

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGMINLUN HAOKIP (26 YEARS)

S/O NGAMKHOLET HAOKIP

ADDRESS: PHAISI, SUGNU, CHANDEL

DATE OF DEATH: 28TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: SEROU, SUGNU

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
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 OPPOSES REMOVAL OF ASSAM RIFLES; CALLS FOR CENTRAL INTERVENTION

The Central Government's decision to replace some Assam Rifles units in the hill areas with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has sparked criticism and concern among local communities and organizations. The move is being described as potentially wasteful and detrimental to the hard-earned peace in the region.

The Committee on Tribal Unity has issued a strong statement against the potential removal of the Assam Rifles from the buffer zones between the hills inhabited by the Kuki community and the valley, predominantly occupied by the Meitei community. This comes after reports on local TV news channels suggested that such a move might be in the works.

The committee while vehemently opposing removal of Assam Rifles, called for Central intervention in Manipur.

The Committee highlighted the crucial role of the Assam Rifles, considered as the only neutral Central Security Forces currently operating in these sensitive areas.

It stated that with decades of counter-insurgency experience, the Assam Rifles have earned the trust of the local populations, emphasizing that it is essential to have a neutral force under the command of the Union Home Ministry rather than forces influenced by the state government, led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

Singh has been criticized by the Kuki community, which believed he lost the moral authority to lead since May 3, 2023.

The Committee also called for the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in all 18 police stations in the valley areas.

"This measure is seen as necessary to recover arms and ammunition that were allegedly looted from state armories during the ongoing conflict", it stated.



Furthermore, the Committee urged the state government to control armed militias, such as the Arambai Tenggol and VBIGs, to prevent further destabilization of the Imphal valleys.

It also demanded that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh retract inflammatory statements against the Kuki community and curb valley-based civil organizations from spreading misinformation and hatred.

The Committee warned that any policies from the Government of India favoring one community over another would be seen as shortsighted and potentially disastrous while cautioning that such actions could provoke strong resistance from the marginalized Kuki community, with the government being held responsible for any ensuing unrest.

In conclusion, the Committee on Tribal Unity called for the immediate implementation of Article 365 in Manipur stating that this constitutional provision allows for federal intervention when a state government is deemed to be failing to uphold constitutional governance.

The Committee argued that this step is necessary to protect the fundamental rights of minorities and ensure the political survival of the Kuki tribals in the region.

MEITEI WOMAN RESCUED BY KUKI VILLAGERS IN TENGNOUNPAL

A 45-year-old Meitei woman, hailing from the Pangaltabi village of Maning Leiki in Manipur's Kakching, strayed towards Tengnoupal district's Senam village on Tuesday (July 30).

Kohima-based Defence PRO Lt Col Amit Shukla said that the woman appeared disoriented and confused about her location.

The concerned Kuki villagers in the area noticed the woman and ensured her safety by handing her over to the Assam Rifles at a mobile vehicle check post in Tengnoupal.

On being questioned by the local villagers, the woman said that her husband had been missing for more than five months and she was searching for him when she mistakenly crossed from Pallel into the area.

The woman in distress sought assistance from the villagers who in turn, displaying a goodwill gesture, handed her over to the Assam Rifles. The paramilitary force then escorted her to Pallel where she was safely handed over to the Manipur police.

Lt Col Shukla further said that the prompt and empathetic response by the Kuki villagers played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of a Meitei woman. This act by the Kuki villagers depicted a rare sense of harmony among both communities in these testing times when the whole state was engulfed in communal issues.

While the Kukis exhibit utmost level of humanity even at times of war by safely rescuing a strayed Meitei woman who ventured into their area, displaying a sense of regard and respect for women, the Meiteis on the



otherhand, have defied all forms of humanity on the Kukis.

On May 4, 2023, the nation was shocked when a video surfaced showing two Kuki women being paraded naked by a Meitei mob. This incident drew widespread condemnation and highlighted the vulnerability of Kuki women in conflict zones, exposing the hypocrisy of Meira Paibis - who claim to protect societal values.

Other tragic incidents include the brutal rape and murder of two Kuki women, Florence Nempichong Hangshing and Olivia Lhingneithem Chongloi, who were working at a car wash in Imphal.

In another horrific act, a 7-year-old Kuki boy, Tonsing Hangshing, and his mother, Meena Hangshing, were burned alive inside an ambulance in Iroishemba, Imphal. A Meitei woman, Lydia Lourembam a relative who was with them in the ambulance was also killed in this incident, showing that the violence has taken a toll on people from multiple communities, regardless of their ethnic background.

OPPOSITION BLAMES MANIPUR GOVERNMENT FOR MEITEI-KUKI SEPARATION

The Opposition MLAs of the Manipur Legislative Assembly on Wednesday blamed the N Biren Singh-led government for causing the separation between Meiteis and Kukis, stating that it could have been prevented with proper security measures.

This was informed by four of the five Opposition MLAs during a discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address at the 6th session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly.

The outgoing governor of Manipur, Anusuiya Uikey had earlier delivered her Governor's address on February 28 during the last session.

Raising an amendment motion on the Governor's address, Opposition leader Okram Ibobi said it is the fault of the present government that thousands of people were evacuated to safer places after the May 3 incident last year.

He blamed the government, stating that the government's mistakes during the initial period of the ongoing crisis caused the virtual separation between Meiteis and Kukis.

If the government had provided adequate security and secured the people in vulnerable areas at their respective residences, then thousands of displaced people who are currently suffering might not be facing such hardships.



Opposition MLA K Meghachandra, raising his amendment motion on the Governor's address, said the address delivered by the Governor did not mention any important issues or achievements of the government.

Evacuating affected people to so-called safer places at relief camps could not be counted as an achievement of the government. He further said nothing was mentioned in her speech regarding the government's initiatives or roadmap for restoring peace in Manipur.

MLA K Ranjit from the Opposition bench informed the House, reacting to the Governor's address, that with the failure in law and order of the Biren-led government, thousands of youths have picked up arms to defend their villages.



Passivity is the same as defending injustice.

- Deepak Chopra

MIZORAM CM LALDUHOMA MAY MEDIATE IN TALKS TO END MANIPUR CONFLICT

In what may break the deadlock to end the conflict in Manipur, Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma is likely to mediate and convince the Kuki-Zo organisations to come forward for talks with the government as well as the organisations representing the Meitei community.

When asked, Lalduhoma told DH on Thursday morning that he was requested by his Manipur counterpart N Biren Singh recently to be the mediator in the talks with the organisations representing the Kuki-Zo communities. Lalduhoma, however, did not divulge further. Sources in Manipur told DH that Singh made the request when he met Lalduhoma on the sidelines of the NITI Aayog's meeting in New Delhi on July 28.

This assumes significance as Kuki-Zo organisations had refused to take part in any talks that involved Singh, who is a Meitei. They have also alleged Singh's involvement in the conflict.

Singh approached Lalduhoma as the Kukis share ethnic ties with the Mizos and many consider the Mizoram CM as their leader. Lalduhoma's political advisor, Muanpuia Punte, on Thursday also visited Kuki-dominated Churachandpur district of Manipur, where he attended a function of Kuki Village Volunteers. Sources said Punte also held informal discussions with some leaders the talks.

New forum for talks

A leader of a prominent Kuki-Zo organisation in Manipur told DH that although they have not received any formal invitation for talks from the Centre yet, they decided to form an umbrella body of all Kuki-Zo organisations named as the Kuki-Zo Council for any decision regarding talks. "A resolution in this regard was taken on July 29. A complete Committee and statement of purpose will be drawn on 7," he said.



CM Biren Singh on Wednesday told the Assembly that 226 people have died in the conflict involving the Kukis and Meiteis since May last year. He said that some talks were held in Silchar in neighbouring Assam recently to end the conflict and said that a formal announcement would be made soon. More than 60,000 others have been displaced in the conflict.

Demands

Kuki-Zo organisations and 10 MLAs have remained firm on their demand for a "separate administration" comprising the Kuki-Zo dominated areas in Manipur. They have also submitted several memoranda to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah saying a "separate administration" is the only way to end the conflict.

Organisations representing Meiteis, on the other hand, rejected the demand and have called for implementing National Register of Citizens (NRC) to detect "illegal migrants" belonging to Kuki-Zo communities claiming "unabated infiltration" from neighbouring Myanmar posed a threat to identity and culture of the Meitei community. CM Biren Singh, however, assured them that territorial integrity of Manipur would remain intact.

(Deccan Herald)

IDPS STAGE PROTEST IN IMPHAL; POLICE RESPONSE LEADS TO CLASHES AND INJURIES

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Moreh, Churachandpur, and other peripheral areas of Manipur staged a protest rally today, demanding the government facilitate their return to their homes. The IDPs, currently residing in relief centers, expressed their frustration over the government's inaction in restoring them to their native places.

The rally, which began peacefully, escalated into violence when police used smoke bombs, tear gas shells, and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters in the Singjamei area of Imphal city. The clashes resulted in injuries to over 10 individuals, including IDPs and journalists covering the event. Among the injured was R.C. Mangang, a reporter from Impact TV, who was allegedly assaulted by police officers despite identifying himself as a journalist.

The demonstration was organized by the Committee on Protection of Meitei Victims (COPMeV) and saw participation from IDPs across various relief camps. Protesters chanted slogans demanding their right to return home, the expulsion of Assam Rifles from Manipur, and the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC). "We want to return home with dignity," echoed throughout the rally.

The protest began in the Singjamei Akampat area, with demonstrators intending to march approximately two kilometers to the Chief Minister's secretariat to submit a memorandum outlining their demands. The rally included school students from the IDP camps, and the injured were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Opposition Manipur Congress MLA Kangujam Ranjit expressed shock over the police's handling of the rally, raising concerns about police excesses during the state assembly's budget session. In response, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh addressed the assembly, accusing certain individuals of exploiting the IDPs' situation for political gain.



In a related development, the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) and Editors Guild Manipur (EGM) staged a protest against the assault on journalist R.C. Mangang. The media fraternity marched from the Manipur Press Club to the Chief Minister's bungalow, where they submitted a memorandum demanding an immediate investigation into the attack, along with stricter guidelines for police handling of media personnel during protests.

Mangang recounted his ordeal, stating that he was attacked by a police Sub-Inspector while covering the IDP rally. "I was punched multiple times, my mobile phone was broken, and I was threatened with my life," Mangang said, detailing his injuries which required treatment at Raj Medicity.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh condemned the attack on Mangang and assured media representatives that the Director General of Police (DGP) would investigate the incident and identify the responsible police official within 48 hours.

The situation remains tense as IDPs continue to demand their right to return home, while the government faces increasing pressure to address the concerns of both the displaced and the media community.

MHRC CHAIRPERSON VISITS SENAPATI

The chairperson of the Manipur Human Rights Commission, Justice Utpalender Bikas Saha, asserted that corruption has no place in society during a gathering at the DC Conference Hall, Senapati, on his maiden visit to the district.

Speaking at the gathering, Justice UB Saha said he joined the MHRC on February 20, 2023, and found the office in a defunct state. He emphasized the rights of citizens to health, water, shelter, and other necessities. Under MHRC's intervention, several long-pending criminal cases were processed, resulting in arrests and charges within weeks, addressing the denial of justice due to delayed investigations, he stated. Justice UB Saha said, "So many instances of other crimes were also found in the state where the case could not be

processed and the accused died after long years terming as denial of justice to the victims adding delay of investigation is denial of justice and denial of justice is violations of human rights."

He also stressed that the right to life includes the right to a decent livelihood. He highlighted the potential for development through tourism in Senapati, hampered by militancy and terrorism. He urged the community to abandon such activities for peace and progress. "Militants, insurgency and terrorism are the main problems that the region cannot develop. Many precious lives have been lost due to these issues, and I urge everyone to shun such activities," Justice UB Saha said.



তন্ময় | Tanmoy I
@tanmoyofc

This Is Manipur Now

School Children in Manipur are trembling in fear as Gunfire erupts outside.

The Prime Minister and the Home Minister have forgotten that there is a state called #Manipur.

#ManipurProtests #Mandi #SupremeCourtOfIndia #PujaKhedkar



17:45 · 01 Aug 24 · 5,703 Views



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert

Follow

Let's not go back to the same old propaganda of "illegal immigrants from Myanmar, coming and planting poppy" as 90% of Manipur Police drive against poppy plantation in 2023-4 occurred in Non-Kuki villages. Blaming one community doesn't solve the problem.

YouTube



Manipur Violence | Clashes in Imphal after security forces fire...

On August 1, fresh clashes erupted in Manipur between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and security forces in Imphal East. Tear gas was used to disperse a...

20:30 · 01 Aug 24 · 198 Views

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Why Kukis Are Protesting Against Centre's Purported Move to Replace Assam Rifles with CRPF

The Wire Analysis

Manipur's violence-hit Churachandpur district has witnessed a massive public protest against the Union government over its purported decision to replace units of the Assam Rifles with those of the Central Reserve Police Force in the sensitive district.

The reported decision reached the hills of Manipur four days after Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla said at the CRPF's Raising Day in Delhi that the paramilitary forces' "involvement in Manipur is expanding".

"They have significantly contributed in stopping violence in the state and ensuring the safety of shelter homes (relief camps) for the displaced," Bhalla said. Around 60,000 are currently residing in the relief camps having lost their homes in the ongoing ethnic conflict.

According to local news reports, people belonging to the Kuki-Zo community gathered in large numbers at Gothol, Khausabung and Kangvai areas of the district, late on July 31 and "held candle light vigils in protest against the move for the removal of the Assam Rifles."

"Protesters held placards inscribed 'AR protect and save our lives', 'AR don't go back', 'Meitei militants are problem, not AR', etc., during the protest," reported a local news outlet.

The Narendra Modi government's reported decision is in tandem with the demand of the Meitei community, majority of whom reside in the state's valley areas and have remained there since the ethnic conflict broke out in the border state. The Assam Rifles has been accused of being biased towards the Kuki community, the majority of whom reside in the Churachandpur district. This comes from the premise that the Assam Rifles, traditionally stationed in hill areas, would be biased towards its residents. State chief minister N. Biren Singh is among several Bharatiya Janata Party leaders belonging to the Meitei community to have accused Assam Rifles of being "biased" towards Kukis.

Last year, in August, heeding their demand, the state government replaced the Assam Rifles with CRPF and state police in several check-posts along the Kuki-majority Churachandpur district, at the points where it meets the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district. Several cases of ethnic violence had been reported from the area.

This July 30, the Meitei women's group at the forefront of the ethnic conflict, the Meira Paibi,

Contd.

Contd.

held a protest in Imphal demanding the removal of the Assam Rifles from the state's security forces, accusing the Army unit of "prolonging the conflict" in the state.

The Assam Rifles, a part of the Indian Army, has denied this allegation by the Meitei community several times.

The Kukis, on the other hand, have accused the state police, under the control of chief minister Singh, a Meitei, of acting partially and having looked the other way while Kukis were attacked in the valley areas, including in the state capital Imphal. This includes testimonials of two Kuki women that state police personnel did not come to their rescue before they were surrounded by a Meitei mob and paraded naked during the conflict. Hundreds of arms and ammunition were also purportedly looted from various state police stations in the valley districts, allegedly by Meitei mobs, to strike at the Kukis since the ethnic conflict broke out on May 3, 2023.

The Union government's latest decision to bring in the CRPF in the fringe areas of the state, which includes the Churachandpur district, is being looked at by the Kuki-Zo community with deep suspicion because unlike the Assam Rifles, which specialises in the security of India's Northeast, the CRPF is a paramilitary unit with no such specialisation and, therefore, would be dependent on the state force under the command of the chief minister to handle security issues of an ethnically sensitive state.

Reacting to the decision, Kuki Students Organisation (KSO), in a press statement, called it "untimely," adding that it might prove "costly".

The KSO said "Assam Rifles, after years of effort and dedication, won the hearts and minds of the hill people thereby resulting in mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The decision of replacing (to replace) the Assam Rifles units with CRPF is an absurdity



and is against the will of the local population... the government needs to rethink the decision discreetly and take the opinion of the respective local people and district civil society bodies."

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) also termed the decision to replace Assam Rifles units with those of the CRPF as "potentially wasteful and detrimental to the hard-earned peace in the region" and urged the Union government to reconsider it.

In a statement, several women's bodies of the district including Hmar Women's Association, Hmar Women Union (HWU) and Kuki Women's Union also opposed the decision and urged the Modi government to reconsider it "in the interest of peace stability in Churachandpur".

Published by: [The Wire](#)

FEATURED ARTICLE

THE ROLE OF
N. BIREN SINGH

IN THE ETHNIC-CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST THE KUKIS

PART-2

AN EXCERPT FROM THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA

Contd. from 30th July, 2024 Issue of Thingkho Le Malcha



3. Eviction in Imphal on the pretext of encroachment-

Using a previous Supreme Court order as an alibi N Biren Singh launched an eviction spree on Christian churches inside government quarters. Places of worship of other religion were overlooked. More than 80 churches inside Imphal were evicted in the drive.

The eviction drive was directed not to church alone but residential areas and settlements of the tribals within Imphal. The eviction drive of “Tribal Colony” in Checkon, Imphal became a source of irritant between the tribals and the government of Manipur.

4. Arbitrary declaration of reserve forest, wildlife sanctuary and subsequent eviction-

On 13th January 45 villages under Khamenlok-Gwaltabi reserve forest were directed by the Divisional Forest Officer- Central Forest Division, Imphal to produce- A) village recognition documents issued by competent authorities of the government B) map of the village issued by competent authorities of the government C) other miscellaneous documents/details available with the village chief. The entire villages mentioned in the eviction notices have been wipe out by N Biren Singh’s militia during the violence save few.

Illegal inclusion of 30 tribal villages under Yangoupokpi-Lokchao wildlife sanctuary was opposed by all the villages under the auspices of Tribal Land & Rights Protection Organization, Tengnoupal district.

The inclusion Zeliad wildlife sanctuary vide notification- 24th April 1997, Buning wildlife sanctuary on 8th September 1997 and Jiri-Makru wildlife sanctuary vide gazette notification date 22nd September 1997 in Noney-Tamenglong district had not gone down well with the people. The DC Tamenglong issued proclamation, under section 21 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1973 for the three sanctuaries on 22nd October, 1997. On the 6th October, 2022 the SDO/SDM, Kakching district issued a notification for the removal of signboards in Pallel and Japhou Bazaar on the contention that the area belong to Kakching district. The tribal villagers under the auspice of Tribal Rights Committee, Protection Chandel & Tengnoupal opposed the move contending that they have been paying hill house tax since time immemorial; the areas are included in the Autonomous District Council and in the electoral roll as well as national census of Tengnoupal and Chandel district. A memorandum was submitted to the Chief Minister on 13th October, 2022, in this regard.

5. HAC resolution of 11th March, 2021- “The Hill Areas Committees held a meeting on 11th March, 2021 regarding the “Declaration of Reserved Forest” in the hill areas and unanimously adopted the following resolutions-

Contd.

Contd.

1) The Hill Areas Committee resolved that there is procedural error in the declaration of reserve forest after 1972. Any declaration of reserve forest, protected forest and wildlife sanctuaries on or after 20th June 1972 shall not be enforced by the department until the approval of HAC, since it pertains to schedule matters of Article 371 (C) of the presidential order of 1972.”

2) Forest territorial maps should be made at par with the existing revenue district boundaries for administrative convenience.

6. Eviction of K. Songjang village- K Songjang village under Saitu subdivision Kangpokpi district was evicted on February 21, 2023 under the pretext that it was under Churachandpur-Khoupum reserve forest. The district forest officer contended that the settlement area of K Songjang was new and under the reserve forest and protected forest. However, the villagers refuted the forest officer’s claim underlining that K Songjang falls within the boundary of Kungpi-Naoson village recognized and gazette in 1927 and its creation is done as per the customary practice where a chief can parcel out certain portion of his land and gifted it to his brothers for the establishment of a new village.

This eviction caused an outrage among the Kuki-Zo community leading to interminable violence in the aftermath.

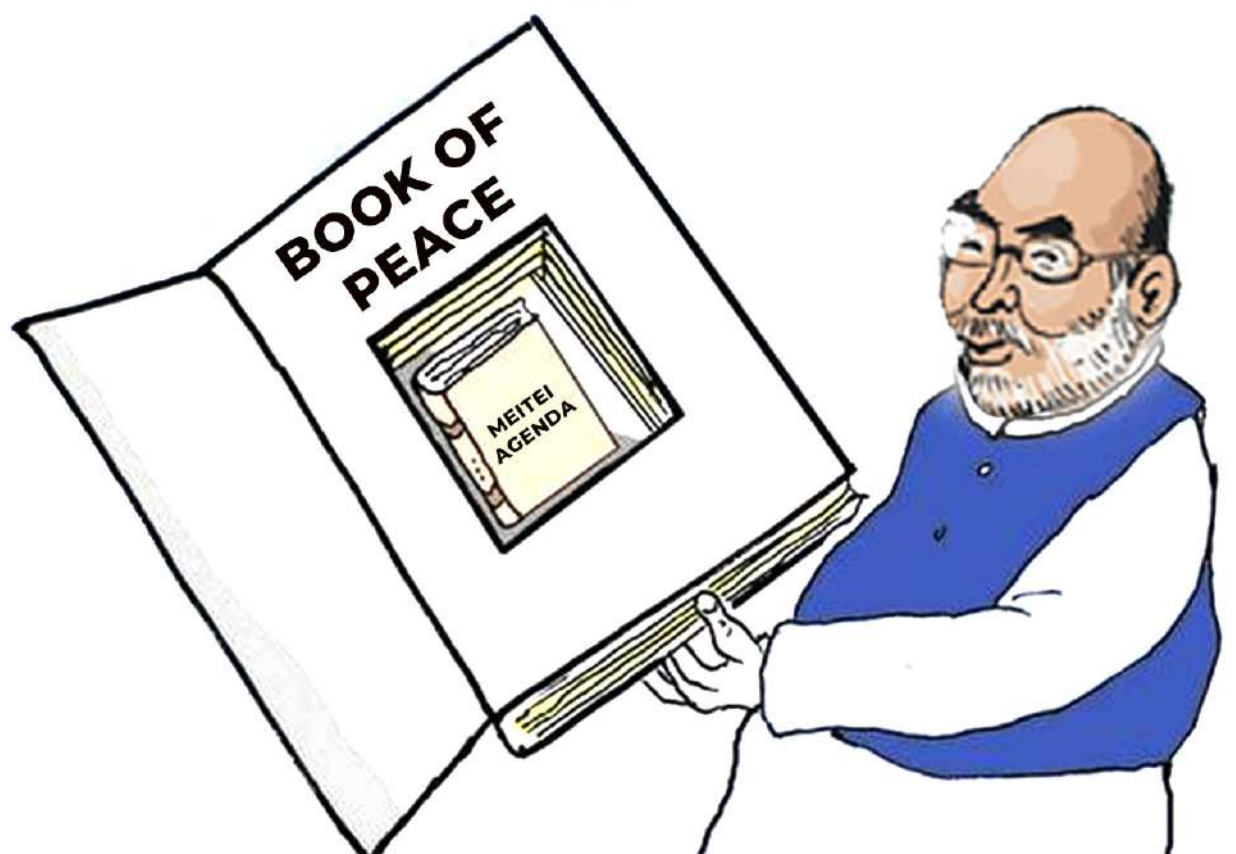
7. Eviction of Kangchup Chiru village which falls under K Geljang subdivision, Kangpokpi district was also evicted on 2nd February by the forest department and police.

8. Rally for “Tribal Land Rights”- On the 10th of March, 2023, rallies were held in Kuki-Zo dominated areas of Churachandpur, Tengnoupal, Kangpokpi, Chandel, Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Jiribam and New Delhi against discriminations and subjugations in the name of reserve forest, protected forest and wildlife sanctuary to the Kuki-Zo communities by the Biren-Singh led government of Manipur. The protestors accused Biren and his government of using forest acts as a tool to encroach into the tribal lands. By and large it was peaceful but violence was witnessed in Kangpokpi when the police resorted to brute force to disperse the crowd.

To be contd.



BIREN’S BOOK OF PEACE & THE HIDDEN AGENDA





CROOKED

My father was a farmer, yet he ensured I was educated in the best schools. All he wanted was to see me succeed in life in every possible way.

To him, success meant earning well so that I could take care of my family. Now that I'm mature and enlightened by societal norms, I have tried my hand at various pursuits to meet those expectations.

However, I realized that all I truly knew and had learned since childhood was my father's profession. Despite this, I hesitated to embrace it. Now, I find myself involved in unfamiliar endeavors and must face the consequences of those choices.

Thongminsang Haokip