

Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Bongmol RELIEF CENTRE

Bongmol Community Hall, Sadar Hills
(Camp Code: KPI-2-04)

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 253



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.

KUKI INPI TENGNOUNPAL DENOUNCES FALSE POLICE STATEMENTS AND MEDIA REPORTS LINKING LEADERS TO SDPO ANAND'S KILLING

The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal district strongly refutes the allegations against its leaders Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate in the SDPO Anand killing case, condemning the false police statements and media reports. The community leaders emphasize their commitment to truth and call for impartiality in the ongoing investigation.

In its press statement issued today, the Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal (KIT) said that they are appalled over the false and concocted police statement and subsequent media reports that Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate had admitted involvement in killing SDPO Anand and vehemently denounced and condemn the false and concocted police statement and subsequent media reports.

“The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal district would like to make it clear to all that the two KIT leaders- Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate, have not admitted their involvement in the Ch Anand killing case as they have nothing to do with the said incident. The Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal leaders stand for truth and will never compromise the truth”.

Initially, a fake Facebook account allegedly accused Philip K Khongsai of involving in the killing of Moreh commando's SDPO Anand. Ridiculously, all Meitei media houses rushed to publish news item based on the said fake fb post. Various CSOs including KIT issued numerous press clarifications over the false allegation and demanded the police department to book the operator of the said fb account. In spite of several press statements, the police department did not initiate investigation upon the said fb account which spread false and concocted reports against the KIT executive Philip K Khongsai, the statement said.

Again, the police commando intruded the site of women's protest at ADC junction and abducted the two Kuki Inpi leaders Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate who were visiting the womenfolk. After abducting the two KIT leaders the police commandos cooked concocted allegations stating that the two KIT leaders

Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate opened fire on the vehicles of Manipur Police Special CDO Teams near Moreh College while they were on round patrolling and ran into a cluster of houses. The police commandos further cooked up a concocted report that the two were chased and overpowered and one pistol along with two live rounds, one Chinese hand grenade, ten live rounds of AK ammunitions and ten detonators with fuse were recovered from the possession of Philip and Hemkholal, it alleged.

All these allegations are staged and managed drama of the police commandos. In fact, on 17 January the two KIT leaders Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate were with the womenfolk at ADC junction when the police commandos intruded and abducted the duo. The two are civilian leaders possessing neither arms nor ammunition.

The concocted allegations didn't end there. Recently, the police further brought-up a fake and concocted report that Philip Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate had confessed and admitted their involvement in killing SDPO Moreh Ch Anand.

The KIT clarifies to all, that the two leaders Philip K Khongsai and Hemkholal Mate had nothing to do with the killing case of Ch Anand and the two also did not admit to any involvement in the said crime.

The KIT also cautioned the Meitei centric police department to stop implicating the two KIT leaders with the killing incident of Ch Anand. Police department must show impartiality, non prejudice and fairness while dealing with the case. As a civil police, the department must not allow personal feelings, beliefs or opinions to unfairly influence their actions in any situation. Favouring one group or community over another and unfair and biased investigation reports will only exacerbate violence and hatred between the two warring communities.

MEITEI LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED TO ARAMBAI TENGGOL CAN NO LONGER CLAIM TO BE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR SAYS UNITED NAGA COUNCIL

The United Naga Council has claimed that the Meitei legislators who have submitted to the Arambai Tengol on January 24, 2024 at Kangla cannot claim, anymore, to be the Government of the entire State of Manipur, and has limited its powers, functions and relevance to the valley and the Meitei community only.

Not to speak of reigning in the non-state actors, the State Government has allowed itself to be dictated and co-opted into a radicalized organization, says UNC in a release issued on February 2.

Expressing concern over the problems faced by the Naga community in the ongoing Kuki and Meitei conflict, the UNC sent a message and appealed to the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups to immediately desist from targeting, provoking and attacking the Nagas, their homes and properties in the Imphal valley and also in the peripheral hill areas.

The UNC warns that it will have no option but to call upon the Naga populace in Imphal to vacate the valley in preparation for further appropriate measures thereafter if their appeal is disrespected in the Imphal valley.

The UNC also declared that the Kuki-Zo free access to the Naga township and villages and free passages will be prohibited if the Kuki-Zo group continue with their targeting of the Nagas.

In the interest of peace in spite of the extreme provocations, Nagas have addressed many sensitive situations and sought to resolve them through customary laws and practices, stated the release.

Yet time and again, the Nagas have been attacked with impunity, making mockery of the many agreements and resolutions for restoration of peace and good relation, says UNC

UNC stated, "It is no wonder that the attack on Nagas in Imphal valley have not been prevented

nor addressed with state instruments as it should be with a State Government in place".

The United Naga Council claims that the Meitei legislators and Government of India owes it to the people of India to explain what it has been doing for the last 9 months with the situation going from bad to worse day by day, while Nagas have become victims of its neutrality to the conflict.

The UNC stated that the position of neutrality decided upon by the Nagas in the quest of peace and communal harmony in Manipur in the wake of the 3 May, 2023 violence brought about the following casualties amongst many others.

Further UNC added a list of incidents perpetrated upon the Nagas in the ongoing conflict.

UNC stated that the Nagas were subjected to unwarranted cutting off Inter Village Roads/blockage/construction of bunkers/checking/frisking/extortion of taxes along the National Highways and Inter-District roads by armed militants and womenfolk.

Frisking/checking, violent behaviour, kidnapping, looting and extortion against Nagas by Meitei radicalized groups and womenfolk in Imphal valley and also collection of money from citizens travelling along the highways by Meira Paibis.

Churches burnt and demolished, and sacrilegious acts committed inside religious places of worship by the radicalized Meiteis in the name of waging war against a community.

In all the acts of violence, intimidation, disrespect and insult, the common admission of mistaken identity have been cited, says UNC.

STATUE OF ARMY OFFICER SLAIN BY MEITEI MILITANTS UNVEILED IN CHHATTISGARH

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Friday unveiled the statue of Colonel Viplav Tripathi who was martyred in an ambush by Meitei militants in Manipur in 2021, an official said.

The statue was unveiled at Shaheed Colonel Viplav Tripathi stadium in his native Raigarh city in the presence of his parents, the official added.

Colonel Tripathi, the then Commanding Officer of Khuga Battalion of Assam Rifles, his wife Anuja and son Abir (5), and four personnel of the paramilitary force were killed in the ambush by militants in Manipur on November 13, 2021.

“Today is a historic day as the statue of martyr Col Tripathi has been unveiled. I salute his martyrdom. He never stopped or got tired while fighting the enemies of the country. When the terrorists attacked, he kept fighting till the last bullet,” CM Sai said.

State finance minister OP Chaudhary said everyone in Raigarh was proud the martyr who hailed from their district.

“His valour will always inspire us. An Agniveer Recruitment Camp will be organized in Raigarh in the



memory of martyr Col Tripathi,” the minister said.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of 46 Assam Rifles (Khuga Battalion) Col. Viplav Tripathi, his family and four Quick Reaction Team (QRT) personnel were killed in an ambush by Meitei militants in Churachandpur district of Manipur on November 13, 2021 morning.

The officer’s convoy was attacked with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) at Sehkan village, Singhat subdivision, in Churachandpur district.



**People don't resist change.
They resist being changed.**

– Peter Senge

NORTH EAST CATHOLIC FORUM CONDEMNS DISRESPECT SHOWN TOWARDS CHRISTIAN PRAYERS BY MEITEI MILITANT GROUPS

The North East Catholic Research Forum (NECARF) has vehemently condemned the disrespect shown towards Christian prayers by a group of Meitei militant groups in a widely circulated video, which has shocked everyone.

NECARF issued a press release on Friday stating that the deplorable act not only undermines the principles of secularism but also poses a grave threat to religious harmony in Manipur.

NECARF was reacting to a video released by Meiteis which went viral on social media platforms, wherein members of Arambai Tenngol could be seen mocking the idol of Jesus, the Bible and imitating a Christian marriage inside a Church which they later destroyed.

The release stated that NECARF exposes the nefarious designs behind such actions, recognizing the inherent challenges in expecting the current Government to effectively restore peace.

In acknowledging the authority represented by the present dispensation, NECARF also calls upon both the State and Central Governments to urgently address these issues impartially, regardless of community or religious affiliations.

The failure to take decisive action not only jeopardizes public order in Manipur but also places the entire North-East Region at risk of destabilization, stated the release. NECARF further stated that the ruling dispensation must realize that allowing such acts to persist will not



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PRESS RELEASE

The North East Catholic Research Forum (NECARF) vehemently condemns the disrespect shown towards Christian prayers by a group of Meitei militant groups in a widely circulated video, which has shocked everyone. This deplorable act not only undermines the principles of secularism but also poses a grave threat to religious harmony in Manipur. NECARF exposes the nefarious designs behind such actions, recognizing the inherent challenges in expecting the current government to effectively restore peace.

In acknowledging the authority represented by the present dispensation, NECARF calls upon both the state and central governments to urgently address these issues impartially, regardless of community or religious affiliations. The failure to take decisive action not only jeopardizes public order in Manipur but also places the entire North East region at risk of destabilization. The ruling dispensation must realize that allowing such acts to persist will not only lead to historical blame but may also result in severe repercussions for India.

Media Cell
North East Catholic Research Forum

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Many Christians and also a few Meiteis have also condemned such act of Arambai Tenngol combatants inside the Church. However, there are also many Meiteis who tried to justify the act saying that such act is acceptable if Kukis can kill Meiteis who came to attack Kuki villages, inside the Church.

There is also a war of words on social media platforms regarding the viral video.

KUKI STUDENTS ORGANISATION SADAR HILLS OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The Kuki Students' Organization – Sadar Hills (KSO-SH) has marked a significant milestone on Friday with the inauguration of its administrative office at the district center in Kangpokpi district.

The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, including Losii Dikho, MLA, Mao assembly constituency who attended the occasion as the chief guest, and Nemcha Kipgen, Minister of Commerce and Industries, and Co-operation as the chief host.

The program was also attended by Haakholet Kipgen, MLA and Kimneo Hangshing, MLA, as special guests in the presence of KSO-GHQ, Senapati district Students' Association, Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills and SAHILCA.

Sadar Hills Zillai block, Kuki Women Organisation



for Human Rights also presented a token of appreciation to KSO Sadar Hills. Representatives of KSO Saikul Block, KSO Bungpi Block, KSO Moltam Block, KSO Twibul Block were also present in the said function.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

Kautilya3
@Kautilya33

"Ever since the colonial government brought the hill areas by annexation into the fold of Manipur, which was then only the Imphal Valley, the hill tribes and the valley community have been "living together separately," with certain separate administrative arrangements. The problems of present-day Manipur are the consequences of this **forced integration of two different entities**. After India's independence, the hill tribes in the North East were protected under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, but the Manipur hill tribes were left out. This denial of the extension of the Sixth Schedule to Manipur is a process of institutional exclusion, which has led to the demand for greater autonomy."

-- Professor Lam Khan Piang

epw.in/journal/2019/1...

7:48 PM · Feb 2, 2024 · 242 Views

Abdul Quadir - عبدالقادر
@Northistan

Thank you, Kuki Zo, for providing me with a funding of \$5,000 trillion - 🙏🙏🙏

MILES @BinakumariS · 1h
Replying to @Northistan
Paid media!!! Funded by #KukiNarcoTerrorists #KukiMilitants
Don't just post anything without checking the ground reality.

1 1 6

Abdul Quadir - عبدالقادر @Northistan · 1h
Replying to @BinakumariS
\$5,000 trillion

1 1 7

MILES @BinakumariS

Follow

Replying to @Northistan
Got it!!! That's why you covered one sided without checking the facts. So, you sold your soul.

4:05 PM · Feb 2, 2024 · 2,787 Views



OPINION

Manipur's Woes

In the shadows of escalating violence and mounting despair, Manipur finds itself at the epicentre of a crisis that demands urgent attention. With over 200 casualties in the past eight months, the region is grappling with turmoil that extends beyond mere statistics. Worse, positions seem to have hardened with the radical Meitei group, Arambai Tenggol, which is accused by Kukis of having indulged in widespread violence, having induced 36 MLAs and two Members of Parliament – all of them Meitei – to pledge to preserve the “integrity” of the state, a position which makes a resolution to the ethnic problem even more difficult.

The group's demands, encapsulated in the pledge, include abrogation of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki militants, implementation of a National Register of Citizens with 1951 as the base year, erecting a fence along the Myanmar border, and removal of Kuki immigrants from the Scheduled Tribe list. Any hopes that a Central team which was in Imphal to find a resolution to the problem were dashed with the pledge ceremony. It is clear, therefore, that unless something dramatic happens, Manipur's slide to anarchy will continue. It is unfortunate that even as the Centre deludes itself into believing that a fragile truce obtains, violence continues to rock the state from time to time.

There is considerable merit in the Opposition's demand for a healing touch to be administered in the state. But with the state government seen to be partisan by the Kuki community, and the Centre preferring to conduct negotiations in the shadows using interlocutors, rather than confronting the state's fault lines politically, an early resolution seems difficult. The recent incidents,

particularly the gunfights resulting in casualties and protests demanding resignations, underscore the fragile security. The demand for the resignation of Mr Kuldiep Singh, chairman of the Unified Command of State and central forces, indicates a loss of faith in the current security arrangements. The breakdown in security, especially in border areas like Moreh, raises concerns about the safety of the residents and the overall stability of the region.

The complexities of Manipur's challenges extend beyond security issues. Students in Churachandpur taking to the streets to protest alleged educational biases imposed by the Manipur government add another layer of complexity. The tribals facing challenges in accessing education due to the lack of university campuses in the hill areas emphasise the need for inclusive policies. The discontent over unfulfilled promises made by the Centre adds to the frustration among the people. Manipur is at a crossroads.

The demand for accountability and action is not a mere slogan but a plea for a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of the challenges faced by the state. It is high time for the leadership to rise above political considerations and focus on providing the much-needed relief and reassurance to people. The path to healing begins with acknowledging the gravity of the situation and responding with empathy, urgency, and concrete actions that transcend political boundaries.

First published by [The Statesman](#)



**FEATURED ARTICLE**

India-Myanmar: Why Delhi Wants to Fence the 'Troubled' Border

SOUTIK BISWAS

Just over a week ago, India's federal home minister Amit Shah announced a plan to fence the open border with neighbouring Myanmar.

He said India would secure the rugged 1,643km (1,020-mile) boundary the same way in which "we have fenced the country's border with Bangladesh", which is more than twice as long.

Mr Shah said the government would also consider scrapping a six-year-old free movement agreement, allowing border residents from India and Myanmar to travel 16km into each other's territory without a visa. He gave few details of how the fence would be built, or over what timeframe.

Murders and mayhem tearing apart an Indian state
But the move would be fraught with challenges - some experts say the mountainous terrain makes a fence all but impossible. And India's plans could destabilise the equilibrium that has existed for decades between peoples in the border area, as well as stirring up tensions with its neighbours.

The move to fence the border - involving the four north-eastern Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram - appears to have come against the backdrop of two major developments.

First, the escalation of the conflict in Myanmar since the

military coup in February 2021 posed a mounting risk to Indian interests. Some two million people have been displaced in the fighting, according to the UN. In recent weeks, ethnic rebels claimed to have taken over the crucial town of Paletwa in Chin state, disrupting a key route from Myanmar to India.

Second, ethnic violence sparked by an affirmative action row erupted last year in Manipur, which shares a near-400km border with Myanmar. Clashes between members of the majority Meitei and tribal Kuki minority have claimed more than 170 lives and displaced tens of thousands of people.

The government in Manipur, led by Indian PM Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has spoken about a "large number of illegal migrants" and said the "violence was fuelled by influential illegal poppy cultivators and drug lords from Myanmar settling in Manipur".

Myanmar junta's war against rebels displaces millions

Last July, India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar informed his counterpart Than Swe from Myanmar's military-led government that India's border areas

Contd.

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“were seriously disturbed”. He said that “any actions that aggravate the [border] situation should be avoided”, and raised concerns about “human and drug trafficking”.

Michael Kugelman of the Wilson Center, an American think-tank, believes the move to fence the border is “driven by India’s perception of a growing two-pronged security threat on its eastern border”.

“It wants to limit the spill-over effects of a deepening conflict in Myanmar, and to reduce the risk of refugees entering an increasingly volatile Manipur from Myanmar,” Mr Kugelman told the BBC.

Some question the validity of this reason. While Manipur’s government has attributed the conflict there to an influx of Kuki refugees from Myanmar, its own panel had identified only 2,187 immigrants from Myanmar in the state by the end of April last year.

“This narrative of massive illegal immigration from Myanmar is false. This is being done to support the narrative that Kukis are ‘foreigners’ and illegal migrants, that they don’t belong to Manipur, and lately, that their resistance is getting support from Myanmar,” said Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, a former ambassador of India to Myanmar.

“The logic and evidence for this is very thin. Kukis have inhabited Manipur for ages. The free movement regime has been working well for all communities including Meiteis who have benefitted from it commercially.”

A senior retired army officer, with experience in the region and preferring to remain unnamed, said the necessity for border fencing was not due to civilian migration but because several Indian rebel groups from the north-east had established camps in Myanmar’s border villages and towns.

For decades India’s north-east has been roiled by separatist insurgencies. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), a law granting security forces search-and-seizure powers and protecting soldiers involved in civilian casualties during operations, has proven to be controversial. Indian rebels hiding in Myanmar can easily cross the border and “do their

extortion and violent activities”, the officer said.

However, the move to fence the border is likely to meet resistance.

India and Myanmar have historic religious, linguistic and ethnic ties - some two million people of Indian origin live in Myanmar, which seeks greater economic integration through India’s Look East policy.

Under this policy, India has provided more than \$2bn in development assistance - roads, higher education, restoration of damaged pagodas - to Myanmar, most of it in the form of grants.

Myanmar rebel group claims control of India border town

More importantly, the border splits people with shared ethnicity and culture. Mizos in Mizoram and Chins in Myanmar are ethnic cousins, with cross-border connections, especially as the predominantly Christian Chin State borders Mizoram. There are Nagas on both sides of the border, with many from Myanmar pursuing higher education in India. Hunters from Walong in Arunachal Pradesh have come and gone across the border for centuries.

Not surprisingly, Mizoram, defying federal government directives, has sheltered more than 40,000 refugees who have fled the civil war in Myanmar. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, an ally of the BJP, said recently: “We have to work out a formula on how to solve the issue for the people and prevent infiltration as well, because Nagaland is bordered by Myanmar, and on both sides there are Nagas.”

Also, experts believe that fencing the mountainous and densely forested border will pose significant challenges.

“To fence off the entire border would be impossible given all the mountains along the border and the

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remoteness of the terrain. It won't be like building a fence along the border with Bangladesh," Bertil Linter, a well-known Myanmar expert, told me.

"A fence is impractical, would take years to build and even if it was built at some places, local people would find ways around it."

Then there's the delicate diplomatic question. Constructing a border fence could be a provocative move at a time when Delhi needs to exercise caution in its interactions with Myanmar, according to Mr Kugelman. "India seeks junta support for border security and infrastructure development, among other priorities. Erecting the fence in consultation with Myanmar as opposed to pursuing the project unilaterally would lessen the risk of tensions," he said.

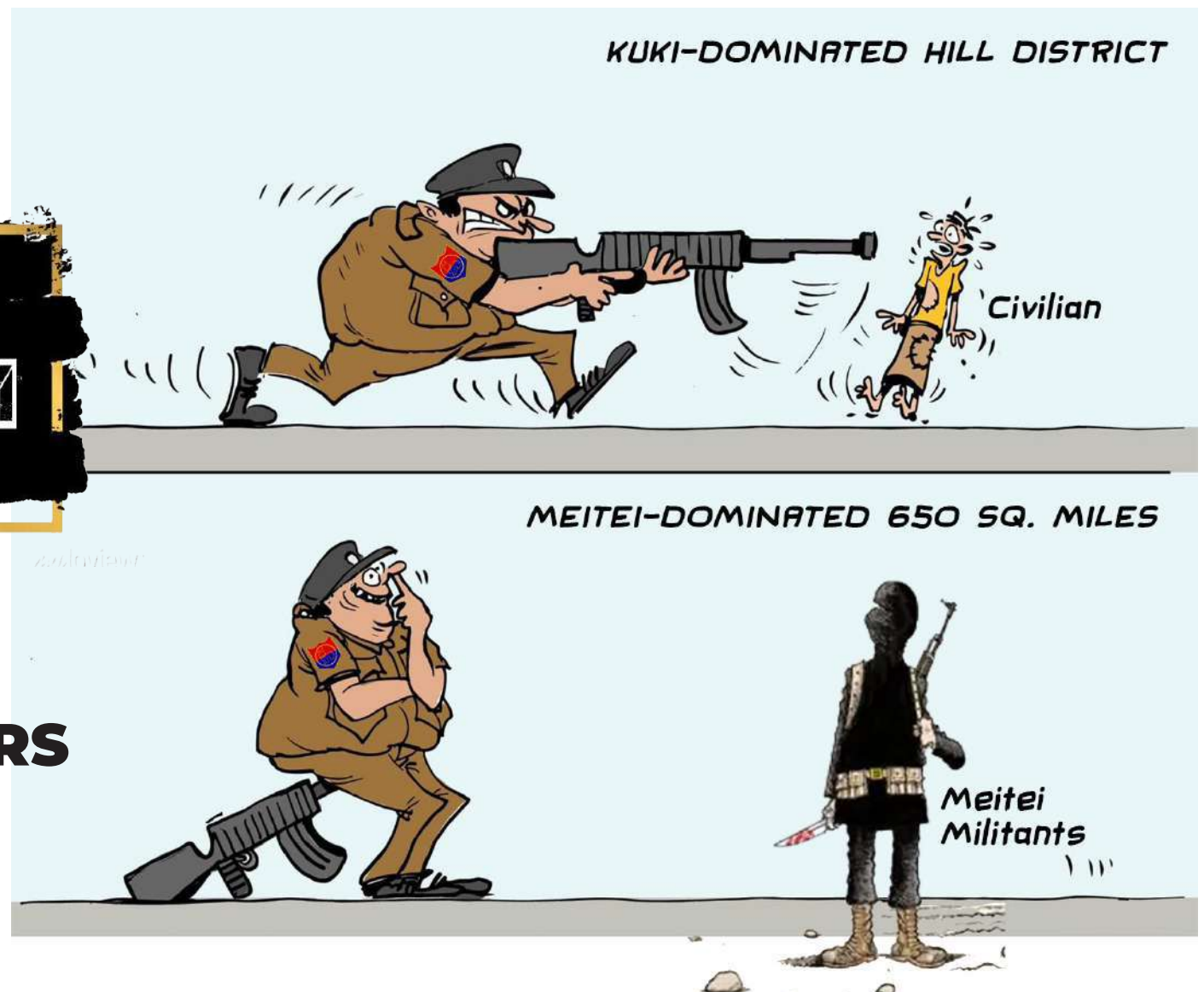
The Burmese Indians who never went home
Ultimately, the move underscores India's border security challenges - the country endures border tensions with arch-rival Pakistan and China - stemming from political tensions, territorial disputes, war, terrorism, or a combination of these factors. India is also pushing back against China in South Asia - and China has stronger economic connections with Myanmar compared to India.

"With India working to strengthen ties with its regional neighbours, and looking to fend off challenges from an increasingly present Beijing in its broader backyard, border challenges are an unwelcome intrusion. But they can't simply be wished away," said Mr Kugelman.

Source: [BBC](#)



THE BIGOT LAW KEEPERS





Cleansing

Someone says, "It is purging"
Someone calls it "Ethnic Cleansing"
A simple way of extermination,
And the end of human bond and relation.

Tears fall each time I hear about carnage,
The newspapers are full of stories on the page.
Who will justify this madness?
Is it not a reflection of our cruel faces?

Why don't they allow free propagation?
It's the free adoption and practice of religion.
Why do we take it as an affront and insult?
When we have learned about tolerance inbuilt!

Now, a new cult has emerged in Manipur state,
Someone says it is the cruelest movement,
Killing and kidnapping innocent people,
I think this is the most unfortunate turn.

The world may not end with gruesome murders,
It will never establish a new order,
It will only warrant a new brand of annihilation,
The worst kind of banishment and colonization.

~**João Felix**