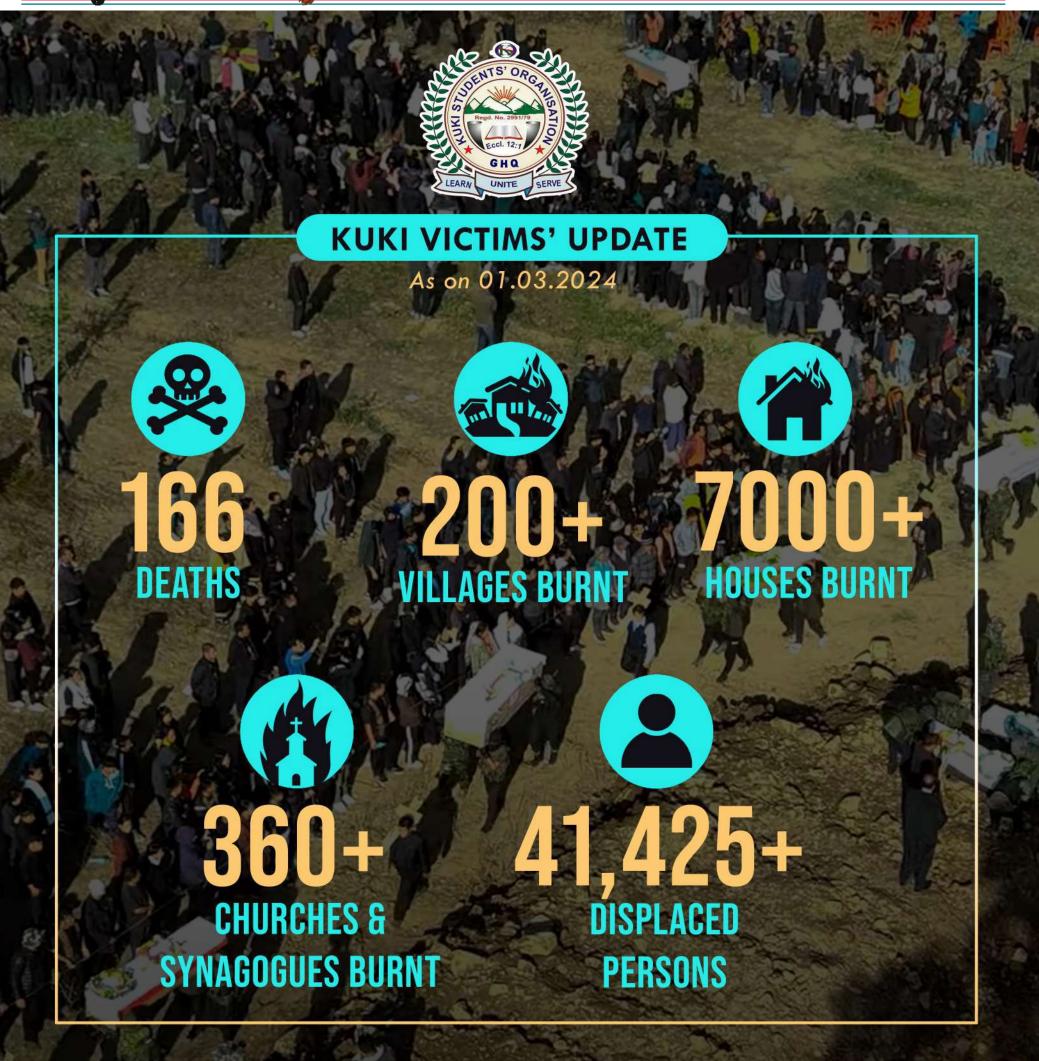
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The North Contraction Cell A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

## MONTHS

OF MEITEI ATROCITIES ON KUKIS

#### Thingkho Le Malcha



**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.





#### HEIGHT OF INJUSTICE: KUKIS DECRY 10 MONTHS OF STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM; TOTAL SHUTDOWN TO FOLLOW IN KPI

Exactly ten months ago, on May 3, 2023, pre-planned violence erupted in Manipur when the majority Meitei community started attacking the minority Kukis. The violence still continues and day by day it is becoming apparent that it is a state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom on the Kukis.

As per government figures, 213 lives have been taken, around 5000 houses have been burned down, around 70,000 people have been displaced from their homes. According to the data maintained by the various tribal bodies, 166 Kukis have been killed, more than 300 Churches and 4000 houses have been burnt down by the Meiteis armed groups and the Meitei Police/ Commandos.

The communal Meiteis perpetrated heinous crimes against the Kukis - women were tortured, raped and murdered. Some Kuki men were beheaded, and some even burnt alive.

Today marks the 10 months of ethnic cleansing of the Kuki community, and yet still no justice for Kukis or credible effort for restoration of peace is at sight. The Kukis endured the highest form of injustice and the Government of India is still oblivious to their woes and their legitimate demand for a separate administration. Even after 10 months of tragedy, relentless attacks on the Kukis in the buffer zones are still being carried out by the heavily armed Meitei radicals like Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, UNLF (P) and the other VBIGs.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) said, "The ongoing 10th month of ethnic cleansing carried out by the Meitei against the Kuki-Zo community is a grave injustice that demands immediate attention. Innocent lives have been tragically lost, with our women subjected to degrading public



displays". The Kuki-Zo body demanded that the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their crimes.

In Kangpokpi district, the Kuki body, under the aegis of Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), observed a program to decry the ten months of injustice arising out of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom. Prayers for fulfilment of the separate administration demand were held in every church within the district.

In the evening, CoTU paid tribute to the Kuki-Zo Martyrs who had supreme sacrifices for the land and its people at Martyrs Cemetery, Phaijang village.

24-hour Total Shutdown will follow in the district tomorrow in protest against the biased Manipur Assembly's Resolution for abrogation of Suspension of Operation (SoO) pact with the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups. SoO was signed in 2008 between the Government of India and the two umbrella Kuki groups of Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF). Tripartite political talks have been going on for Kukis' political problems.





## WORLD KUKI ZO INTELLECTUAL COUNCIL URGES CENTRE TO Review and transform soo agreement as bilateral

The World Kuki-Zo Intellectual Council(WKZIC) has urged the Centre to review and transform the SoO agreement as bilateral.

WKZIC issued a release on Sunday urging the Centre to discard the phrase "to uphold the territorial integrity of Manipur State" and the same should be effective in the Hill areas or outside the boundary of the Valley districts in the state, for the good of both the Meitei and the Kuki community who have been absolutely divided since 3 May, 2023.

In a release issued on Sunday, WKZIC stated that they are shocked to know how the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement signed between the Government and the conglomerate of UPF-KNO has been resented so much by the Meitei Centric communal Government of Manipur which led the government to taking a decision to abrogate the SoO agreements signed in 2008. WKZIC mentioned that the State cabinet meeting on 10th March 2023 took a decision to abrogate the tripartite talk and ceased as a party to the talk a few days before the current Kuki genocide in the state began which is allegedly sponsored by the state government.

WZKIC stated that the Central government has been strictly maintaining SoO ground rules to check the involvement of the UPF- KNO cadres in the appalling Meitei war against the Kuki Community which is against the expectation of the concerned public.

In fact, the Kuki people wanted them to be involved in the current civil war to protect their people but it has been restricted and prohibited by the agreed 500 ground rules. Besides, the Arm Forces Special Powers Act of 1958 in the Hill areas has also been enforced in hill areas alone as such the Central Paramilitary forces and State Police are operative in the hills to oversee the execution in parallel with the SoO ground rules simultaneously, stated the release.

WKZIC stated that the state government which is deathly opposed to the SoO in the hill areas ironically



PRESS RELEASE The 3rd of May, 2024

The World Kuki-Zo Intellectual (WKZIC) Headquarters: Songpi-Lamka, India is shocked to know how the Suspension of Operation (SoO) signed between the Government and the conglomerate of UPF-KNO has been resented so much by the Meitei Centric communal Government of Manipur State leading to take decision to abrogate the SoO agreement singed since 2008.

It is pertinent to mention that State cabinet meeting has taken decision to abrogate the tripartite talk on 10th March, 2023 and ceased as a party to the talk, just before the current Kuki-Zo Genocide in the state, sponsored by the state.

Meanwhile, the Central government has been strictly maintaining **SoO** ground rules to check the involvement of the UPF-KNO cadres in the appalling Meitei war against the Kuki-Zo Community which is against the expectation of the concerned public.

In fact, the Kuki-Zo people wanted them to get involved in the current civil war to protect them but it has been restricted or prohibited due to the agreed SoO ground rules. Besides, the Arm Forces Special Powers Act of 1958 in the Hill areas has also been enforced in hill areas alone as such the Centre paramilitary forces and State Police operative in hills oversee the executions in paralled with the SoO ground rules simultaneously.

The state government which is deathly opposed to the Suspension of Operation in the Hill areas brought back the banned UNLF (P) and other splinter VBI groups and signed Ceasefire only to be used for the state crusade of extermination and displacement of the Kuki-Zo people living across the state.

Whereas, the anti-social, arrogant and snobbish nature of the Meitei centric state government towards the Kuki-Zo community is like putting salt to the wounded hearts of them.

That, the beleaguered Kuki-Zo people have long been waiting for the positive outcome of the political dialogue between the Indian government and KNO-UPF since 15 June, 2016. However, nothing concrete result came out as yet except the cadres were used deceptively in vested political interest of Union Government much with disenchantment of the concerned public.

What the concerned public thought about the credibility of the SoO agreement thus signed should have its time bound fruition in the form of political solution as appraised by the respected official interlocutor Shri AK Mishra.

This Council acknowledging the bitter opposition of the SoO agreement by the Meitei People as has been resolved on 24 January 2024 at Kangla Fort during oath taking ceremony under the banner of the Meitei National flag ie; Salai Taret phiral. And consequently, The resolution for abrogation of the SoO agreement was adopted by the Manipur State Assembly Session held on 29 March 2024.

Now, therefore, the Centre Government is urged to review and transform the agreement as bilateral one and discard the obsolete phrase " to uphold the territorial integrity of Manipur State" and the same should be effective in the Hill areas or outside the boundary of the Valley district in the state, for the good of both the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo community who are absolutely divided since 3 May, 2023.

(SHOMANG) Director, Information & Publicity WKZKC

brought back the banned outfit UNLF (P) faction and other splinter VBI groups and signed a Ceasefire agreement only to be used in the state crusade of extermination of the Kuki people living across the state.

Whereas, the anti-social, arrogant and snobbish nature of the Meitei centric state government towards the Kuki community is like adding salt to their wounded hearts, it added.

Further the release stated that the beleaguered Kuki people have long been waiting for a positive outcome of the political dialogue between the Indian government and KNO-UPF since 15 June, 2016. However, it is yet to yield a concrete result to date and the cadres are used deceptively in vested political interest of Union Government much to the disenchantment of the concerned public, it added.





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#### **CBI FILES CHARGE SHEET AGAINST 7 IN MANIPUR ARMS LOOT CASE**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet against seven accused in connection with the looting of arms and ammunition from the Bishnupur police armoury during the Manipur ethnic violence last year, officials said on Sunday.

The CBI recently filed its charge sheet before the court of chief judicial magistrate in Kamrup (Metro) in Assam's Guwahati.

The accused named in the charge sheet are Laishram Prem Singh, Khumukcham Dhiren alias Thapkpa, Moirangthem Anand Singh, Athokpam Kajit alias Kishorjit, Loukrakpam Michael Mangangcha alias Michael, Konthoujam Romojit Meitei alias Romojit, and Keisham Johnson alias Johnson.

On August 3 last year, a mob looted more than 300 weapons, 19,800 rounds of ammunition and other accessories from two rooms of the 2nd Indian Reserve Battalion headquarters at Naranseina in Bishnupur.

Around 9,000 bullets of different calibres, an AK series assault rifle, three 'Ghaatak' rifles, 195 self-loading rifles, five MP-5 guns, 16.9 mm pistols, 25 bulletproof jackets, 21 carbines, and 124 hand grenades, among other things, were looted by the mob, according to officials.

A crowd had gathered there to march towards Churachandpur where tribals were planning to carry



out a mass burial of their people killed in the ethnic clashes that broke out in Manipur on May 3 last year.

As many as 219 people have lost their lives and several hundred have been injured since the ethnic violence broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

#### Views of TLM:

It is very surprising to note that none of the 2nd IRB officers or personnel who were responsible for the safety and security of the campus, and for the safety of the arms and ammunition were suspended and no departmental action taken. If the same scenario was played out in Kuki Hills, the Commandant and the other Officers would have been suspended straightaway by the Meitei Home Minister.

# If someone puts their hands on you make sure they never put their hands on anybody else again.

– Malcolm X





#### Thingkho Le Malcha

## KUKI REFORMATION FORUM (KREF) ENDORSE COTU Shutdown on March 4

The Kuki Reformation Forum (KReF) has endorsed its support to the 24 hrs total shutdown/rally imposed by the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) on March 4 and demanding the declaration of Union Territory by the Central government at the earliest.

A release issued by KReF stated that as per COTU, the rally will be organised over the alleged 'Communalized Resolution' of the Manipur State Assembly, by the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) and other CSOs in all the Kuki dominated hill districts of outer manipur, India.

According to information available in The Print (10 March, 2023-ANT), the Government of Manipur had already withdrawn its participation in the Tripartite Talk of KNO-UPF and Gol-GoM last year on the 10 March 2023 thereby making the talk to be a Bipartite Talk between KNO-UPF and Gol, who after various deliberations finally signed a 'Final Agreement' for Union Territory (UT) with Legislature on Puducherry pattern on the 31st Aug-2nd September 2023, stated the release.

The Kuki Reformation Forum (KReF) also appealed to the Government of India to 'Declare' at the earliest the Final Agreement made with Kuki SoO groups to fulfill the long-cherished dreams of the Kukis, that has been continuously denied for the last 75 long years, and not to bother over the insensible and illogical hindrances posed by the Meiteis and the Manipur State Government.

KReF stated that it is a long pending due of the Government of India towards its 'Freedom Fighting'



Ref.No.09/KReF/(PR)/2024

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

"Endorsement of COTU Shutdown/Rally & <u>DECLARATION OF UT BY GOVT. OF INDIA AT THE EARLIEST</u>" 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2024

The Kuki Reformation Forum (KReF) fully endorsed the **'24 HRS. TOTAL SHUTDOWN'** on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 over the alleged **'Communalized Resolution'** of the Manipur State Assembly, by the **'Committee on Tribal Unity'** (COTU) and other CSOs in all the Kuki dominated Hill districts of Outer Manipur, India.

According to information available in **'The Print'** (*10 March,2023-ANI*), the Government of Manipur had already withdrawn its participation in the **Tripartite Talks** of KNO-UPF & GoI-GoM last year on the 10 March 2023, making the Talks into Bipartite Talks between KNO-UPF & GoI, who after various deliberations finally signed a **'Final Agreement'** for Union Territory (UT) with Legislature on Puducherry pattern on the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug-2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2023.

The Kuki Reformation Forum (KReF) therefore humbly made this appeal to the Government of India to 'Declare' at the earliest the Final Agreement made with Kuki SoO groups to fulfill the long-cherished dreams of the Kukis, that has been continuously denied for the last 75 long years, and not to bother over the insensible and illogical hindrances posed by the Meiteis and the Manipur State Government, who evicted Kuki tribals from their 700 Sq. miles territory, burning down 360 Churches, 200 Kuki Villages of 7000 + houses and killed in cold blood 186 innocent Kukis and displaced 41,425+ in various designated Relief Camps and another 50,000 in various Metro Cities and states in India.

It is the long pending dues of the Government of India towards its '*Freedom Fighting Kuki Community*' during WWI against the British Imperial Army and then in the WWII under **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** in 1942-45, along with the Axis Powers of Italy, Germany and Japan. Jai Hind



2. Guard File.

Kuki Community during WWI against the British Imperial Army and then in the WWII under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1942-45, along with the Axis Powers of Italy, Germany and Japan, the release added.





### SUGNU PEACE COMMITTEE CONDEMNS CM BIREN'S REMARK At assembly over serou violence

Sugnu Peace Committee strongly condemned Chief Minister Biren Singh's assertion in the state assembly that the committee was responsible for the destruction of Serou.

Toijam Bimol, a worker who was rescued by the Peace Committee, speaking to the media today at Manipur Press Club refuted Biren's baseless assertion and stated that "the committee played a significant role in numerous rescue efforts during the peak of violence in May". Bimol highlighted that on May 9, the committee successfully rescued 99 Meitei workers, including 9 women and 1 child, who were stranded at Khongkhai, Churachandpur District. He added: "without the Peace Committee's intervention, these 99 individuals would have faced the risk of losing their lives".

Contrary to the baseless claims of Biren, it is important to note that the Peace Committee, constituted by the Kukis and the Meiteis, was the reason for zero violence in Sugnu and Serou in May 2023, even when the whole of Imphal Valley was set ablaze by the Meitei miscreants, watched by the bystander Manipur Police. The Peace Committee of Sugnu channeled its energy on the rescue efforts and on ensuring the safety of the local population during the heightened violence.

#### Views of TLM:

This latest attempt by Biren to sow seeds of discord is not his first, and it will not be his last. It is ingrained in his DNA to create fissures as long as it is politically beneficial for him. Further, the Peace Committee of Sugnu was the sole reason why the Meiteis in Sugnu were able to buy time to plan, to strategise and to allow the infamous Manipur Police Commandos and



the Arambai Tenggol to suddenly attack the Kuki villages in Sugnu and to finally drive out the Kukis from Sugnu. Some commentators even argued that the Peace Committee itself was formed at the behest of Ranjit and Biren just to buy enough time to transport arms and ammunition to Sugnu for the Sugnu Meiteis.





#### MANIPUR POLICE NAB FIVE KCP-N CADRES IN FOUR DAYS

In a major crackdown on insurgent activity, 2 KCP-N cadres arrested KCPs arrested in past 4 days, says Manipur police, according to a statement released today.

The arrests began on February 28, 2024, with the apprehension of three KCP-N members identified as Loushambam Alin (25), Herish Maibam (22), and Bela Oinam (22).

Police recovered a 9mm pistol with ammunition and Rs 4 lakh in cash from their possession.

Capitalizing on the information gleaned from the initial arrests, authorities conducted further operations.

On March 2, 2024, they apprehended two more KCP-N cadres – Khoinaijam Robertson Singh (23) and Khaidem Naoba Meitei (20) – in Imphal West and Kakching districts.



These militants were allegedly involved in extortion activities, and the police seized two mobile phones, a vehicle, and incriminating documents during their arrest.

"The arrests are a significant blow to the KCP-N's activities in the region, particularly their attempts to extort money from civilians," a police spokesperson said.



#ManipurViolence:

The ongoing 10th month of ethnic cleansing carried out by the Meitei against the **#Kuki\_Zo** community is a grave injustice that demands immediate attention.

Innocent lives have been tragically lost, with our women subjected to degrading public displays. #ManipurHorror

We call for justice to be served against these heinous acts, which have caused immense suffering and devastation. The perpetrators must be held accountable for their crimes.

#ManipurKukiZoGENOCIDE #MeiteiWarCrimes #UnionTerritory4Kuki\_Zo

9:05 pm · 03 Mar 24 · 97 Views



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Dr. Lamtinthang Haokip 🧇 @DrLamtinthangHk

Decadal Growth (2012-2022) of 3-main communities in Manipur as stated by Mr. @NBirenSingh in the ongoing Manipur State Assembly Session, 2024. Meitei/Meitei-Pangal: 18.1% Kuki\_Zo: 10.2% Naga: 19.9%

Any ill-informed & ill-intent will still say Demographic Explosion in Manipur due to illegal immigrants of one particular community..!

@rashtrapatibhvn @HMOIndia @INCIndia @adgpi @TeestaSetalvad @kclangel @SushantSin @VishuAdv @Kautilya33 @majoramitbansal @TribalArmy @meipat @Polytikles @the\_hindu @thewire\_in @IndiaTodayNE @PTI\_News



11:06 pm · 03 Mar 24 · 36 Views



#### KSO COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN KAMJONG DISTRICT INAUGURATED, PROVIDING EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED KUKI-ZO STUDENTS

In a heartwarming and significant development, Elder Jangkhothang Haokip today inaugurated the KSO Community School at Phaikoh under Kamjong district, a beacon of hope for displaced Kuki students who had to flee the turmoil in the region. The initiative, under the collaborative efforts of KSO GHQ and KSO Kamjong, aims to provide a safe environment for education for those students who fled the strife-torn zones.

The program witnessed the presence of numerous prominent leaders and Civil Society Organizations from the district who came together to show their support for this noble cause. With 560 students already enrolled, the school is set to make a tangible difference in the lives of these young individuals seeking a brighter future.

Located in Phaikoh Village under the jurisdiction of KSO Kamjong district, the school has already garnered immense appreciation from the leaders who were present in the program. They have also vowed to support the initiative in any way possible, showcasing their determination and commitment towards education and progress.

To mark the occasion, Phaikoh Village graciously hosted the participants with a delightful service dinner, symbolizing the unity and solidarity prevalent in the community. The KSO Kamjong expressed their happiness to those leaders in the area, CSO leaders, and other dignitaries who came to join the inaugral program.

Mention may be made that KSO Community School was also set up under the initiative of KSO Churachandpur at Tuibong, few days ago. In the wake of the Manipur mayhem, KSO aims for zero drop-out rate of children attending School.







#### Thingkho Le Malcha



There are many people who find it hard to believe that the Kukis had fought the mighty British for almost three years, i.e., from 1917-1919. For them, the tribals of those days were still considered "barbaric", "uncivilized", "savage", and had no skill to face the British soldiers who were equipped with the most advanced weapons available in Europe.

However, they don't realise that the Kukis in India and their brethren Chins in Burma had been using "muzzle loading guns" (thihnang) and country made cannons (pumpi) on a large scale since the early 19th century. They were also able to manufacture these weapons along with the pounding gun-powders on their own as long as they had the raw materials.

It may be noted that thihnang was first imported from abroad, probably from ports connecting Asia with Europe, and later manufactured locally. Pumpi is purely an indigenous weapon invented by the Kukis using the same technology used in thihnang though it is much bigger in size.

During the initial days of the current ethnic violence, many journalists from mainland India and abroad found it difficult to accept that the tribal Kukis, whose population is just about one-third of the Meiteis, could face them. Perhaps they were often surprised to see how

the Kukis could fight the Meiteis who are backed by the State government for months until they came to know that the locally manufactured thihnang and pumpi could stop the hordes of marauding Meitei militias who possessed thousands of automatic rifles looted from the state armories.

For the radicalized Meiteis, it was probably assumed that the Kukis who are just few lakhs in population will not be difficult to wipe out as many of them settled in Imphal and in the foothills. Initially, since the Kukis were not at all prepared, they were successful to some extent. The ethnic cleansing in Imphal was completed, and many of the villages in the foothills were also destroyed within a few weeks.

However, these radicalized Meiteis soon realized that they had miscalculated the strength of the Kukis. Though the ethnic war appears to be asymmetric for all practical purposes, the Kukis are able to stand strong in the face of this statesponsored ethnic cleansing campaign thanks to their thihnang and pumpi, and the advantage they have in the battlefield being traditional hunters. As the war dragged on, the Kukis are now able to

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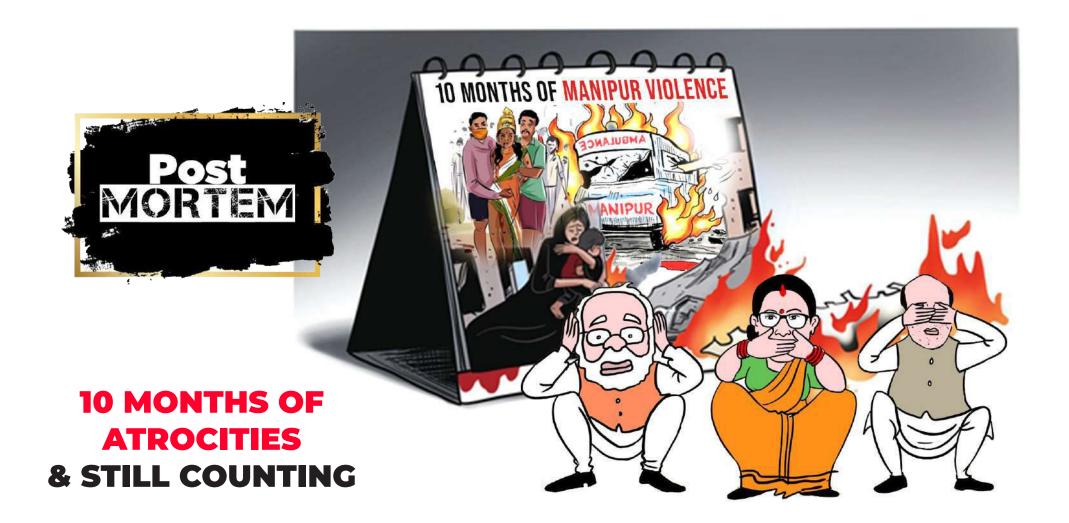


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manufacture more and more weapons using the same technology. They are even able to test semi-long range cannons which can be fire from a distance of 2-5 km.

Now that the violence has completed ten months, the Meiteis who know the Kukis better than any other communities, and even those who are new to them but have been following the current ethnic violence, must realise that the strength of the Kukis' line of defense along the buffer zones doesn't lie in modern weapons like automatic rifles and RPGs as some people in the media often claim, but in their locally produced weapons such as thihnang, pumpi, and others including those semi long-ranged wheeledcannons named after David Thiek and Baby Issac.

In ten months, there is no turning back for the Kukis. And they wouldn't give-up even if they are to fight for another ten months. The state-sponsored Meitei militias, VBIGs, and state forces may keep attacking the Kuki-Zo villages, and may even kill them, but it is unlikely that they will submit to the communal Meitei state whose intention is to wipe them out from the soil of Kangleipak. Any sane person among the Meitei community must now realize that they have chosen the wrong path.









## Who will forget MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023?

Like Hitler's anti-Semitic ideology, Biren declared the Kukis as foreigners, Similar to the Nazis' Aryanization of Germany, They began the Meitei-nization of Manipur. Like the Angel of Death at Auschwitz, They brutally murdered many Kukis in Imphal. Similar to the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, They enacted laws to define Kukis were not native. Like assigning yellow stars to Jews, All Kuki households were marked.

Who will ever forget May 3rd, 2023? Like the Nazis' final solution for the Jews, May 3rd was the final solution to eliminate the Kukis. In the Kuki hills of Manipur, May 3rd will never be forgotten, Though no one wishes to remember. For many, it will be remembered as -The day they lost their loved ones, Their smiles never to be seen again, Their sweet voices never to be heard again. In Imphal, the Kukis were chased like wild animals, Their homes torched and looted, Even the police, supposed to protect them, Aided the majority in fulfilling their wishes. And the central forces watched helplessly, Like spectators at the Colosseum in Rome, There are no questions of human rights around the world, Even after ten months had passed, as if we are animals.

Like Hitler and his SS team faced trial after WWII, When will Biren and his men face trial? They are waiting for your answers. Who are they, you ask? They are -

The parents whose daughters were raped and killed; The mother whose son never returned from work, The husband whose wife was killed on the road, Children whose parents were burned alive in their car.

Whoever is in power and has the capacity to solve, But never pays attention and never tries, May meet the fate of Klaus Grabowski, the rapist, At the hands of Marianne Bachmeier, the mother of the victim.

- Hillsman J. Tearsworth

