

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Immanuel ECA Church RELIEF CENTRE

B. Aijalon, Lamka

Managed by  
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi  
General Headquarters(KKL-GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: **260\***

■ Male: **124**

■ Female: **136**

\*As on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2023



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.12.2023



**158**  
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.

# VOLUNTEERS EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE FOR THEIR PEOPLE AND LAND, SAYS KUKI INPI TENGNOUNPAL JOINT SECRETARY



Joint Secretary of the Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal, Sogin Guite has said that the village volunteers at Tegnoupal district expressed willingness to sacrifice for their people and land.

The joint secretary of Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal made the statement at a gathering held at Wall of Remembrance, Churachandpur on Wednesday. The gathering and the sit-in protest was held against the recent atrocities of the Meitei commandos and the Arambai Tenggol at Moreh. Highlighting the revelations made by Peter Mate who was recently tortured by Meiteis in Moreh, the Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal joint secretary said that the Meiteis tortured Peter from head to toe and even tried to kill him. However, some of the Meiteis refused to kill Peter since they were concerned about the consequences they and the Meiteis would face if they killed Peter.

Despite several incidents happening recently in Moreh, the volunteers have expressed that they are not disheartened by the incidents. Instead, they have assured their willingness to even sacrifice their lives to protect the people and the land said, Sogin. Meanwhile, a member of ITLF, Haoneo Baite said there were no proper or apex organisations to lead the people during the first few days of the violence which began in May. However, ITLF which is formed by different tribe leaders led the movement; he said and added that people have an immense role in further strengthening the ITLF.

Haoneo is of the view that there is no other option than ITLF for a collective movement and he added that people can now choose whose civil body is fit to lead the movement. Many people from rich to poor have donated and played their part in the present movement of the Kuki-Zo people against the Meitei and the Meitei state government, he said and cautioned the people that it was not the time for the Kuki-Zo populace to take rest. Lauding the role of the village volunteers in the present conflict, the KIT representatives said that people could feel safe and could be at ease in their homes only because of the volunteers in the frontline who are on duty 24x7. Regarding the talks between SoO groups and the Centre, Haoneo questioned the people and the organisations concerned regarding the progress of the talk. If there is no progress, people should reorganize again for further movement, said Haoneo. He also said that the Kuki-Zo people must sacrifice for their land and identity now or else they may regret later. The Kuki-Zo people must be prepared to face many challenges and difficulties to achieve separate administration.

During the gathering, mass prayer was conducted wherein women could be seen in tears praying for the welfare of the Kuki-Zo community.

## KUKI-ZO PEOPLE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO PROTECT OUR ANCESTRAL LAND, SAYS KUKI INPI CHANDEL; ALLEGES GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MOREH

There has been gross violation of human rights committed by the Meitei militants disguised as Police Commandos against the Kuki-Zo civilians of Moreh Hill town, said the Kuki Inpi Chandel on Tuesday.

The apex body of Kuki tribes of Chandel district alleged that the innocent residents are constantly terrorized by the Meitei aggressors.

Strongly condemning various atrocities meted out on the Kuki-Zo hill tribes of Moreh hill town by the combined forces of Meitei militants, Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and valley-based insurgent groups who had infiltrated into India from Myanmar, the Kuki Inpi Chandel has said that the Kuki-Zo people have every right to protect their ancestral land from any infiltration at any cost.

“Moreh Hill town is the ancestral land of the Kuki-Zo tribals and it will always remain so. Therefore, the Kuki-Zo people have every right to protect our ancestral land from any infiltration at any cost,” it said.

In a statement, the Kuki apex body of Chandel stated that Meitei Chief Minister N. Biren Singh’s allegation of the involvement of foreign elements at Moreh could be seen as his effort to merely conceal the actual involvement of Meitei militants. “In fact, Moreh Hill town was peaceful until it was infiltrated by the Meitei militants in collusion with the state machinery,” it alleged, adding that the coordination between the state government and the Meitei militants was visible in the fact that the militants disguised as Meitei state forces have been airlifted to and from using state resources and stationed at Moreh.

The Kuki Inpi Chandel asserted that the Village Volunteers who are rightful citizens of this country will defend Moreh Hill town till the last drop of blood. “The Kuki-Zo people will not tolerate any attempt to forcefully and illegally occupy Moreh Hill town by any invading forces,” it said.

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## SPECIAL COMMANDO UNIT OF KHABEISOI REQUESTS ISSUANCE OF AMMUNITIONS FOR USE IN MOREH

The Superintendent of Police, Railways and in-charge of Special Commando unit, Khabeisoi, Th. Krishnatombi Singh, has requested the Additional Director General of Police (DGP) for issuance of large amounts of ammunitions for use by personnel of Police Commando in Moreh.

In a letter addressed to the Additional Director General of Police (L/O), Imphal, dated 30th of December, 2023, Krishnatombi stated that the officers and personnel of the Special commando Unit, Khabeisoi, highly needed the ammunitions upon facing the present situation happening in the state.

The requested ammunitions are: 10,000 nos. of 7.62 LMG live rounds; 20,000 nos. of INSAS live rounds; 17,000 nos. of AK-47 live rounds; 150 nos. of 51 Mortar live rounds (H.E. bomb) and 3000 nos. of .303 rifle live rounds.



Krishnatombi requested the Additional DGP to issue the ammunition as soon as possible without any hesitation so that the officers and personnel can perform their duty efficiently and bravely at Moreh, Tengenoupal district.

# VIOLENCE IN MOREH A RESULT OF ARAMBAIS AND STATE FORCES ATTACKING KUKI-ZO SETTLEMENTS AND VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS DEFENDING SUCH ATTACKS: KSO DELHI & NCR

The Kuki Students Organisation Delhi and NCR has stated that the violence in Moreh was a result of Arambais and state forces attacking the settlements of Kuki-Zo and the village volunteers defending such attacks.

While the world saw the start of a New Year as a ray of new hope to begin afresh, the same could not be said for the Kuki-Zo civilians of the hill town of Moreh, Tengenoupal, where fresh attacks against the innocent civilians by state forces and armed Arambai Militants were witnessed from December 30, stated a release issued by KSO NCR on tuesday.

The KSO would like to make it known to all concerned that the present conflict in Moreh is between village volunteers defending their homes and Meitei armed militia led by Arambai Tenggol and state forces attacking the Kuki -Zo settlements, stated the release.

The release stated that the recent attacks on the Kuki dominated town of Moreh started on the evening of December 30 where mortars were fired upon the Kuki populace and several houses were torched by a combined force of State Police (Commandos) and Arambai militants.

Peter Mate, an innocent resident of Moreh, was also captured by Commandos and Arambais on December 30 (released on 31 December) and was brutally tortured and severely beaten, stated the release.

While the world celebrated the arrival of New Year joyously, the Kuki -Zo inhabitants of Morch welcomed the year with sounds of gunfire and bombs. Heavy attacks by State Commandos and Arambai Militias occurred since 8 in the morning of 2 January.

Two civilians from Chavangphai, Moreh were also abducted on Tuesday morning by Arambais dressed in State Commando's uniforms, it added.

The KSO further stated that four Muslim Pangals were brutally killed and six injured by Arambai



## CONDEMNATION AGAINST ATTACKS ON MOREH BY STATE FORCES AND MEITEI MILITANT GROUPS

*Dated: New Delhi, January 2, 2024*

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The recent attacks on the Kuki dominated town of Moreh started on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> December where mortars were fired upon the Kuki populace and several houses were torched by a combined force of State Police (Commandos) and Arambai militants. Mr. Peter Mate, an innocent resident of Moreh, was also captured by Commandos and Arambais on 30<sup>th</sup> December (released on 31<sup>st</sup> December) and was brutally tortured and severely beaten.

While the world celebrates the arrival of New Year joyously, the KUKI-Zo inhabitants of Moreh welcomed the year with sounds of gunfires and bombs. Heavy attacks by State Commandos and Arambai Militias occurred since 8 AM of 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Two civilians from Chavangphai, Moreh were also abducted this morning by Arambais dressed in State Commando's uniforms. It should also be noted that four Muslim Pangals were brutally killed and six injured by Arambai militias at Lilong on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

**While attacks were ongoing at the Kuki dominated areas of Moreh, the Chief Minister did not make any appeal for peace but rather remained a mute spectator, but was so enthusiastic in restoring peace at Lilong.**

While the State government in its left hand espoused for peace, its right hand turned a 'blind eye' to the violence against the KUKI-Zo. The Home Ministry has offered assurance that State Commandos will be withdrawn from Moreh but till date, the violence in Moreh were a result of Arambais and state forces attacking the settlements of KUKI-Zo and the Village Volunteers defending such attacks.

The State government on its left hand espoused peace, while its right hand turned a 'blind eye' to the violence against the Kuki Zo, stated the release.

While attacks were ongoing at the Kuki dominated areas of Moreh, the Chief Minister did not make any appeal for peace but rather remained a mute spectator, but was so enthusiastic in restoring peace at Lilong, it added.

The Home Ministry has offered assurance that State Commandos will be withdrawn from March but till date, all the violence in Moreh has been a result of Arambais and state forces attacking the settlements of Kuki-Zo and the Village Volunteers defending such attacks, stated the release.

# MOREH'S BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL CONDEMNS BRUTAL ASSAULT ON ITS TEACHER BY MANIPUR POLICE COMMANDO

The School Management Committee, or the SMC of Bethel High School in Moreh, the teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, and students of the schools vehemently condemned the brutal assault on one of the school teachers allegedly by Manipur police commandos on December 30, 2023.

According to the Bethel High School, Moreh School Management Committee, an Educator, Peter Holkholal Mate was brutally assaulted by Manipur police commandos on December 30, 2023 after he was arrested by the commando personnel at Moreh bazaar.

H. Holkhosat Mate, Principal of Bethel High School, Moreh, who is also the School Management Committee's Secretary said that Peter Holkholal Mate is an Assistant Teacher of Bethel High School, Mission veng, Moreh Ward No.2 having an appointment order No.BHS/T-47/DPC-2021.

He said that on the fateful day of December 30, 2023, Peter Holkholal Mate came to the School's office for some paper work and while returning home from the school he traveled from Ward No.1 to Moreh bazar, being unaware of the firing that took place near Laizon Turf Ground, junction, Moreh.

He alleged that the teacher was arrested by Moreh Police Commando personnel at Moreh bazar and after taking him to the Commando Complex he was interrogated where he revealed his identity, possessing no incriminating documents nor firearms, but the police commando personnel charged him as a cadre of KNA/UKLF/Village Volunteer.

After removing his clothes he was kicked, punched, thrashed, and stamped with boots until he fell unconscious. On regaining his consciousness he found himself without his clothes, shivering in cold which was fuelled by the pain of multiple cuts and bruises all over his body, he added.

He continued that the police commando personnel took him by a vehicle up to Moreh Bazar (Dharamsala) and left him alone to die so that the matter was not known to the public.



However, fortunately, from there Peter Holkholal walked and crawled and barely managed to reach his home by himself at around 4:00 am the next morning. The Commando personnel had snatched his mobile phone and a scooty, he further added.

The School Principal also said that the victim is now undergoing treatment at Lamka District Hospital and the CT Scan results show multiple cracks in the skull, nostril cartilage, facial bone, jaw bone, etc.

While strongly condemning the alleged inhuman act of atrocities committed by the Moreh Police Commando personnel on such a simple and devoted teacher by giving him third-degree torture, the School Management Committee, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, and students demanded the authority concerned and give justice to the victim by suspending the perpetrators at the earliest.

The parents and students of the school also warned of launching a series of agitations, if the culprits are not booked and justice delivered.

# COTU OBSERVES THE 8TH REMEMBRANCE DAY AT MARTYRS' CEMETERY IN KANGPOKPI



Manipur's conflict that erupted on May 3 last completed its eighth month today with no sight of cessation of the violence.

The Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills observed the 8th Remembrance Day at Martyrs' Cemetery at Phaijang village in Kangpokpi district this afternoon.

Though the 8th Remembrance Day was not organized for mass participation like the previous events, CoTU executives and all its department leaders took part in the event.

Candlelight vigil over the grave of the recently buried Kuki-Zo killed in the ongoing violence on May 3 was the main highlight of the event apart from exhortation and motivational speech from CoTU leaders.

CoTU Chairman Thanglen Kipgen and General Secretary Lamminlun Singsit led the CoTU executive members in the candlelight vigil. CoTU's Medical Department was led by its Convenor Helen, the Defence Department was led by Thangminlen Kipgen, and Thangtinlen Haokip led the Media Cell while CoTU's Women wing and Relief Committee also took part in the candlelight vigil, paying the highest tribute to the Kuki-Zo martyrs.

A few family members of the deceased Kuki-Zo also participated in the event.

CoTU's Chairman, Thanglen Kipgen exhorted the gathering not to make the highest sacrifice made by the fallen Kuki-Zo martyrs in the Kuki-Zo movement for a separate administration go in vain.

He also encouraged the CoTU and its department leaders to work stronger and better while conveying a strong message to all the Kuki-Zo Village Volunteer Force to stay strong and committed to safeguarding the people and the land.

CoTU's General Secretary, Lamminlun Singsit said that even after the completion of the eight long violent months, it is very unfortunate we are yet to see the willingness of the Government to address the grievances and demands of the Kuki-Zo people.

He said that the dominant Meitei people continue their unceasing aggression over the Kuki-Zo people and currently they are unleashing their terror upon the Kuki-Zo in the border town, Moreh.

He continued that they are keeping in touch with their counterparts in Churachandpur, the ITLF, and vigilantly monitoring and taking stock of the situation in Moreh and will act according to the situation.

## KNA-B RULES OUT INVOLVEMENT IN MOREH FIRING INCIDENT

The public relation wing of Kuki National Army – Burma (KNA-B) on Wednesday issued a statement ruling out the alleged involvement of KNA-B or foreign mercenaries in Moreh gunfight. The KNA-B finds the allegations laughable, hilarious and obnoxious as such accusations are regrettably groundless and unfounded much like the previous statements originating from a Meitei CM of Manipur, N. Biren Singh who is stereotypically hooded with the venomous poison of racism and bigotry. Before concocting any wild allegations, the stereotypical Meitei CM is advised to know the basic ideological tenets of KNA-B, the statement said.

“The gun fight tragically broke out between the village volunteers who were the vanguards of Kuki villages in the hills and the Meitei militia, Arambai Tenggol who were camouflaged as Manipur state police commandos. The constant provocation, looting, burning of houses and beating innocent civilians impel the Kuki village volunteers to act against such harassment, coerciveness and incendiary nature of Manipur state police force,” the statement added.

Mentionably, the KNA-B is fully aware of the current political gridlock that has been happening in the Indian Territory at this crucial juncture. However, being an organisation embodying principles and ideologies, it refrains not only from indulging in areas which are beyond its ideological perspectives but also from interfering in the political affairs of the Indian Territory. Moreover, the KNA-B is also critically observing the involvement of Meitei secessionist militants inside the Myanmar territory who are siding in cahoots with the Myanmar Military Junta to destabilize the northeastern states of India.

It is reiterated that the name of KNA-B should not be dragged unnecessarily to create a wrong narrative on the contemporary communal issue pertaining to the Meiteis in the valley and the Kukis in the hills. It also cautioned the Meitei CM of Manipur that any intention to tarnish the image of KNA-B will not augur well and politely requests to refrain from making further any such irresponsible statements ever again in the future, it added.

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## ZORO CONDEMNS HIGHHANDEDNESS OF POLICE COMMANDOS AT MOREH

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Zo Reunification Organization (ZORO) Secretary, L Ramdinliana Renthlei, expressed vehement condemnation for what they describe as “alleged atrocities” committed by the Manipur Police and their purported partners, referred to as “Meitei terrorist organizations,” against Zo descendants in Moreh and its surrounding areas.

Renthlei declared, “We strongly condemn the act of Manipur Police Commando and their partners, the Meitei terrorist organizations, against Zo descendants in Moreh and its neighboring regions.”

ZORO accused the Manipur Police of collaborating with various Meitei organizations, terming them as accomplices in a concerted effort to eradicate the Zo tribes. Renthlei emphasized, “We want to make it clear that we cannot be wiped out so easily, and we assure the Zo tribes that we will continue to stand for them.”

The statement shed light on the ongoing ethnic clashes in Manipur, revealing significant struggles faced by the affected communities. Despite the prevailing unrest, the Indian government’s silence on the matter has drawn severe criticism from ZORO. Renthlei articulated their dissatisfaction, stating, “Despite the numerous struggles arising from ethnic clashes in Manipur, the Indian government has remained silent, a stance we strongly condemn.”

Renthlei further questioned the Indian government’s commitment to the well-being of the Zo tribes, asking if they are regarded as part of the Indian bloodline. He urged for the government’s intervention in the matter, emphasizing the need for addressing the ongoing ethnic tensions. “We want to question if they consider us as Indian blood and demand their intervention in the matter,” he added.



## 'GAS NEWS' – THE ONLY GENUINE NEWS STORY COMING OUT FROM MEITEI MEDIA HOUSES

The Meitei media at their usual best has resorted to publishing another imaginary event as news item which is devoid of any facts and evidences. The Meitei media houses today intentionally carried a fake news headlines about a gunfight between two Kuki militant groups – Kuki Revolutionary Army and Kuki National Front (Military Council) at New Keithelmanbi area of Kangpokpi district on Wednesday. However, the news report itself is misleading and concocted to suit the personal agenda of Meitei media houses. The Meitei media houses are synonymous with fabricated news stories without authentication.

As per sources culled from the spot, it was the village volunteers who guarded the buffer area from potential Meitei attack. Contrary to the news report, any gunshots or firing, if any, could potentially be from village volunteers and not the militants.

The Meitei media on several occasions have reported fake stories about Kukis in an attempt to paint a negative image of the Kukis. The Meitei social media handlers aided by their mainstream media houses have been infamous for publishing fake stories about infighting among Kuki militants in the past too, which has been debunked on many occasions.



The only genuine stories coming out from the Meitei media houses is 'Gas News,' all other stories are concocted and imaginary on many occasions, especially when it comes to matters related to the Kukis. The Meitei media houses in the past have also published fake stories about infighting between ZRA and UKLF at Chiengkongpang in Lamka town, which was fact checked in a previous issue of TLM, and the stories turned out to be imaginative events of a Meitei journalist.

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## JAC READY TO CLAIM ALL DEAD BODIES AFTER GOVT ACCEPTS CHARTER OF DEMANDS

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Manipur while condemning the brutal killing of people at Lilong Chingjao on January 1 said that they are ready to accept the dead bodies of the individuals killed in the incident after reaching a consensus with the state government of Manipur.

The JAC has demanded the case to be handed over to the National Investigation Agency by the Manipur Government. The committee in its charter of demands also mentioned that other than the established Central and State forces and agencies, any other voluntary of independent organisation should not be allowed to enter in the Meitei-Pangal inhabited areas of Manipur afterwards.

The committee in a memorandum to the Chief Minister

N Biren Singh urged the government to permit formation of Meitei-Pangal village protection force in all Meitei-Pangal inhabited areas of Manipur with immediate effect. The committee has demanded the state government Rs 10 lakh ex-gratia per victim killed in the incident and Rs 2 lakh per injured victim. In addition, the JAC also urged the state government to provide suitable government jobs to the kin of the victims who had been killed in the incident.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) has specified in the memorandum that the government of Manipur must meet the demands within 48 hours. In the event of non-compliance, the relatives and the JAC will refrain from claiming the dead bodies.

## ASSAM RIFLES CHASED AWAY BY MEIRA PAIBIS; REFUTES MEITEIS' ALLEGATIONS OF SIDING WITH KUKIS

Taking advantage of the withdrawal of AFSPA in the Imphal valley areas, the Meiteis in general and Meira Paibis in particular have continuously blocked the Central Security Forces including Assam Rifles from performing their duty as a peace keeping force in the ongoing Manipur mayhem.

Vilifying the Assam Rifles, blocking their duties and creating inconveniences to the central security forces have become new norms in the "undisturbed" valley of Imphal under the leadership of N. Biren Singh.

One among the many instances is the Assa Rifles personnel being caught and chased away by the so-called women vigilante group of Meira Paibis in the paddy field of Heirok, a video which had gone viral on social media. It is a clear evidence of the central forces being mistreated by the Meiteis in their zeal for secessionist movement. Forget about the minority Kuki-Zo community, even the central security personnel, particularly the Assam Rifles, are neither safe in the Meiteis dominated districts nor allowed to diligently perform their duties.

In another video which went viral on Wednesday evening, a Meitei mob and Meira Paibis blocked the patrolling party of Assam Rifles at Lamsang, Imphal West, who were heading towards Singda, Koutruk and Kadangband, the buffer zone areas between the warring parties. In the video, the Assam Rifles troops with bullet proof vehicles were seen blocked by the Meitei mob for reasons best known to them.

On the other hand, the Assam Rifles has refuted the Meiteis' allegations of the para-military troops supporting Kuki volunteers in preparation of bunkers in Koutruk - Haraothel region of Kangpokpi district, a video of which had gone viral on social media platforms.

In a statement, the Assam Rifles clarified that the individuals shown in the video were troops of Assam Rifles who have been tasked to occupy posts to prevent any violence in the area.



The Assam Rifles said fortification of the post by placing sandbags being carried out had been circulated on social media with a false narrative of Assam Rifles assisting a community in preparation of bunkers. "The bunkers have been prepared for occupation by Assam Rifles only. The allegation that Assam Rifles troops are supporting Kuki volunteers is totally false," it stated.

It is worth noting that the troops of Assam Rifles along with CRPF have been deployed at Lumdong Top from December 23 to create a buffer zone between the two warring communities of Koutruk village to ensure no incidents of violence occur.

# CENTRE ALL SET TO SCRAP THE FREE MOVEMENT REGIME (FMR) ALONG THE MYANMAR BORDER

As per media reports on Tuesday, a senior government official has said on January 2 that the Centre is all set to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border.

The report stated that as per the officials, people living in border areas who could cross over to India will soon require visas, the official added.

India and Myanmar share an unfenced border and people on either side have familial and ethnic ties which prompted the arrangement in the 1970s. It was last revised in 2016.

The official said that around 300 km of the border will be fenced and a tender will be issued in the next few days and he added that a survey of the border areas with the help of drones has been complete.

Amid apprehension that States such as Nagaland and Mizoram may oppose the move, the official said, "Border security is Centre's domain. We may take note of their concerns but the final decision is of the Union government. We are in talks with Myanmar." stated the report.

Under the FMR, every member of the hill tribes,

who is either a citizen of India or a citizen of Myanmar, and who resides within 16 km on either side of the border, can cross the border on production of a border pass, usually valid for a year, and can stay for up to two weeks per visit.

It is worth mentioning that the Manipur government has suspended the FMR since 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said on September 23, 2023 that he has urged the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to cancel the FMR along the India-Myanmar border and complete its fencing.

Regarding the Free Movement Regime (FMR) which allows citizens living along the border on either side of India and Myanmar to travel up to 16 km inside the other country, without a Visa, Biren had said that the state government has advised the Centre to permanently close the FMR with Myanmar.

The chief minister had said his government has a firm belief that the Centre will also consider the request for closing the Free Movement Regime.



**In the eyes of the people, the general  
who wins a battle has made no  
mistakes.**

— Voltaire

**OPINION**

## RECONCILIATION, THE KUKI-ZO WAY

In olden times, the Kuki-Zo people had a system of reconciling conflicts which was unique. However, more than the system through which it was resolved, the more honourable part was that both side kept their words. They not only forgave, they also reconciled.

In our society, when there were conflicts between people over any issue, be it over land, hereditary claimant to eldership, chiefship, discord over animals, mistaken killings, or even inter-village boundary disputes, they followed a system called Ki Twilut. The conflicting parties or claimants would be called to the river or any water body. The priest would perform certain rituals and one person each from opposing groups would be asked to dive inside the water together. The belief is that the wrong claimant would find it hard to stay under the water and float whereas the person who was right would not find it difficult to stay beneath. This was how conflicts were resolved and the losing party also respected the verdict. However, it didn't end there.

The person who lost the 'trial' would be made to cut a pig, and both the parties would dine together. Thus, the conflict was not only resolved, but emphasis was given on reconciliation between the parties

concerned, and that was Khankho. There was also a belief that whoever doesn't honour that verdict later, or would till harbour vengeance, would receive a curse.

In the current context of Manipur within the Kuki- Zo groups, there was a misunderstanding in the late 1990s. The wise leaders of the time, realising the foolishness of what had befallen them, met and charted a course of peace. They not only signed a peace declaration, they also reconciled over a feast which was to signify that reconciliation is now complete. Dining together was also to signify that, as a family, we would all endeavour to maintain that concord. It was not to be broached again.

Therefore, if any leader or laymen refer to such issues as had happened in our past, or still harbour anger and vengeance spirit, such people have erred. They have not followed the paths of our fathers or our traditions. The right-thinking people should admonish them, and if anyone persist, it would be the duty of the concerned party to ostracise him/her for that person or party have dishonoured his/her community.

# THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

**Kautilya3** @Kautilya33

"This is too much", he says.

Why don't you arrest them, CM Biren Singh? What are you afraid of?

**Sumkawn** @Sumkawn · 6h

### The Writing is on the wall

Biren Singh is so worried about his private militia when they are out of his control.

Let the central Govt. re-impose AFSPA in all the Valley districts of Manipur...

[Show more](#)



9:35 PM · Jan 3, 2024 · 283 Views

**Arunachalite** @arunachalite

"Before the connection of the British Government with that of Munnipore took place, the latter, not to speak of exerting influence over the tribes, was unable to protect the inhabitants from their aggressions"

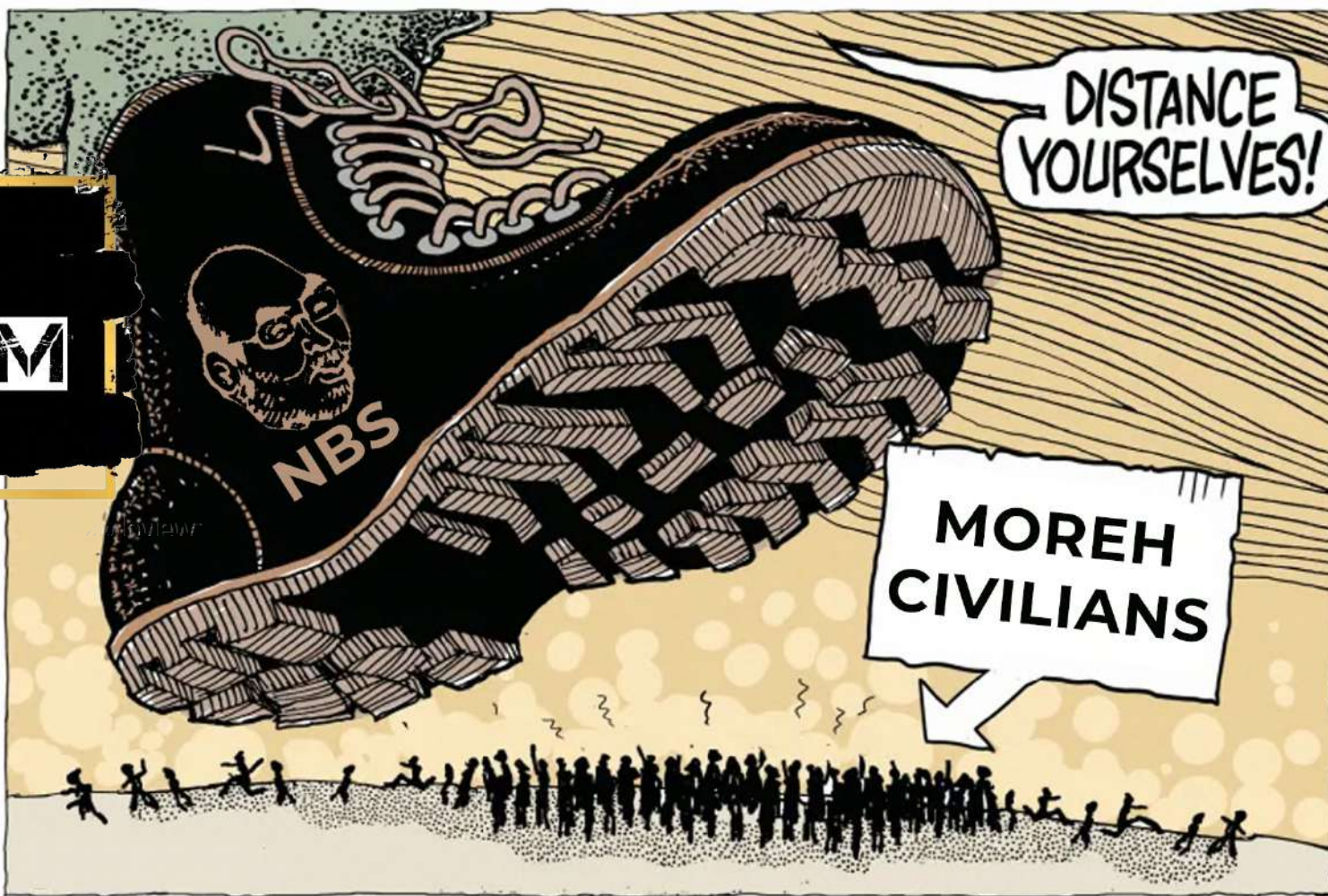
As for the tributes, the hill tribes never paid tribute regularly.

"Before the connection of the British Government with that of Munnipore took place, the latter, not to speak of exerting influence over the tribes, was unable to protect the inhabitants of the valley from their aggressions, or to resist their exactions of black mail, and even after the conclusion of peace with Burma, and the fixation of a boundry for Munnipore, the majority of the tribes were independent, and known to us little more than by name."

**Source: McCulloch, W., Account of The Valley Of Manipur And The Hill Tribes**



## BIREN'S STEP





# A Pledge- Over Your Dead Bodies

Left in the forlorn for months,  
Out there not to be found  
Burnt to ashes unlike our custom,  
Butchered, trampled and sacrilegied,  
You had witnessed it all in its fulness.  
Your fate, was it God's designed?  
No! it was rather the devil's plot.  
Still, some lived lifeless till then,  
Confined to your world of four walls,  
Helplessness our only bond  
A peep through the glass our relationship  
Flooded with tears though a drop not shed  
No time to mourn yet we mourn silently  
Till the dawn of that morn to mourn you!  
Finally, you are now laid to Rest,  
In a place which is yours  
In defense of which you died for,  
Amidst the Obituary of Guns' salute  
The Kuki-Zo in unison Pledge solemnly  
To defense our Ancestral land,  
We pledge to be one, no matter what.  
Over your dead bodies!

-Rev. Lunkhofen Baite