen further and considering the volatile environment of majority versus minorities developing, a new geo-political alignment may emerge. The advice is to bring in positivity and dump negativity. It is urged to both warring parties to walk the path of reconciliation and focus attention to “Start the Talks” and prevent the land called “Switzerland of the East” from fragmentation and losing its crown.

First published by [Nagaland Post](#)

(Ngaranmi Shimray is a New Delhi-based Social Activist)

THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

South Asian Christians
@S_AsianXtians

This is not Gaza or Syria, instead it's Manipur, India.

After their schools & homes were burned down by radical militias and partisan Manipur police, the helpless tribal Christian students and teachers have no option but to continue their classes in such a pathetic condition.



11:36 AM · Jan 30, 2024 · 1,451 Views

R Lungleng
@rlungleng

List of incidents where Nagas have suffered in the hands of mob and militia in and around Imphal, yet UNC and Naga MLAs are still not awake. On the contrary, UNC has invited Biren's wife SS Olish to Lui-Ngai-Ni as special guest (common fest of southern Nagas).

May 24, 2023- 4 Women from Ukhrul attacked by Mob in Imphal.

June 18, 2023- burning down on LIANGMAI NAGA house in Leimakhong

July 16, 2023- MARING NAGA women shoot dead in SAWOMBUNG, IMPHAL

December 3, 2023- 3Tangkhol allegedly beaten by unidentified Meitearmed miscreants at SAWOMBUNG, IMPHAL

December 11, 2023- Two RONGMEI NAGA girls were beaten at BISHNUPUR BAZAAR

December 11, 2023- One Tamenglong driver beaten in Imphal

December 18, 2023- A group of individuals forcibly kidnapped four Naga Girls who were running and Working at beauty parlour in Imphal

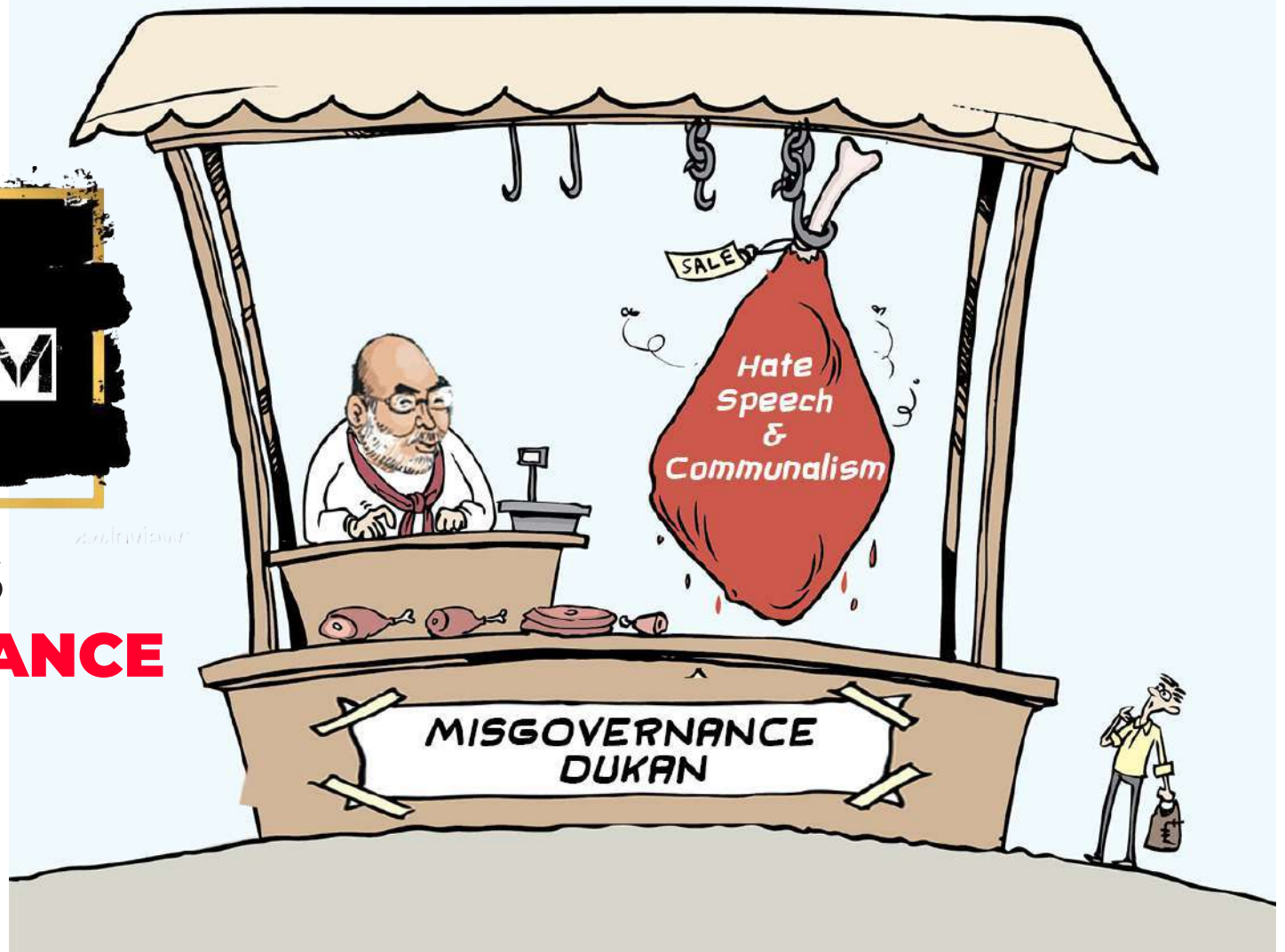
January 29, 2023- One Tangkhol Naga boy kidnapped at Mantripukhri

January 31, 2024: Two ZELIANGRONG NAGAS kidnapped, held hostage At gunpoint at Bishnupur District

12:32 PM · Feb 1, 2024 · 5,729 Views

Post MORTEM

BIREN'S MISGOVERNANCE DUKAN





Zalengam through you

Smooth ground made slippery with rain,
Cold tents that feel unwelcomed.
Ten mountains you ascend;
In tenfolds you shall receive!
For eternity, our nation will reap
The fruits you sow on days cold and hot.

The gun you carry is heavier than all;
By logic, and not in pounds!
They may sing while you weep;
You may be dirty and starv'd!
Body and heart weary on most days.
Your sacrifices paved way for 'thoughts of the future '!

A future, a dream of all.
Where happiness abounds and where
One can breathe a sigh of relief!
Where love rains and with the wind
Justice blows; where one can feel
Heavenly atmosphere, we call 'Zalengam'!

- Jangneiching Khongsai