

Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

THANGGOULUN TUNGNUNG
Apenri: 21/1/2008
Athiri: 3/5/2023

AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGGOULUN TUNGNUNG [16 Y/O]

S/O LALMINLIEN ZOU

ADDRESS: CHAVANGPHAI, MOREH, TENGNUPAL DISTRICT

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: CHAVANGPHAI, MOREH, TENGNUPAL DISTRICT

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI POLICE COMMANDO



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



185
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 APEX BODY REJECTS STATE FORCES DEPLOYMENT PLAN IN KANGCHUP-LEIMAKHONG REGION

The Kuki Inpi South-West Sadar Hills has voiced strong opposition to the purported deployment and establishment of Manipur state forces including the Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) outposts in the conflict-torn Kangchup and Leimakhong regions within the Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District.

The General Secretary of the Kuki Inpi South-West Sadar Hills, Thangkhup DOUNGEL said that recent developments have shed light on the State Government's plans to deploy and establish state forces outposts, notably at Kangchup Geljang village and other areas within Kangchup and Leimakhong.

However, amidst mounting tensions following the Kuki and Meitei conflict that erupted on May 3, 2023, and the subsequent handling of the conflict by state government and its forces, including the Indian Reserve Battalion, there has been a growing sense of mistrust and widespread skepticism regarding their presence and actions, maintained DOUNGEL.

He also underscored that, in light of the current robust and effective security measures already in place courtesy of the Assam Rifles and other Central forces in the Kangchup and Leimakhong regions, the deployment of additional state forces is deemed superfluous.

DOUNGEL further reiterated that as the paramount authority representing the Kuki Civil Society in Leimakhong and Kangchup areas, the Kuki Inpi South-West Sadar Hills vehemently oppose the proposed deployment of state forces in these regions.



Office of the
KUKI INPI, SOUTH-WEST SADAR HILLS
(Leimakhong, Kangchup and New Keithelmanbi Area)
Admin. Office : Veitum Kholen - 795113
Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, Manipur

Ref. No.: SP/Kpi/01/2024

Date: 04/06/2024

To

The Superintendent of Police,
Kangpokpi District, Manipur

Subject: Objection to the Deployment and Creation of State Forces including Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) Outpost in Kangchup and Leimakhong Area in Kangpokpi District, Manipur

Respected Sir,

It has come to our attention from reliable sources that the State Government plans to deploy and create state forces outposts at Kangchup Geljang village and other parts of Kangchup area and Leimakhong area. However, given the recent Kuki-Zo and Meitei conflict that erupted on May 3, 2023, and the subsequent handling of the conflict by state forces including Indian Reserve Battalion, we have deep mistrust towards their presence. Furthermore, with the current security provided by Assam Rifles and other Central forces in the Kangchup area, and Leimakhong area we believe additional state forces are unnecessary.

As the apex body of the Kuki Civil Society organization in Leimakhong and Kangchup areas, we strongly oppose the proposed deployment of state forces in these areas.

We earnestly urge your kind attention to this matter and request that you inform the higher authorities accordingly. Failure to do so may lead to untoward incidents for which the state government will bear the consequences.

Copy to:

1. Deputy Commissioner, Kangpokpi
2. Guard file

With regards,


(Thongkhup DOUNGEL)
General Secretary
Kuki Inpi, South West Sadar Hills

While earnestly urging the attention of SP Kangpokpi to inform the higher authorities about their firm stance, DOUNGEL cautioned that the failure in doing so may result in untoward incidents, for which the state government will be held accountable.

A YEAR ON, NUMBER OF FIRS BROUGHT DOWN FROM 11,000 TO 3,000

A year after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, the clean-up of records has brought down the total number of violence-related First Information Reports (FIRs) from over 11,000 to around 3,000, a government source told The Hindu.

The number of cases had shot up due to overlap, several duplicate FIRs for the same incident and thousands of Zero FIRs, the official said. Zero FIRs are filed irrespective of jurisdiction and are later transferred to the police station where the crime took place.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said that the people should be united and there should be no attempts to divide the society. "Those who have committed the crimes should be prosecuted legally. I appeal to the people from both sides to surrender weapons", Mr. Singh told The Hindu.

More than 4,500 weapons were looted from various police armouries after the ethnic violence erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. Till now, around 1,800 weapons have been recovered or surrendered by the civilians. The conflict is between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the majority Meitei community.

The government source said that thousands were displaced and due to the prevailing law and order situation they registered FIRs at places convenient to them, which also included neighbouring States.

"If an arson has taken place in a village, several FIRs were registered for the same crime, a team was constituted that cleaned up the records", said the source.

According to a status report filed by the State government on August 1 last year, 4,766 regular FIRs were registered till July 30 the same year. Out of 11,414 Zero FIRs, as many as 6,621 FIRs were converted to regular FIRs, the report said, adding that "there is an overlap of offences".

The death toll in the initial three months of the violence stood at 150, while subsequently 71 others have been killed, bringing the death toll to 221. As many as 15 members of the Kuki-Zo community and 32 members of the Meitei community have been missing for a year.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

KSO RELEASES "THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA" IN SAIKUL AND NEW DELHI



The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) unveiled its publication titled "The Indelible Trauma" in simultaneous events held at Saikul and New Delhi.

At Saikul, the book was officially released by Ch. Ajang Khongsai, President Kuki Inpi Manipur and a similar releasing event was also held at New Delhi under the aegis of KSO Delhi & NCR. The book was formally released by Rev. Tongminthang Haokip, Pastor, Kuki Worship Services Delhi.

HUMANITY PERISHED IN MANIPUR, SAYS KHARGE

Congress on Friday attacked the Centre and Manipur govt over the situation in the strife-torn state, accusing it of being indifferent and cold-hearted. The day marks one year of the ongoing ethnic conflict in the state.

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Humanity perished in Manipur. The cruel combination of an apathetic Modi Government and an inept BJP State Government have virtually divided the state into two halves."

Questioning the silence of PM Narendra Modi on the situation in Manipur, Kharge wrote, "A remorseless PM Modi has not set foot in this border state, for it exposes his rank incompetency and absolute indifference.

His ego has damaged the social fabric of a beautiful state." ..

"Due to the BJP, normalcy and peace evades Manipur," he added. Kharge said the people of Manipur, from all communities, now know how the BJP made their lives miserable.

"The people of northeast now know that the Modi govt's shameless drum beating about so-called development drowned the voices of humanity in the region. People of India now know that PM Modi and his govt has no iota of sympathy for the countless lives they destroyed in Manipur," the Congress chief said.

He claimed that more than 220 people have been killed, 60,000 people have been displaced and thousands,



including women and children, still continue to languish in camps.

Kharge said there is no semblance of governance in Manipur and that law and order has collapsed. Congress President Kharge accuses PM Modi of targeting Muslims, misleading people during Lok Sabha elections rally. Claims unity crucial, BJP aims 400 seats to snatch rights. Modi frustrated, resorting to Hindu-Muslim comments.

PM Modi challenges Congress on Article 370, CAA, and religion-based reservation. Congress's silence raises suspicions. Kharge invites debate on manifesto, asserts Congress's vote bank represents all Indians, criticizes BJP's reservation stance. Congress president Kharge criticizes PM Modi for spreading lies, diverting attention from BJP's actions, and urges him to focus on performance rather than hate speeches and religious mobilization. (Source: TOI)



You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice.

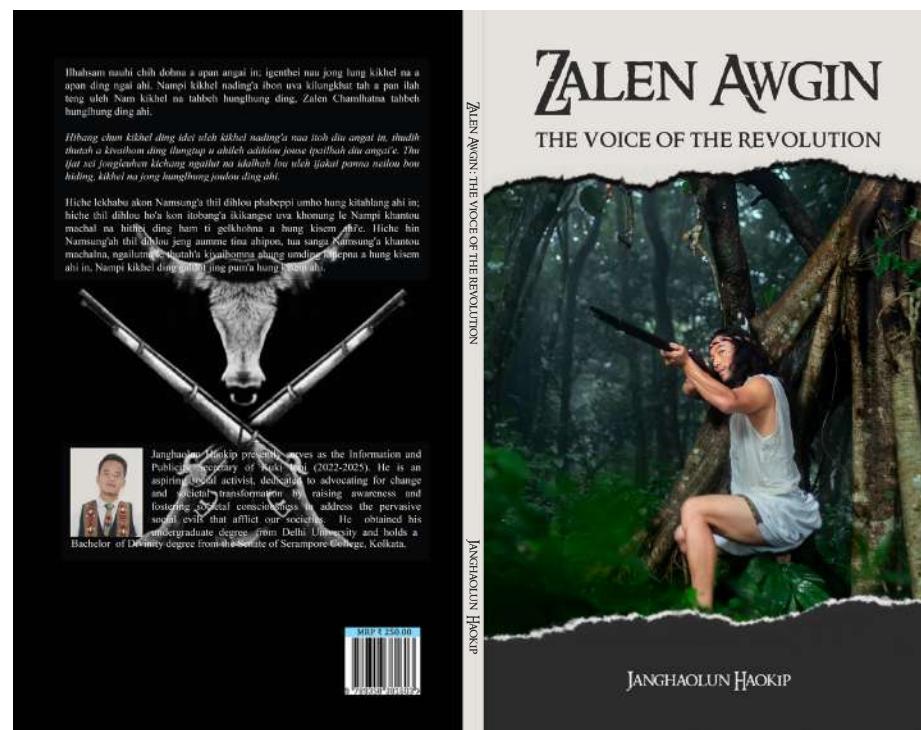
– Bob Marley

ZALEN AWGIN (THE VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION): A SYNOPSIS

“Zalen Awgin” is a collection of short articles primarily studying the socio-political concerns of the Kuki people, aimed at paving a way forward for a just, strong and harmonious society. The book highlights various pressing issues and challenges within the Kuki community, proposes theories to address such concerns and suggests a way forward for the Kuki people.

The book comprises of 41 chapters addressing leadership and administrative crisis within the Kuki society: the failure to establish a common and unified platform, vicious contentions for power and influence, and incompetence in leadership. Additionally, it addresses the issues of chieftainship and traditional values, such as the rising strife for land ownership against the resolute claim for traditional chieftainship rights as the sole owner of the land, along with a deliberation on the values and vanity of various traditional practices. Moreover, it highlights critical social concerns such as people’s ignorance of social roles and responsibilities, the dangers of narrow-shallow perceptions, mindsets, and mentalities, and the neglect of moral-ethical values that have been in practice for ages. The book also draws attention to issues in religion, education, economy, and challenges to the unity and integrity of the Kukis.

Acknowledging these critical concerns, the book attempts to bring about solutions through logical



exploration and dialectical reasoning, proposing theories for reconciliation, revolution, and reformation for the Kuki people. Amid the ongoing ethnic persecution against our people, the book aims to instil a new consciousness to the masses to further the true cause of the people and to inspire true allegiance to overcome the inhuman subjection of our people, the systemic oppression, and suppression of our rights and privileges guaranteed by the constitution of India. The book may be read as a socio-political theory aimed at revitalising the Kuki society to its past glory.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

LOADING...

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: MAY 04, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON MAY 4, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

The Meitei radicals patronised by the fascist regime were horrifyingly let loose to kill, rape, attack churches, schools and Kuki houses in different parts of the state. The relentless attacks persisted from early morning until late night, leading to complete destruction of 524 houses belonging to Kuki-Zo, along with their churches and schools, and approximately 3430 people displaced.

BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte was waylaid in broad daylight by Arambai Tenggol on his way home after meeting with narcissistic CM N. Biren Singh. His driver was beaten, electrocuted and died at the spot. Vungzagin Valte was tortured, left unconscious and was shifted to New Delhi in an air ambulance. **Another BJP Minister Letpao Haokip was also attacked** by a Meitei mob led by Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tenggol cadres in Thoubal. He barely managed to escape while two of his vehicles were torched.



The most horrific scenes of the day were that of the Kuki-Zo women who were subjected to inhumane treatments. **Three Kuki women were paraded naked and groped by the mob** towards the paddy field in the presence of the Meitei state police in Thoubal district.

Another two women were dragged out of their home in Imphal by the Meitei womenfolk - Meira Paibis, and were given to the radical youth of Arambai Tenggol and



Meitei Leepun to rape them. They were brutally assaulted, their heads shoved, gangraped before they were murdered.

Three Kuki-Zo innocent civilians were chopped and burned alive in different locations of greater Imphal.

Another three Kuki-Zo daily wage labourers, who were employed at a construction site in Imphal, faced gruesome attacks. They were forcibly pulled out from their rented accommodation and subjected to merciless violence. Two of them were stoned to death in the middle of the road, while the other survivor, **Mr. David Liansianmuan, has a massive stone tied to his legs to prevent from fleeing** and he was left to die in the middle of the road. Remarkably, a medical doctor at RIMS mortuary discovered signs of life in him, and he was subsequently transferred to Lamka District Hospital for treatment.

On this day of last year, **28 innocent lives of Kuki-Zo were mercilessly taken in the most barbaric and inhumane way.** Despite the ongoing turmoil, the law enforcement agencies remained mute

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spectators and CAPF/Army were still not given orders to intervene.

In Kangpokpi District between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM, three specific Kuki-Zo villages had experienced brutal attacks which resulted in the **leveling of 87 houses, including complete destruction of three churches, as well as a lower primary aided school.** Approximately, 900 people were forcibly displaced.

In Lamka District, **four Kuki-Zo villages were subjected to violent attacks, leading to destruction of 68 houses, along with three churches and two schools.** Roughly, 180 people internally displaced.

In Thoubal District, **nine Kuki-Zo villages were razed to the ground. 112 households were completely destroyed** by the Meitei radical groups. Villagers fled for their lives.



On May 4, 2023, the pre-planned state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom had claimed at least 33 Kuki-Zo innocent lives from the atrocities committed by members of the Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, Meira Paibis and Meitei mob. Some of them were shot dead, some bludgeoned to death, burned alive, raped and murdered, beheaded and hacked to death with machete.

SOCIAL MEDIA THE BUZZ

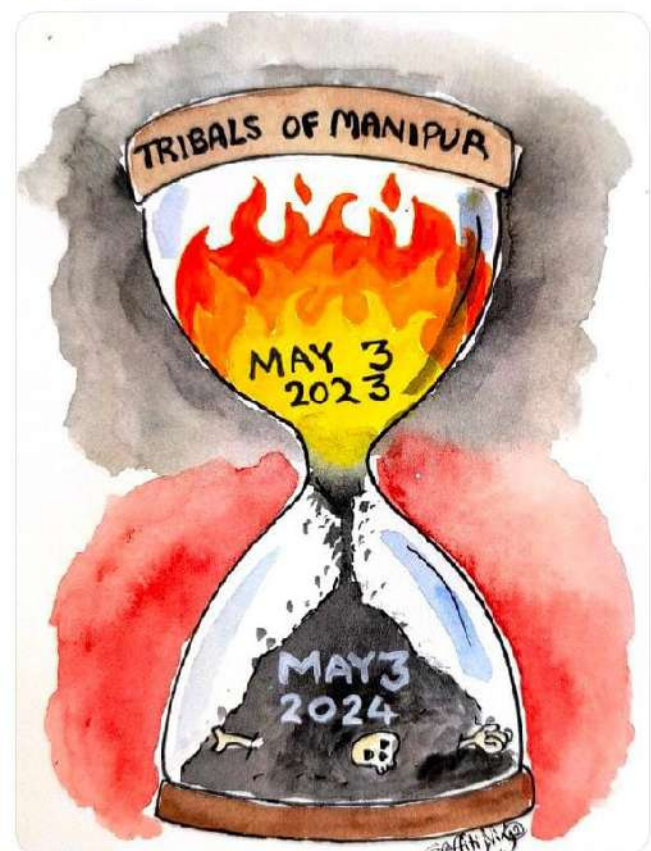
Sushant Singh @SushantSin

Wow. This is a BJP CM justifying taking away of more than 4500 lethal weapons from state armouries. For self-defence. Then what was his state government and the Modi government doing in Manipur?



9:03 pm · 04 May 24 · 3,827 Views

Graffiti.Ninja @Graffiti_Ninja · 1d
Though the flames may have dwindled, the ashes will remain forever. Remembering the 3rd of May, 2023.
[#ManipurViolence](#)
[#SeparateAdministration](#)



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**OPINION**

The Saga of Unfettered Violence

Dr. Jangkhohao Hangshing

May 3rd, 2023, stands out as a deeply harrowing and unforgettable day in the annals of Manipur's history. On this day, violent clashes erupted in Manipur following a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organized by the All Tribal Student Union Manipur (ATSUM) across the 10 hill districts of the state. The Kuki and Naga tribal communities in various hill districts protested against the Manipur High Court's recommendation to include Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. This recommendation faced strong opposition from the tribal communities, fearing potential land and job losses due to perceived competition from the more developed Meitei community. There were concerns that the Manipur government, led by Meiteis, might exploit this order to acquire tribal lands in the hills, historically under tribal ownership. Concurrently, Meiteis conducted a counter-blockade in the valley against the Tribal Solidarity March on May 3rd.

The outbreak of violence occurred in the Torbung area of Manipur after some individuals, allegedly Meiteis, set fire to the Anglo-Kuki War Centenary Gate, provoking the Kuki protesters. The situation escalated in Imphal Valley when false information about Meitei women being raped in Churachandpur spread on social media. While both the Naga and Kuki communities protested against the Manipur High Court's directive, the Meitei community predominantly targeted the Kukis. By nightfall, radical Meitei mobs attacked Kuki colonies in Imphal, forcing Kuki residents to flee, leaving behind their homes and belongings.

The ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities persisted for several days, both in the valley and peripheral areas, overwhelming central forces tasked with protecting and evacuating people from both communities. The situation deteriorated to the extent that even state forces aligned along ethnic lines. Unpleasant incidents such as looting arms from police academies, hate speech, killings, beheadings, burnings, and instances of sexual violence occurred, leading to physical and demographic separation between the Meitei and Kuki communities by the end of May 2023.

In the current scenario of Manipur's ethnic division, the Meiteis primarily inhabit the valley around the state capital, while the Kuki community resides in the surrounding hill districts. A partition line has been established, and a buffer zone is now under the supervision of neutral central forces to prevent escalating communal violence. Volunteers from both communities guard these buffer zones, employing trenches for defense against potential attacks. Many individuals have volunteered to protect and defend their communities and land. Rumors suggest that the Meitei radical militia group 'Arambai Tenggol' boasts a personnel strength exceeding 65,000. Basic military training is provided to village volunteers who take turns safeguarding

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the buffer zone. The Kuki volunteers accuse state forces, along with Meitei militias, of ongoing attacks on Kuki areas, leading them to arm themselves in defense. Despite the formal separation, clashes and violence persist between the Meiteis and Kuki communities in Manipur, with sporadic incidents of death and gunfights reported almost weekly. According to a report from the KSO Media & Documentation Cell dated April 30, 2024, the Kuki death toll has risen to 176 individuals, with 200 villages, over 7,000 houses, 360 churches burnt, and 41,425 people displaced.

The confused Chief Minister

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's performance in leading Manipur has been heavily criticized, with many pointing out his consistent inconsistency and biased behavior regarding the ongoing ethnic violence. Initially, after the violence erupted, Singh stated on May 4, 2023, that the conflict stemmed from misunderstandings between two communities in Manipur. However, his stance shifted on May 21 when he implied that the conflict was not between communities but between one community and the state government. He later altered his position again, claiming that the conflict was between armed groups under the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement and security forces. Towards the end of May, Singh asserted that the fight was between the state and central forces combating terrorists attempting to destabilize Manipur.

On June 15, 2023, Chief Minister Biren Singh attributed the ongoing unrest in Manipur to 'illegal infiltrators,' emphasizing that the situation was not merely a law-and-order concern but a complex issue requiring careful review and resolution. However, by June 25, he had reversed his stance and alleged that the conflict was between two communities. In July 2023, he admitted his confusion about the reasons behind the violence. In a recent tweet (X), he accused illegal immigrants of encroaching on resources, job opportunities, land, and rights of indigenous people, announcing measures such as collecting biometric data and geotagging their settlements.

These statements highlight Singh's confusion and apparent helplessness in addressing the issue. His

continued tenure is attributed to the federal government's double engine governance strategy, despite criticism of bias and deceitfulness towards his constituents. Singh's labeling of Kukis as 'illegal immigrants, drug peddlers, narco-terrorists' has further strained trust, particularly among Kukis who no longer recognize him as their leader. Many believe that peace is unattainable as long as he remains in power.

Independent forces

Meitei Leepun stands accused of fostering hostility and conflict between the two communities under the guise of preserving Meitei culture and tradition. During an interview with Karan Thapar for The Wire, Pramot Singh, the head of Meitei Leepun, openly stated their intention to incite a civil war, asserting that the Kukis would be defenseless. He also discussed the idea of wiping out the entire Kuki population in Manipur. Despite a complaint filed by the Kuki Students Organisation regarding his radical remarks, Singh dismissed concerns in an interview with The Hindu, stating that he is 'not bothered' by it.

Arambai Tenggol, led by Manipuri King and Rajya Sabha MP Leishamba Sanajaoba, is portrayed by Caravan magazine as a sociocultural organization aiming to restore Sanamahism as Manipur's official religion, which was replaced by Hinduism in the 18th century. However, it functions as an armed militia deeply involved in the ongoing ethnic conflict. The group is accused of widespread harassment, extortion, and violence, targeting not only Kuki and Naga tribes but also Meitei Christians, Meitei Muslims, and even Meitei Hindus who oppose them. Biren Singh's close association with Arambai Tenggol grants them free rein to oppress anyone who challenges them. Article 14 highlighted their rise to prominence in January 2024 when they forced over 37 Meitei members of Manipur's legislative assembly and two MPs, from various parties, to swear allegiance to Sanamahi, an indigenous Meitei deity.

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Manipur is experiencing a complete collapse of law and order, with armed radical groups wielding unchecked power in the state. Despite accusations of extortion and murder leveled against Arambai Tenggol by the police and other communities, the authorities have chosen to remain silent observers. These independent forces are permitted to move about openly with weapons and have effectively become an illegal extension of CM Biren Singh's authority.

Solution not within the control of Manipur Government

The Manipur government under Biren Singh's leadership has lost control over the escalating violence in the state, marking May 3rd, 2024, as a grim milestone of one hundred days of unrest. Amidst the ethnic clashes, more than 6,000 FIRs have been filed. Reports indicate that 249 churches in the Valley and over 100 Hindu and Sanamahi temples in the hills were destroyed. Meitei Christians also faced attacks. The conflict has evolved into a civil war, resulting in numerous casualties and displacing over 60,000 people. This turmoil stems from the politics of hatred propagated by the Manipur government against the minority Kuki community. The dominant Meiteis perceive the Kukis as a threat, possibly because many high-ranking positions in Manipur are held by Kuki officers. There's a suspicion that Kukis are seen as rivals to Meiteis across various domains. Kuki colonies in Imphal, housing influential Kuki figures, were dismantled as part of Biren's agenda, leading to a significant decline in Kuki social and economic standing. Additionally, important Kuki religious and social institutions were destroyed in the Imphal valley, making recovery challenging for the Kuki community. Exploiting this situation, the Manipur government advertised numerous recruitment opportunities across sectors, seemingly to marginalize Kukis. Most available jobs were filled by Meiteis, given that Kukis were unable to compete effectively in the job market. Government schemes and relief efforts have largely bypassed Kuki-dominated districts, leaving Kuki people reliant on aid from NGOs and philanthropic organizations across India. Considering these circumstances, the Kuki

community's demand for separate administration appears legitimate as they struggle to rebuild and regain their footing amidst the ongoing crisis.

Prime Minister Modi finally spoke out about the Manipur violence following the viral video of two Kuki women being paraded naked by a Meitei mob. However, his statement lacked a comprehensive address of the wider issues surrounding the ethnic conflict in Manipur. While PM Modi verbally assured that peace would be restored soon in Manipur, the Kuki community has now positioned themselves beyond mere peace talks with the Manipur government led by CM Biren Singh. Despite the Central government's lack of attention to their demands, the Kuki community is unwilling to consider living under the rules of the Manipur government again. They have a significant trust deficit regarding the Manipur government and are open to accepting a solution only through negotiations involving Delhi.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur, through an executive resolution, designated May 3, 2024, as "KUKI-ZO AWAKENING DAY" after careful consideration of the repercussions of state-sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo people. They also discussed the way forward for their community and encouraged their people to observe this day on May 3. Conversely, the Federation of Civil Societies Organisation (FOCS) and 13 other Meitei CSOs labeled May 3 as the 'Black Day of Manipuri History.' Rumours suggest that the Kuki Students' Organisation Delhi NCR and the Meitei Global Solidarity Committee have been granted permission to hold peaceful protests at Jantar Mantar on the same day (May 3, 2024), marking the one-year anniversary of the Manipur violence.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, USTM- Email: jhangshing13@gmail.com)

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**OPINION**

"If the Assam Rifles Were Not There...": A Kuki Student of Manipur University Who Escaped From the Jaw of Death

Anthony Shongthu

On the 3rd of May 2024, there were observations in all the Kuki inhabited areas including churches, cities and towns in different states of India, and even abroad, to pay tribute to the departed souls as the on-going state-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign carried out by the dominant community since the 3rd of May 2023 completed a year.

In a similar case, the Meiteis also observed the day under different themes in various parts of Manipur and the National Capital. One such program was organised in Manipur University (MU) supposedly to mourn the deaths and destruction during the last one year.

As video footage and images of the candle light vigil in MU began circulating, it reminds us of how the Kuki-Zo students and staff and their families escaped from the jaws of death on that fateful evening. Though 366 days have passed, it still feels like yesterday as the trauma continues to haunt us.

To go back a little bit in time, 3rd May 2023 will remain as a black day in the history of Manipur as it was on that fateful day that a well-orchestrated riot to cleanse all the Kuki-Zo inhabitants of Imphal and its surrounding areas began. This ethnic cleansing campaign ultimately resulted into an unprecedented chain of events leading to the death of 185 precious Kuki-Zo lives including women and children, and destruction of more than 200 villages and 360 churches. Apart from this, many have died in relief camps due to shortage of medical

facilities, and many more are waiting for their ultimate end helplessly.

On that fateful evening, as mob violence broke out in Torbung, a border area between Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts in the afternoon, students and families of MU began to feel apprehensive about what may happen in the state. Yet, we were hopeful that the University Authority and the state government would do everything in their hands to control the situation as done in the past. However, in total contrast to what we had anticipated, things turned to the worst in a few hours.

In Imphal, mobilisation of unruly mobs began around 7:00pm in Soibam Leikai, Imphal East, to attack Checkon, a Kuki-Zo dominated colony, just a kilometre away from the Chief Minister bungalow. After burning a couple of houses, the mob was somehow dispersed by the police and Central Forces on duty.

Almost at the same time, there was mobilisation of similar mobs at the main Gate of MU. In a video that went viral, a man is seen calling for more people as they were about to enter the University campus to hunt the "Kukis". "Manipur University da Kuki thiba hourani" (We will begin hunting Kukis inside Manipur University) was what the unknown

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miscreant said in the video in Manipuri.

Till this time, I, along with some of my friends, were still in the University Library busy with our studies. Though we could no longer concentrate, we were hopeful that the University Authority would call in enough security to protect the campus. Our assumption was that MU being a Central University would be protected under any circumstances, and it would be safe from any unruly mob trying to storm the Campus.

At about 7:30pm, the University Library staff came and told us to leave the Library as the situation outside was increasingly tense. So we left the Library, and moved towards our respective Hostels.

At about 8:30pm, we got the information that a group of men armed with sticks and knives had attacked the residential quarter of one of the University Officers belonging to the Kuki-Zo community. Soon, we also got the information that four Kuki boys were taken away, and their mobile phones remained switched off.

So, we were in a dilemma whether to look for them, or think of escaping for safety. (Late in the night, we found out that they had been locked-up in a room in one of the Men's Hostels and were later released by their own Meitei friends).

As we remained totally confused, the mobs forced open the Main Gate at around 9:00pm and began attacking the Hostels one after another looking for "Kuki" students. What is interesting to note here is that the mobs, many of whom were armed with knives, sticks, and other weapons, came with a list of Hostellers presumably for easy identification of the inmates.

When an unruly mob of 50-60 men, many of whom were in an inebriated condition, stormed into our Hostel, we were helpless but had to escape through the backdoor and hide in the drain. Whereas some hid behind the bushes, some remained in the hostel rooms occupied by their friends belonging to other communities.

After storming the Boys Hostels, the mob entered the Ladies Hostels as well. In MU, boys are usually not

allowed to enter the Ladies Hostels. But on that fateful night, the mobs, mostly men, did not care about these long practices in the thirst for "Kuki" blood. Some of the Kuki-Zo girls had to hide in the toilets for hours till the mob left.

Meanwhile, the Assam Rifles personnel posted in MU began rescuing the "Kukis" who were hiding in different locations within the University campus. For us, it was at around 11:30pm, after waiting for more than two hours behind the drain, that two Assam Rifles trucks came to our rescue. But for many, they had to wait till 3:00am under inclement weather with mosquitoes and flies hovering around looking for their prey.

Indeed a team of police arrived past midnight, but it was too little too late. The excuse was that they were busy as the whole Imphal city was under seized by thousands of mobs.

In the early morning, the Assam Rifles arranged a few more trucks and deposited the 260+ strong Kuki-Zo people of MU, along with several others who were staying in rented accommodations and private hostels around the University, at 1st Manipur Rifles (IMR).

MU has a long history of protest against the deployment of this Paramilitary Force inside the campus, but if it were not this central forces, the fate of many of the Kuki-Zo people would have been decided on that day. Anyway, the minority tribals were never in favour of the demand to remove the Assam Rifles since we feel that the Central Forces are our last hope in a situation like this.

It may be recalled that when the radicalised section of the Meiteis began the pre-planned riots with the help of the state machineries including the police, the Kuki-Zo people in Imphal were caught absolutely unaware. Within 48 hours, about 60 people were killed mostly in mob lynching,

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hundreds of houses including many of the churches belonging to the Kuki-Zo communities were burnt. There were also multiple reports of sexual atrocities including gangrape, naked parading, rape and murder, and what not.

In Imphal, the highly charged Meitei mobs were led by radicalised groups such as Arambai Tenggols, Meitei Leepuns, Kangleipak Kanba Lup, BJYM leaders, etc. In the process, thousands of innocent Meitei mobs were charged with fake news about the rape and murder of Meitei girls in Churachandpur which were purposefully spread by few radical elements, such as those two individuals who go by the Facebook account Edison Moirangthem and Luwang Meitei, the later became part of the short-lived Youths of Manipur. These people deserve to be behind bars, if law order exists even in its minimal form, for spreading such a serious fake news which eventually resulted in to rape and murder of many Kuki girls in Imphal. But, interestingly they continue to roam freely. And Edison is yet to even delete his video!

Despite multiple companies of central forces being flown in since 4th May 2023, the communal State government headed by N. Biren Singh, who also holds the Home portfolio, dispatched them to those vulnerable areas where the Meiteis would be the benefited lots instead of using them to protect the minority communities in Imphal.

Today, as that fateful night completes one year, we remained indebted to all our friends, irrespective of the communities they belong to, particularly the Assam Rifles, for the yeoman service rendered at the risk of their own lives, for helping us escape from the jaws of death.

However, the manner in which the University Authority handled the situation, and the claim by the Dean of Students' Welfare Prof. M Premjit Singh, Registrar Prof W. Chandbabu Singh, and others that there was no violent or unfortunate incident inside the University Campus will remained unfortunate and unforgettable.



THE JUSTIFICATION OF MISGOVERNANCE



The Undying Anguish of a Loved One: A Eulogium

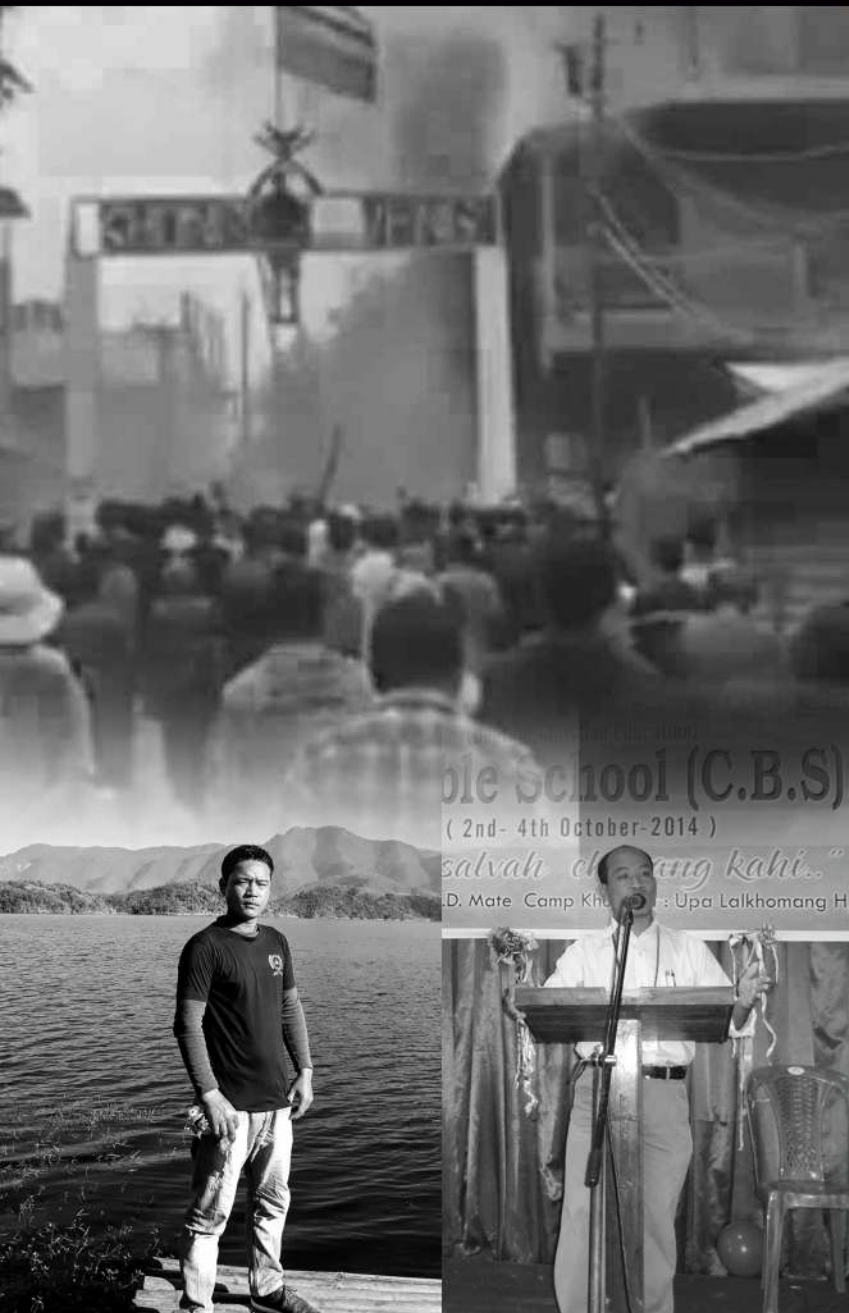
- Hatneiting Lhungdim

The 4th of May,
The death of humanity,
The birth of devils;
Who spared no soul,
Took to the streets
And sought for our hearts.

As we hid in plain sight,
I could hear their loud breath
Hungry for innocent blood,
And as we ran;
In horror,
In disbelief,
I could hear my uncles' final cry
As they stepped on them
As they harrowed them to death.

I witnessed inhumanity at the forefront,
As the mobs of red devils
Tore my uncles' precious body in front of our eyes.
I witnessed the agonising pain
In my aunt's face as she shivered,
As the mobs chanted "yaiphare"
in victory over my uncles' lifeless bodies.
I held my newborn cousin close to my chest,
Unable to shed a tear

The undying anguish of the 4th,
The night that took the lives of my two beloved,
The agonising heartbreak i carry in my heart,
As i recount the night of the 4th,
As i recount the fear and the grief,
My lovely uncles;
Today more than ever
I hope heaven treats you a little warmer.





Voice Unheard

In shadows deep, where horrors breed,
Two souls stood bare, in dire need.
Their innocence, their dignity torn,
By hands of cruelty, hearts forlorn.

Ten months have passed, yet justice eludes,
As perpetrators roam, in twisted feuds.
But how can it be, that women say,
"In war, all's fair," in cruel display?

Where lies the compassion, the empathy true,
For sisters in suffering, for hearts so blue?
Should not women shield women, in strife,
And stand as one, to protect precious life?

Yet here we stand, in disbelief,
As women turn cold, in their belief.
But we refuse to let their voices fade,
For justice we seek, for the wrongs to be laid.

In war or in peace, let it be known,
That empathy's flame shall never be blown.

- Ch Roberth Mate