

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



HANGLALMUON (22 YEARS)

S/O THANGPIENG VAIPHEI

ADDRESS: THINGKANGPHAI, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MOB IN POLICE CUSTODY



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.06.2024



186
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.

RESENTMENT GROWS AS GOVERNMENT PRESSES AHEAD WITH INDO-MYANMAR BORDER FENCING IN MANIPUR; KUKI TOP BODIES CONDEMN

The Kuki Inpi and Kuki Chiefs Association of Manipur have expressed deep resentment against the central government's persistent effort to construct border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur.

Despite opposition and previous protests leading to a halt in construction, the government is now aggressively pushing for the resumption of the construction, even deploying central forces to enforce its decision. This disregard for the concerns of the Indigenous communities underscores the insensitivity of the government towards the people it affects.

The two Kuki apex body opined that the construction of border fence poses a severe threat to the cultural heritage and way of life of the indigenous Kuki people in Manipur. When the fence cuts through villages, it not only divides their homelands but also imposes restrictions on traditional practices and interactions with counterparts across the border, further eroding their cultural identity.

People across the Northeast region had high expectations when the Free Movement Regime was formalized in 2018 as a part of the Act East policy by the BJP government. So the abrupt decision to scrap the FMR by the same BJP government came as a shocker to all, the Kuki apex bodies decried, lamenting that it is quite bewildering why the BJP government is acting against its own policy. Keeping aside the national security concern of the central government the whole gamut seems an appeasement policy towards the Meitei community. It's no wonder the communal state government of Manipur lauded the central government's decision as it fully understood that the indigenous Kuki people will be the victims of the border fencing.

“By disregarding the need for consultation with stakeholders and bypassing international conventions



protecting indigenous rights, the central government is violating the fundamental rights of the indigenous communities living along the border. India's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) should compel it to uphold the rights of these marginalized communities, including the right to maintain relations across borders under Article 36 of UNDRIP.”

To achieve a sustainable and just solution, the Indian government must strike a balance between national security imperatives and respect for human right. Border management in Manipur and the northeast region should not come at the cost of disenfranchising indigenous communities, as it will only exacerbate tensions and hinder peace and development in the region. The construction of the border fence must cease immediately to safeguard the rights and well-being of the indigenous people, it said.

The persistence of the central government in pursuing the construction of border fencing in Manipur despite opposition from the Indigenous communities highlights the need for a more inclusive and rights-based approach to border management. By prioritizing national security over human rights, the government risks further alienating and marginalizing the very people it is meant to protect, it alleged.

PM MODI SHOULD GO TO MANIPUR BEFORE HE GOES TO SPACE: JAIRAM RAMESH

Citing a media report that quoted Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief S Somnath as saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi can be the candidate for India's first manned space mission, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a dig at the PM on Thursday stating that before he goes into space, the "non-biological" PM should go to Manipur.

Taking to 'X', Ramesh, on July 4, wrote, "Before He goes into space, the non-biological Pradhan Mantri should go to Manipur."

The media report has quoted ISRO Chief S Somnath as saying that PM Modi can be the candidate for India's first manned space mission, 'Gaganyaan', which is slated to be launched in 2025.

"While he (PM Modi) certainly has many other, more critical responsibilities, developing a human spaceflight program is a capability we would like to cultivate and contribute to the Gaganyaan space program, particularly the astronaut training program for the International Space Station (ISS)," said S Somnath, as quoted by the media report.

As per the report, Somnath said, "All of us will be very, very proud if we have the ability to confidently send the head of state to space."

The Gaganyaan project is another major Indian mission that envisages a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members into an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bringing them safely back to earth by landing in Indian waters.

Meanwhile, the central government is facing heat from the opposition MPs of the INDIA bloc over the ethnic violence in the north-eastern state of Manipur, which started in May 2023.

PM Modi, while addressing the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, affirmed that the central government is making efforts to normalise the situation in Manipur.



"The government is continuously making efforts to normalise the situation in Manipur. More than 11,000 FIRs have been registered and over 500 people have been arrested. Incidents of violence are continuously reducing in Manipur," PM Modi said.

He further said that the central and state governments are establishing interactions with all stakeholders to restore peace.

"Today, schools, colleges, offices and other institutions are open in the state. The central and state governments are talking to all stakeholders to restore peace," he said.

Earlier on Tuesday, while the Prime Minister was addressing the Lok Sabha, he faced continuous sloganeering by the opposition on Manipur.

Earlier in June, Union Home Minister Amit Shah did a holistic review of the security situation in Manipur in a high-level meeting here in the national capital and directed to ensure that "no further incident of violence takes place" in the northeastern state.

In the one-hour-long meeting at his North Block office, the Home Minister stressed the strategic deployment of the central forces to restore peace and tranquility in Manipur. (Source: HT)

MEITEIS' LIES EXPOSED: RUMOURS ABOUT MEITEI GIRLS ABDUCTION TURN OUT TO BE FALSE

The Meiteis in their endeavor to villainise the Kukis in this conflict have always resorted to spreading false news. Recently, a Meitei newspaper published in Meiteilon published a news item about five Yaingangpokpi girls being abducted by the Kukis.

In this regard, the Tangkhul Naga Foothills Organisation (TNFHO) has clarified that the viral news about five Yaingangpokpi girls being abducted by Kukis is false. The misleading message, written in Manipuri dialect had spread rapidly on social media last night.

Eno. Tuner Raihing, Chairman of TNFHO, stated that a fact-finding team was dispatched, and investigations confirmed that no such incident occurred within their jurisdiction.

Labeling the spread of this dangerous misinformation as reckless, TNFHO emphasized the potential for such

propaganda to cause widespread chaos. They appealed to the public to prioritize peace and verify facts before reacting emotionally. Additionally, TNFHO warned against repeating such falsehoods, stressing that it could further destabilize the already fragile situation in Manipur.

TNFHO urged the concerned authorities to identify and penalize the culprits behind this misinformation, which has already proliferated across social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and WhatsApp.





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LAST DATE
15TH JULY 2024



INDIA BLOC CRITICISES PM MODI'S SPEECH ON MANIPUR CRISIS AS A 'POLITICAL STATEMENT'

Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc Manipur strongly reacted to the speech of Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented in connection with the Manipur crisis in Rajya Sabha terming it as a "political statement"

Addressing media in a press conference held at Congress Bhawan today, Congress Legislature Party (CLP), Okram Ibobi Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi finally broke his silence on the Manipur crisis after more than one year in the recently concluded parliament on the floor of Rajya Sabha. However, his brief speech fails to satisfy people's expectations which is very unfortunate.

Ibobi said that after raising voices by many MPs from different political parties, Congress leaders and fiery speeches from MPs of Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had responded to the Manipur crisis on July 3 in Rajya Sabha. Yet his brief speech not reflecting anything about the roadmap to end the ongoing crisis is disheartening.

"I hope not only INDIA bloc but also people of state might not be happy with PM's speech that has been longing to listen from onset of crisis," he observed while strongly criticising that his speech is so simple and just presented for namesake.

Ibobi clarified the statement made by Modi related to the imposition of presidential rule in Manipur 10 times by Congress since its Independence.

Ibobi stated that most presidential rule imposed by the Congress party was due to political instability. During the erstwhile period, there was no anti-defection law in the country resulting to occur political uncertainty.

"Prime Minister pointing out the imposition of president rule by Congress Party during the then period amid



presenting his speech on Manipur is quite irrelevant," he said and continued that Congress party never urged to impose president rule as a measure to end crisis.

He also stated there is popular government in Manipur ruled by same party to that of centre. But BJP not resolving conflict is very unfortunate. Had they addressed the turmoil timely, Congress party and INDIA bloc wouldn't say anything.

He recalled that when there communal conflict between Naga and Kuki and Meitei and Muslims, there was no incident of population segregation nor restriction of entering warring communities to one place another place where they inhabited. As such present ongoing conflict is unprecedented that need lot of effort to bring political dialogue.

Expressing disappointment for not mentioning any road map in PM's speech about ending conflict, he said that he people of state would very fortunate had prime minister highlighted the way forward or action plan to address the crisis. Not mentioning any concrete measures of resolving the crisis looks like BJP government wants to continue the crisis.

Source: [India Today NE](#)

SEARCH OPERATIONS IN MANIPUR – KUKIS ALLEGE MEDIA BIAS: MISREPORTING OF WEAPONS SEIZED FROM VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS, TRUTH CONCEALED

In a determined effort to bolster security, security forces have launched extensive search operations in the sensitive hill and valley districts of Manipur. These proactive measures have led to the recovery of a long-range mortar (pumpy) along with a live shell in Churachandpur district.

The operations ensured the safe movement of 319 and 184 vehicles on National Highways 37 and 2, respectively, facilitating the transportation of essential goods. To maintain security, stringent protocols were enforced, including convoys escorting vehicles through sensitive areas to ensure smooth passage.

A total of 125 checkpoints and roadblocks were established across various districts, resulting in the detention of 68 individuals for various violations. These strict security measures are initiatives toward maintaining peace and stability in Manipur.

In Churachandpur, a tribal-dominated hill area approximately 63 km from the capital Imphal, the Young Vaiphei Association (YVA) has converted an old boys' hostel into a relief camp near the IB Road District Hospital.

Jerry, a volunteer at this relief camp, told The Mooknayak that the army, in collaboration with the Manipur police, conducts search operations at various locations, mostly during the night or early morning. During these operations, they often apprehend village volunteers (armed individuals guarding tribal areas) and claim to find arms with them.

Regarding the recently seized mortar, Jerry explained that it is man-made, likely created by local people. Due to the lack of funds to purchase sophisticated weapons, local mechanics make these themselves, primarily to protect themselves and their communities.

Last August, during a ground report by The Mooknayak,

Jerry had shown us a licensed gun he possessed. He explained, "As village volunteers, we keep arms to protect ourselves from animal attacks since we live in hilly areas. We have licenses for these arms. However, since the violence started, many of our licensed arms have been seized by the police and have not yet been returned."

He mentioned, "However, there are many militant groups in our areas with weapons. Across Manipur, there are over 40 such groups, each with approximately 50 to 100 members. However, these groups, the Kuki-Zo community members, and the central government had a peace agreement about seven years ago, in 2015, which prevents them from taking any action against the central government. The central government has complete details of these groups."

"After the peace agreement with the militant groups in the Kuki areas, we have no one to protect us, so we have to prepare village volunteers."

"Many times, during these operations, the weapons of our village volunteers have also been seized, which has been used as propaganda in the media. The media reports that these arms were found with the Kuki people, but the truth behind this is not revealed," Jerry said.

Jerry accused, "Meanwhile, in the Meitei areas, groups like Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun roam among the public with fully automatic weapons. The weapons they have are company-made, including AK-47s and machine guns. Anyone can see these things on their social media accounts."

Source: [Mooknayak](#)

OPPN CLAIMS VICTORY OVER PM'S ADDRESS ON MANIPUR VIOLENCE IN RAJYA SABHA

The Congress on Thursday claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "breaking his silence on the Manipur violence" in the Rajya Sabha is a real victory for the opposition parties.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke on the Manipur violence in the Rajya Sabha, the opposition party said the entire country had been waiting for Modi's reaction on the matter for the last one and a half years.

"...he didn't speak anything about Manipur for the last one and a half years. Finally, yesterday (Wednesday) he broke his silence on Manipur. It is a real victory for the opposition," AICC general secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal told reporters here, reacting to a query.

In his speech in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to a joint sitting of Parliament, the Prime Minister had said that violence in Manipur is continuously declining and educational institutions along with businesses have opened in most parts of the state.

He had asserted that all efforts are being made to ensure a return of complete peace in the state. Recalling his elaborate speech concerning Manipur in the previous session of Rajya Sabha, Modi had reiterated that the "Government is continuously making efforts to bring



normalcy in Manipur."

Venugopal said the opposition created a ruckus in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday because of the government's unwillingness to give an MP from Manipur five minutes to speak before the PM's reply on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address.

The Alappuzha MP said the opposition requested the government to hear the voice of Manipur before the PM's speech. "They were not ready, and that's why the ruckus started," he said, justifying the sloganeering by opposition members during the PM's speech in Lok Sabha.

Source: [Deccan Herald](#)



I guess the only time most people think about injustice is when it happens to them.

– Charles Bukowski



FEATURED OPINION

Will Prof Akoijam Strengthen the Idea of United Manipur? Unlikely

Seikhongam

In the wake of Manipur ethnic violence, there emerges a simmering voice from the capital city in every media platform, that of Professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, resonating in the hearts and minds of its audiences.

It is a voice of dissent against the popular discourse in Manipur and the Meitei society. However, it was not the first, and probably not the last, but this voice will remain for a while now, for it is the beginning of his transition from academia to the political discourse.

Voice of dissent

A few years before the onset of the present ethnic conflict in Manipur, there was widespread politically motivated hate speech against the Kukis in Manipur. Phanjoubam Chingkhei was one of many writers who stood up against it. His article on 26 October 2020 in the Imphal Times titled, “Increasing hate-speech against Manipur Kukis – An irresponsible dangerous approach” gained social media attention at times when discourse amongst the Meitei society was rampant labelling of the Kukis as “refugees, immigrants, Myanmarese, etc.”

Subsequently, on 4 April 2023, just before the ethnic violence erupted, he again wrote on the relationship between the communities in Manipur through oral histories. His article titled, “Legend of Kuki, Meiteis and Nagas common origin from one ancestor found in folktales” discusses folktales from the tribal groups

that demonstrate close ethnic ties between the Kukis, Nagas, and Meiteis.

This idea of oneness through oral histories is contextually crucial, where identity politics is the main political instrument to garner support in or against any other community. For instance, despite the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh under the guise of development visited Ukhrul on 18 October 2023 to illustrate and facilitate the Meiteis and Nagas relationship. However, the Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL) and Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland – Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) later clarified that the brotherhood was between Hundung village and Meiteis which did not represent the whole of Tangkhul Nagas or Nagas in general.

Additionally, a research scholar from Manipur University wrote an article published in the Economic and Political Weekly on 20 January 2023 about the emergence of a majoritarian state in Manipur. His article titled, “Meitei Majoritarian Politics of the BJP in Manipur” could also be read as a stern warning to Manipur’s future direction. Besides all these cautions and red flags, it doesn’t seem to impact the larger Meitei society. The result is before us.

Contd.

Contd.

Besides scholars and writers, we can see many Meiteis who are not indoctrinated by this hatred propaganda propagated by the Biren Singh-led government and his militias (Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun). Several stories emerge out of Imphal where innocent Kukis who are stranded and left at the mercy of the Meitei mobs were rescued by them. And, I don't see Akoijam among the academics who warns the public of the resulting hate speech or among the crowds who saved the Kukis at the expense of their lives. Yet, he became a prominent figure, and a voice of dissent representing all these figures in media and now in the political sphere.

The ascent of Akoijam and the Kukis' discontent

Since the start of the Manipur crisis, Prof. Akoijam has gained credibility as a neutral voice on the Manipur ethnic conflict. As a brilliant orator with intellectual prowess, he understands the threat looming over the Meitei society (an example set out by Babloo Loitongbom and Brinda Thounoujam) and approached with caution in his political campaigns and speeches by endorsing their grievances while denouncing the prevalence of violence in their society.

He received a great deal of support which is evident in the 2024 Manipur Lok Sabha election result.

However, his emphasis regarding the Manipur crisis appears both compassionate and worrisome. Though he supports a united Manipur and is sympathetic to its citizens, he cannot remove his Meitei shoes. He over-emphasized the Manipur crisis as a mere Indian State's "unwillingness" to stop the conflict and couldn't look past the violence beyond the prism of a Meitei. He states, "I don't hate them (the Kukis), but I am very angry with them" and blames the Kukis' demand for a Separate Administration as the cause of the present ethnic conflict in Manipur.

It shows his resentment against the Kukis. Furthermore, his manoeuvring emphasis on the destruction of the Meitei settlement in Churachandpur while obscuring the pain of hundreds of innocent Kukis who were raped, molested, decapitated, burned alive, mob lynched in

broad daylight in the open streets of Imphal and left in the open to decay is daunting. It is important to note that the Meiteis were safely guarded and transported to Imphal as Kuki women formed a human chain to protect them from the mob. On the other hand, Imphal became the Kukis' Death Valley beside their homes set ablaze.

Undoubtedly, the new political wave in Manipur and amongst the Meiteis, in particular, sees a surge of peace and harmony rooted in the ideas and ideals of Bimol's Manipur.

The Kukis, however, cannot envisage another dreadful bloodshed in the Imphal valley again. That is why the statement, "We cannot live together anymore. Let's remain a peaceful neighbour" stems out.

Akoijam erred in assuming that this meant the Kukis couldn't live with the Meiteis in the same country, a University, a city, or work at the same office, etc.

And, to say that the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) must be returned and their right to live in peace with dignity must be upheld is nothing else than patronizing the Kukis' suffering and cause.

Today, Professor Akoijam may be a game changer in Manipur's political discourse and could've been an exemplary leader for all the communities in the state. As for the Kukis, he's late over 186 dead bodies, 200 plus villages burned to ashes with 7000 plus houses and 360 plus churches while displacing 41,425 Kukis, besides the countless traumatic events that started with the radicalization of the Meitei society. The Kukis then see the Separate Administration as the only viable solution for their survival.

First published by [East Mojo](#)

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Priyanka Chaturvedi
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SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ

It should have been PM Modi's duty to visit Manipur after forming his government for the 3rd time but he chose to go to Italy. People of Manipur know words spoken in the parliament are hollow & fact free



From Press Trust of India

15:28 · 03 Jul 24 · 192K Views



Shantanu
@shaandelhite

Follow

So, OM Birla didn't allow Manipur MP ALFRED KANNGAM S ARTHUR to speak in the Parliament.

LoP Rahul Gandhi was requesting to let him speak even for 2 minutes before Modi's speech, but it was denied.

Then only LoP asked Manipur MPs to protest in the well.

Shame on Birla!



22:21 · 03 Jul 24 · 36.7K Views



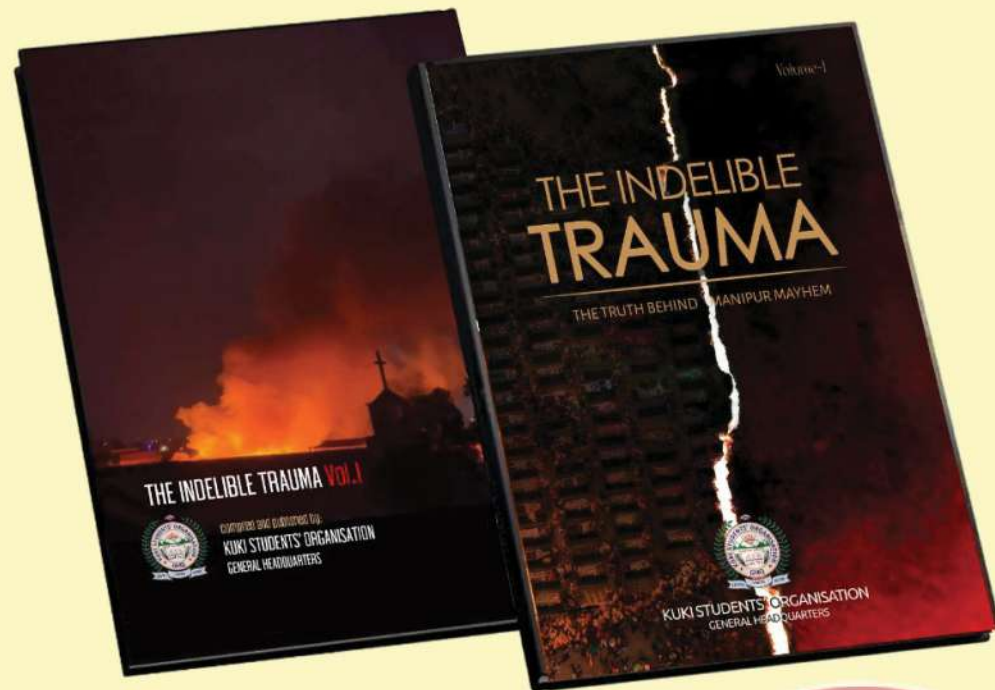
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THE FALSE CLAIM OF MR. PM





A BOOK ON
THE TRUTH BEHIND
**MANIPUR
MAYHEM**



THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA VOL. I

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
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FAINTED WHISPER

- Valentina Mangte

A faint whisper i hear close to my ears,
all this time, this was all i needed to hear.

It said,
He sees all the ways and counts every step.
The soul was sold but the heart was lovingly kept.
Great men are not always wise,
Empty heart with emotions in disguise.
But God understands the way thereof and knows the
place thereof,
He preserves the worthy high above.
There is spirit in man and the inspiration of the almighty
given to them understanding,
He guides them like his child bound in an unbreakable
iron string.

ISSUE No. 276
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Therefore we cry out by the reason of the arm of the
almighty.
Behold our God is almighty, mighty in strength and
wisdom,
People with no remorse, cannot fathom.
He will not withdraw his eyes from his people and surely
not from you.
Let him be your shield and become a team of two.
Tears of remorse, tears of shame rolling down my skin,
Finally my world stopped, the never ending spin.

A fainted voice called me by name, come home..
A home where forever you will be known.

A sudden warm sensation felt like My heart had been
secretly enticed and my mouth had kissed my hand.
a stubborn mind and a miserable heart never turned back
because the soul had never been alone since then..

At that moment a whole new soul with a grateful heart
was created with care.
All through the way, he was, he is and will be there.