

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



16 MONTHS

of unabated Meiteis' atrocities
upon KUKI-ZO

"ONWARD FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION"



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.

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST KUKI-ZO VOLUNTEERS DEEMED UNFOUNDED: KUKI INPI

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has strongly condemned a recent press release issued by the Home Department of the Government of Manipur. The statement, released on September 1, 2024, accused Kuki-Zo village volunteers of employing high-tech drone bombs against Meitei militants during a fierce encounter at Koutruk, located on the border between Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts.

According to KIM, these allegations are baseless and lack credible evidence. The organization asserts that there is substantial documentation proving that Meitei forces have effectively used drones, including those acquired through crowd-funding efforts, for advanced technological operations. KIM argues that the Home Department's claims are designed to mislead the public and media, creating a false narrative that unfairly targets the Kuki community.

The KIM's statement also raises concerns about the timing of these allegations. They suggest that the drone bombing narrative might be a tactic to divert attention from a controversial audio leak involving Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. The leaked audio reportedly includes discussions by Singh about his involvement in bombings against the Kuki-Zo community and his efforts to protect Meitei interests.

The KIM emphasizes that accusations against the Kuki-Zo people are not new and that statements from the state government should be scrutinized for accuracy. They cite a series of issues highlighting the strained relationship between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, including restricted access to certain areas, exclusion of Kuki-Zo representatives from the State Legislative Assembly, and the removal of Kuki-Zo



PRESS STATEMENT

Lamka, the 3rd September, 2024

04/KIM/PR./22-72: The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) vehemently condemns the press release issued by the Home Department, Government of Manipur, on September 1, 2024, regarding the fierce encounter between Meitei militants and Kuki-Zo village volunteers at Koutruk, bordering Kangpokpi and Imphal West districts. In the release, the state government had accused the Kuki-Zo volunteers of using a high-tech drone bomb against the Meiteis.

The allegations against the Kuki-Zo people is totally unfounded, with no credible evidence. Contrastingly, it is well-documented that the Meiteis have utilized drones effectively, including through crowd-funded efforts to acquire advanced drone technology. It is beyond doubt that the irresponsible statement from the Home Department was intended to create confusion among the masses and the media, and to create a misleading narrative that distorts the facts and unfairly maligns the Kuki community.

Further, it is highly suspicious that the recent narrative of drone bombings is fabricated to divert attention from the audio leak involving the Chief Minister of Manipur Shri N. Biren Singh. The protest against this audio leak has gained significant momentum from all quarters, including national political parties. In the audio, the Chief Minister explicitly discusses his involvement in bombing the Kukis during the current conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Meiteis, and his efforts to protect the Meiteis.

The baseless and unfounded accusations against the Kuki-Zo people made by the Government of Manipur, without any substantial evidence, are not new. Any statements issued by the state department under the leadership of the Meitei Chief Minister regarding the current conflict must be verified for authenticity. Due to the de facto separation between Kuki-Zo and Meiteis in all spheres -such as restricted access to areas, the inability of our elected representatives to attend the State Legislative Assembly, and the removal of Kuki-Zo bureaucrats from the Manipur Secretariat and Police Headquarters -we do not trust the state government.

Janghaolun Haokip
(JANGHAOLUN HAOKIP)
Secretary, Information & Publicity
Kuki Inpi Manipur



bureaucrats from key government positions.

The KIM's response underscores a deepening mistrust between the Kuki-Zo and the state government, emphasizing the need for transparent and verified information to address the ongoing conflict and its implications for all parties involved.

KSO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS CRITICIZES MEDIA REPORTING ON MANIPUR VIOLENCE

The KSO General Headquarters has expressed significant concern over recent media reports and statements regarding the ongoing violence in Manipur. The organization is calling for clearer, evidence-based reporting and is urging media outlets to avoid biased and unfounded claims.

The KSO General Headquarters has specifically addressed claims about the use of drone-bombs by the Meitei community against the Kuki. While there have been reports of such incidents since early December 2023, these claims gained renewed attention after recent allegations from the Meitei community. The KSO contends that many media outlets, including prominent figures, have propagated these allegations without substantial evidence.

Notably, Republic TV's Arnab Goswami recently claimed that there had been 50 aerial bombings in Manipur. The KSO General Headquarters refutes this assertion, stating that there is no credible evidence to support such a claim. They highlight a recent incident where Kuki Village Volunteers successfully intercepted and handed over a drone reportedly used by the Meitei to security agencies.

The KSO General Headquarters also questioned allegations that members of the Kuki National Front (KNF) received specialized drone attack training in Myanmar. They emphasize the need for reliable, independent verification of such claims.

Additionally, the KSO criticized media coverage for lacking balance and accuracy, particularly regarding the role of the Meitei community, which they argue dominates the state's political landscape. They challenge Arnab Goswami and other media figures to conduct on-the-ground reporting in both the hills and valleys of Manipur to provide a more comprehensive view of the conflict.



KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

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Regd. No. 2991 of 1979

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. KSO Churachandpur (Manipur) | 10. KSO Assam | 19. KSO Mumbai (Maharashtra) |
| 2. KSO Sadar Hills (Manipur) | 11. KSO Dibrugarh (Assam) | 20. KSO Pune (Maharashtra) |
| 3. KSO Chandel District (Manipur) | 12. KSO Silchar (Assam) | 21. KSO Bangalore (Karnataka) |
| 4. KSO Tengnoupal (Manipur) | 13. KSO Karbi Anglong (Assam) | 22. KSO Tamu (Myanmar) |
| 5. KSO Ukhrul (Manipur) | 14. KSO Tripura | 23. KSO Hyderabad (Telangana) |
| 6. KSO Jiri-Tamenglong (Manipur) | 15. KSO Shillong (Meghalaya) | 24. KSO Rajasthan |
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| 8. KSO Kamjong (Manipur) | 17. KSO Kolkata (W. Bengal) | 26. KSO Kerala |
| 9. KSO Guwahati (Assam) | 18. KSO Chennai (Tamil Nadu) | 27. KSO Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) |
| | | 28. KSO NC Hills (Assam) |

Ref. No. Date 03-09-2024.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The KSO General Headquarters is deeply concerned by the recent statements and claims surrounding the ongoing violence in Manipur. It is imperative to address these allegations with clarity and a commitment to evidence-based responses.

Since early December 2023, the utilization of drone-bomb against the Kuki by the Meitei has been mentioned, but nobody pays heed until an allegation of the same was levied by the Meitei in the recent incident, and then almost every media outlets pop up with various so-called "experts" with bias opinions blaming the Kuki with all unfounded reasoning, without any assumption of its truth.

Pertinent to this, Mr. Arnab Goswami on Republic TV live claimed that there were 50 aerial bombings in Manipur. At present, there is no substantial evidence to support his claim of fantasy. The absolute truth is that, the drone was used to bomb the Kuki areas but fortunately, the Kuki Village Volunteers who were patrolling the surroundings near buffer-zones shot down the drone of Meitei which was flying under the air-space of the Kuki hills and handed over to security agencies.

Furthermore, claims that members of the KNF received specialised drone attack training in Myanmar need to be corroborated with reliable sources. It is important to verify such information through independent and credible reports rather than relying on unconfirmed allegations.

The KSO General Headquarter would like to place a few points in addition: Since the Valley based Meitei community controls all the four pillars of the state, if the Republic TV's Arnab Goswami shows its interest in telecasting the truth about the Manipur conflict he needs to come down to Manipur and do the ground report in both the hills and valley.

Regarding the involvement of foreign agencies, we believe that RAW and IB has the best knowledge. The assumptions and allegations made by the so-called experts are beyond our level.

The KSO General Headquarters calls out all Media outlets to stick to ethical reporting rather than "ethical reporting".

Issued by
Department of Information & Publicity
KSO General Headquarters



The organization also raised concerns about foreign agency involvement, suggesting that the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) are better positioned to address these issues. They urge media outlets to focus on ethical reporting rather than sensationalized or biased narratives.

The KSO General Headquarters calls on all media platforms to adhere to ethical journalism standards and avoid contributing to misinformation and ethnic biases.

ITLF SCHOOLS ARNAB GOSWAMI OVER ALLEGATIONS OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN MANIPUR CONFLICT

In response to the Republic TV's Arnab Goswami debate on Manipur conflict, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has issued a statement urging Arnab Goswami to exercise journalistic responsibility. The department has called for more accurate and impartial reporting to prevent the spread of misinformation and to ensure that the public is informed about the true nature of the conflict.

Arnab Goswami, the prominent television anchor of Republic TV, has reignited national interest in the Manipur conflict with recent claims of foreign involvement. During his prime-time show, Goswami suggested that international actors, including China and the United States, are influencing the ongoing violence in the region. These assertions, however, have been met with skepticism due to a lack of substantiated evidence and real intelligence data.

Sources from the Army intelligence on the ground have yet to confirm any foreign intervention in the Manipur conflict, which has largely been characterized by severe ethnic strife between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. Goswami's claims have raised questions about whether his comments are intended to divert

attention from recent controversies involving Manipur's BJP Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh.

Leaked audio tapes have implicated Singh in the conflict, with revelations that he discussed the situation with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Critics suggest that Goswami's remarks may be a strategic move to shift focus away from these damaging leaks.

Reports indicate that the Meitei have driven the Kuki-Zo from their homes, destroyed their properties, and caused significant casualties. The Kuki-Zo community has responded defensively, with calls for a separate Union Territory under the Indian Constitution as a means to secure their rights and safety.

Further complicating the narrative, a recent social media post by Meitei climate activist Licypriya Kangujam claimed that drones equipped with bomb-dropping capabilities have been used in the conflict. This assertion aligns with a widely shared video from September 1, 2024, which showed advanced artillery being used against Kuki-Zo areas.

KNO CONDEMNS ATTACK ON KUKI-ZO CIVILIANS, DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST INSURGENT GROUPS

In a statement, the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) has vehemently condemned the attempted ambush on Kuki-Zo civilians in the Kangchup area of Sadar Hills. The KNO described the attack, which led to a firefight and widespread fear among the community, as a heinous act of violence aimed at terrorizing and intimidating the Kuki-Zo people.

The KNO accused Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), along with Arambai Tenggol and Manipur State Forces, of being behind the assault. The organization

has called for immediate and decisive action from the authorities to address and prevent such attacks, emphasizing that the safety and security of their community must be a top priority.

"The KNO stands firm in its commitment to protecting the rights and lives of the Kuki-Zo people," the statement read. The organization pledged to continue its efforts toward achieving justice and lasting peace in the region.

WHEN WILL OUR FREQUENT FLYER MAKE 'HUMANITARIAN' VISIT TO MANIPUR: CONG'S DIG AT PM MODI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a visit to Brunei and Singapore, the Congress took a swipe at him on Tuesday, asking when will "our frequent flyer" make a 'humanitarian' visit to the troubled state of Manipur.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Brunei on September 3-4 at the invitation of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all existing sectors.

He is slated to visit Singapore on September 4-5 at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The non-biological PM is making what is being billed as a 'historic' visit to Brunei, after which he goes to Singapore. When is our frequent flyer going to make a 'humanitarian' visit to the troubled state of Manipur?"

The situation in Manipur continues to be very tense, despite claims to the contrary being made by Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, he said.

"Today is exactly 16 months since the eruption of violence in Manipur, which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds and the displacement of thousands of people who live in abysmal conditions in relief camps," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"It is beyond belief that Mr. Narendra Modi has still not found the time or the inclination to go to the state and interact with political parties, civil society groups, and the people themselves," he said.



Ramesh also tagged a media report which quoted an emissary appointed by Biren Singh to bridge the gap between the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi communities as saying that it was "difficult to mediate amid violence" in an "environment which is not conducive for talks".

The Congress on Friday had wondered why Prime Minister Modi can't be the peacemaker by visiting violence-hit Manipur when he is going "all over the world" trying to play that role.

Ramesh had asserted that the Manipur chief minister has "lost all credibility" and things cannot improve under him.

Ramesh's remarks had come in response to Singh's interview to PTI in which the chief minister has promised to fully restore peace in the state in six months with the Centre's help, and also ruled out stepping down, saying he has neither committed a crime nor spawned a scandal.

Ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities has claimed more than 200 lives in Manipur since May last year. (Outlook)

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: SEPTEMBER 02 & 03, 2023**A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON SEPTEMBER 02 & 03, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO****SEPTEMBER 02, 2023:**

Since the commencement of the ethnic tensions in Imphal, the Kuki-Zo community has been forcibly displaced from Imphal. Nevertheless, 24 Kuki-Zo individuals chose to remain in Imphal despite numerous threats and challenges. These individuals frequently found themselves wrongly accused by the Meiteis of burning Kuki-Zo houses, with the Meiteis attributing to them the wrongdoings they had themselves committed.

However, as the situation in Imphal escalated, the Indian Army, CRPF, and BSF collaboratively conducted a midnight evacuation of these remaining Kuki-Zo residents. They were initially transported to IGAR(S) and subsequently relocated to Motbung. With the safe evacuation of the last remaining Kuki-Zo, Imphal is now completely devoid of any Kuki-Zo residents, marking an absolute separation between the two communities.

In the early hours of the morning, around 4:30 AM, an armed group associated with the Meiteis initiated an attack on Kangchup Geljang, Kangpokpi. The attack was met with resistance from the central security forces. Regrettably, one house located near the SDO Office in Geljang was set ablaze by the Meiteis during the incident. Fortunately, there have been no reported casualties on our side.

The firing and attacks on Kuki-Zo villages (Khouabung-Khoirentak-Lonphai-Chingphei) persist, with the Meiteis employing bombs and mortars as their weapons of choice. The villages have endured severe assaults throughout the entire day. Remarkably, village volunteers who remained in these areas have expressed a sense of divine protection, noting that a significant number of bombs dropped near their positions failed to detonate.

In a retaliatory action, it has been reported that three armed Meitei individuals were killed. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported on our side, highlighting the resilience and vigilance of the village volunteers in the face of these ongoing challenges.

SEPTEMBER 03, 2023:

The Meitei armed groups have persisted in their attacks on the Khoirentak area, employing tactics such as sporadic bombings and sniper fire throughout the day. They operate from strategically fortified bunkers within their controlled territories, using long-range rifles to target our village volunteers.



Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.

- Mark Twain



Mr. Arnab Goswami Republic channel's debate on foreign countries' involvement in the ongoing crisis in Manipur has made the Kukis his latest victim. From Farmer protest to Shaheen Bagh CAA/NRC protest, Arnab Goswami's speciality on insinuating and bringing in foreign element involvement is beyond doubt and second to none, his favourite toolkit to assassinate rightful protestors. His toolkit includes keywords among others, Khalistani, George Soros, China and Pakistan. His mastery in character assassination of innocent victims from JNU students to Aryan Khan stands at par with his own mastery in misleading the citizen with propaganda and fake news. If there is a Nobel prize for spreading fake news and fake propaganda, North Korean journalists will have a tight competition with Mr. Goswami.

Mr. Goswami made the Kukis so important that the rival world super powers unite for their cause. The "War rukwadi, papa" advertisement looks so lame as compared to this propaganda. Any one will find it more amusing once they ponder on the benefit USA and China can gain for their supports. The reality is Manipur in general and Kuki districts in particular are strategically important for India but not for China and USA. Their interest, if any, in Bangladesh and Myanmar cannot be an excuse to defame the Kukis.

As an instance, they both have good relationships with some Muslim countries but are at war with some others. If you want to go a little deeper, their relationship with Rohingya Muslims and Iranians respectively are contradictory to the relationships they have with friendly Muslim countries. The interest of their own countries is what matters for them, not the community they have good relationship in some countries.

China has multiple, anti-India, secessionist terrorist organisations including Meitei militant outfits operating in India's North-East to serve their interests when they need by causing unrest and some of these outfits they sponsor have bad blood with the Kukis. Thus will they sponsor the Kukis at the cost of their loyal allies in India? Manipur is not open to any oceans or sea routes that can serve the USA's interest in the Indian ocean region. Thus the question is when their wisdom is what made them a super power, will they be so gullible to invest in somewhere where they will not get any benefit in return? Also, anyone familiar with the current situation in the USA will know that the country has done more to lean away from traditional Christian

Contd.

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values to accept a more liberalistic nation that it is impossible for their government, especially the current Left/Liberal government, to concern itself about creating a Christian nation somewhere in a country that it has good relations with.

By making these repeated false allegations against the Kukis, they in the process shame India at global levels. It will definitely raise an eyebrow on Indian journalists' intelligence capacity. Then again, serving Biren's propaganda and in turn, the BJP (which Arnab openly advocates for blindly) agenda must have been more important than India's prestige globally.

Had Mr. Goswami been a real journalist, before conducting the debate, he would have satisfied himself with the following questions - Why were Meitei terrorists organisation travelling together with Manipur police on their way to attack the Kukis? Why did those convoys take along an artillery weapon that can fire multiple local made bombs at one go? Can Manipur police be treated as a reliable source? If utilisation of drones for surveillance in this conflict is a serious crime, why was the Modi and Biren government silent on the repeated utilisation of drones to attack Kukis on previous, multiple occasions? Was it not the Kuki boy whose hand got chopped off and pinned on a tree the victim of drone surveillance attack by Meitei terrorists? Why was the outrage by Kukis so much so that thousands boycott voting in the last general elections not given the same empathy? What is the proof that those drones belong to the Kukis and not Meiteis when the leader of Arambai Tenggol himself admitted on Facebook that it was theirs? Why are Meitei activists who publicly crowd-fund to purchase drones and other military equipment for Meitei terrorists not booked and held accountable? The list can go on but a real journalist would satisfy himself before conducting a debate on national media. Isn't it his responsibility as a journalist to do the fact checking before reporting the news or conducting a debate?

Mr. Goswami's credibility among the true nationalists and rationale Indians is so low that, if you become his victim, it cements your credibility of being on the right side of history. Thus it is both fortunate or unfortunate that the Kukis become his latest victim. Unfortunate because his audience and fans will once again be misguided and become a victim of his fake propaganda, and fortunate because millions of Indians will be made aware of the organised propaganda orchestrated by Biren Singh and his allies to defame the Kukis to hide the ethnic cleansing war crimes they have committed against the Kukis.

Had he been a real, objective journalist, Mr. Goswami will not only raise the above questions but will hold Mr. Biren to task on his leaked audiotapes since what India and 'The Nation' really wants to know is what is the role of N. Biren Singh in the ethnic cleansing? If he is a real journalist seeking the truth, he will hold BIREN accountable as a fourth pillar of democracy. He will be the voice of the voiceless Kukis, who despite their immeasurable injustice, have got no space on Indian national media to voice their story. Well, from a man that celebrated the martyr of our jawans in Pulwama and a man who is out on bail for TRP, it is not surprising that as a human and as a journalist he chose to be a propagandist rather than a journalist.

History will remember the silence of Indian national media on the authentic audiotapes of Mr. Biren admitting to orchestrating the ethnic violence towards the Kukis and history will not be kind to them. If Biren is convicted of being the main culprit behind the injustice and atrocities towards the Kukis, then the Indian national media and the likes of Arnab are responsible for their continual suffering for more than a year.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Vijaita Singh @vijaita

Follow

For nearly 16 months, both the Union and State governments have been content with using security forces to maintain law and order through the creation of buffer zones between the hills and the valley and for the political status quo to remain intact. Repeated violence and the inability of both governments led by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to work out any breakthrough that will allow for even a dialogue between civil society representatives from these communities suggest that this policy is a failed one- The Hindu #manipur

thehindu.com/opinion/editor...

10:02 · 03 Sept 24 · 4,851 Views



Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh

The non-biological PM is making what is being billed as a 'historic' visit to Brunei, after which he goes to Singapore.

When is our frequent flyer going to make a 'humanitarian' visit to the troubled state of Manipur?

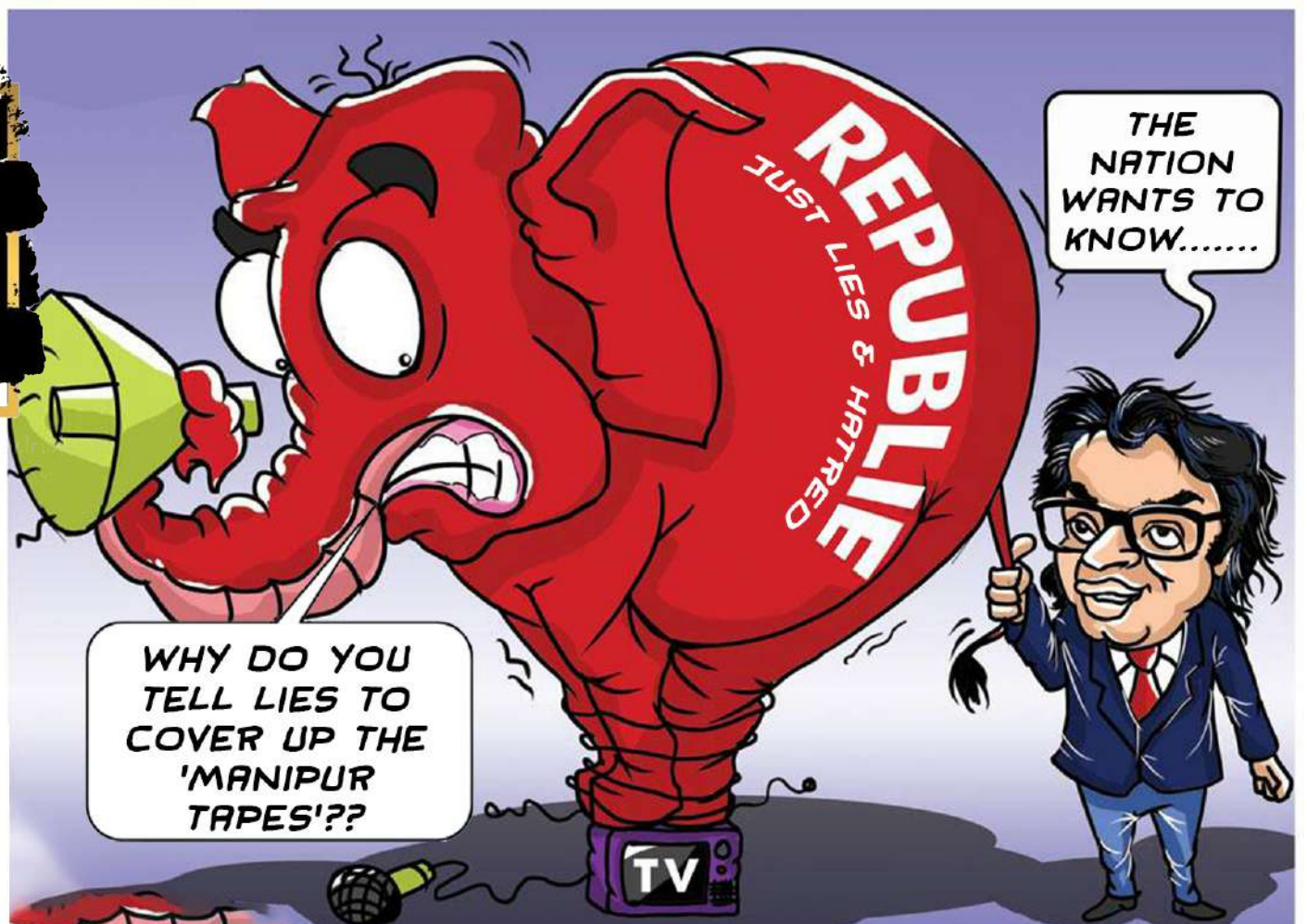
The situation in Manipur continues to be very tense, despite claims to the contrary being made by the CM of Manipur. Today is exactly 16 months since the eruption of violence in Manipur, which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds and the displacement of thousands of people who live in abysmal conditions in relief camps. It is beyond belief that Mr. Narendra Modi has still not found the time or the inclination to go to the state and interact with political parties, civil society groups, and the people themselves.

theprint.in/politics/cm-bi...

8:38 · 03 Sept 24 · 9,502 Views



NATION WANTS TO KNOW, ARNAB....





FRAYED

Smitha Sehgal

Blind and deaf,
My hands are smeared in blood.
I light the shuddering lamp
invoking scriptures
for a mute God this morning.
Turning around silence
pleating my brazen lies,
I drape nine yards of cowardice
tucking in the first edge of fear
as my brethren are dragged from homes
stripped and walked,
herded as cattle along the weathered path
around my village. Ribs, thigh, haunches.
Their burning skin becomes mine
as the opaque sun flickers on the blades of grass.
I draw a fishtail
on the shadow of my coal-smeared honour
and nail the last cross on my tongue
when they are led into fields amidst
jeers and war cries.
Silence is a snake on the frayed edges
of shame when there is nothing more to be inked
upon this battlefield of my bruised body.

Smitha Sehgal writes two poems in solidarity with the women of Manipur, who have been targeted in the months-long ethnic violence in the state. *Courtesy: outlookindia*