

Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Happy Hearts School RELIEF CENTRE Bethel, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 116*

■ Male: 59

■ Female: 47

*As on 1st August, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25.11.2023



153
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.

ITLF OBJECTS ESTABLISHMENT OF UNLF DESIGNATED CAMPS IN KUKI-ZO AREAS

Condemning a move to establish UNLF's designated camps in Kuki-Zo areas, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has said that it was a calculated effort to fulfill the ongoing agenda to eliminate the Kuki-Zo community and urged the centre government to act decisively to safeguard the lives of the Kuki-Zo people.

In a statement on Monday, Ginza Vualzong, Spokesperson of ITLF, said that the Peace Agreement between the UNLF (Pambei) and the Central and State governments has introduced a new threat to the Kuki-Zo community, as media reports and social media sources indicated that the government was considering establishing designated camps for the UNLF (Pambei) in various locations within the Kuki-Zo hills, such as Kakching Khunou, Ingourok, Jiribam, Kwatha and Moreh.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) condemned the move, seeing it as part of a larger agenda by the Meitei government to endanger the existence of the Kuki-Zo people. "The selection of Kuki-Zo Hills for the designated camps is perceived as a calculated effort to fulfill what appears to be an ongoing agenda to eliminate the Kuki-Zo community," Ginza said.

In a historic move on November 29, 2023, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) - a previously banned outfit - signed a Tripartite Peace Agreement with the Government of India and the State of Manipur. ITLF stated that such a momentous development, long envisioned by Chief Minister N Biren Singh, has, however, sparked concerns regarding the safety and well-being of the Kuki-Zo people.

"It has come to light that Chief Minister N Biren Singh's alleged connections with Meiteis' underground outfits, including the UNLF, are no longer a secret. Disturbing reports suggest that the state government has facilitated the safe passage of UNLF cadres and other Meitei underground groups from Myanmar to Manipur. Shockingly, these militants are allegedly involved in activities targeting the Kuki-Zo people," ITLF said, and urgently appealed the Central Government to act decisively to safeguard the lives of the Kuki-Zo people.

The tribal body alleged that recent attempts to deploy state forces in Kwatha, Tengnoupal district, were viewed with suspicion, possibly indicating preparations for the arrival of UNLF (Pambei) cadres, thereby putting the Kuki-Zo people at significant risk.



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PR-202368

Monday, 04 December 2023

PRESS RELEASE

In a historic move on November 29, 2023, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) - a previously banned outfit - signed a Tripartite Peace Agreement with the Government of India and the State of Manipur. This momentous development, long envisioned by Chief Minister N Biren Singh, has, however, sparked concerns regarding the safety and well-being of the Kuki-Zo people.

It has come to light that Chief Minister N Biren Singh's alleged connections with Meiteis' underground outfits, including the UNLF, are no longer a secret. Disturbing reports suggest that the state government has facilitated the safe passage of UNLF cadres and other Meiteis' underground groups from Myanmar to Manipur. Shockingly, these militants are allegedly involved in activities targeting the Kuki-Zo people.

The Peace Agreement between the UNLF (Pambei) and the Central and State governments introduces a new threat to the Kuki-Zo community. Media reports and social media sources indicate that the government is considering establishing designated camps for the UNLF (Pambei) in various locations within the Kuki-Zo hills, such as Kakching Khunou, Ingourok, Jiribam, Kwatha, and Moreh.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) condemns this move, seeing it as part of a larger agenda by the Meitei government to endanger the existence of the Kuki-Zo people. The selection of Kuki-Zo Hills for the designated camps is perceived as a calculated effort to fulfill what appears to be an ongoing agenda to eliminate the Kuki-Zo community.

The ITLF urgently appeals to the Central Government to act decisively to safeguard the lives of the Kuki-Zo people. Recent attempts to deploy state forces in Kwatha, Tengnoupal district, are viewed with suspicion, possibly indicating preparations for the arrival of UNLF (Pambei) cadres, thereby putting the Kuki-Zo people at significant risk.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh's selective support for the Meiteis Peace Talk, coupled with the withdrawal from the Tripartite talks with the KNO/UPF, raises questions about his commitment to peace in Manipur. The ITLF urges the Central Government to recognize the gravity of the situation and the already deeply divided separation by considering establishing a Separate Administration for the Kuki-Zo people and providing them with a secure administration to live without fear of annihilation by the Meiteis.


Ginza Vualzong,
Media & Publicity,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Website: <https://www.itlfmediacell.com/>



To authenticate ITLF's press releases, please refer to our website <https://itlfmediacell.com>

It also said that the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's selective support for the Meiteis Peace Talk, coupled with the withdrawal from the Tripartite talks with the KNO/UPF, raised questions about his commitment to peace in Manipur.

The ITLF urged the Central Government to recognize the gravity of the situation and the already deeply divided separation by considering establishing a Separate Administration for the Kuki-Zo people and providing them with a secure administration to live without fear of annihilation by the Meiteis.

MOREH CSOS OBJECT SETTING-UP OF PROPOSED UNLF DESIGNATED CAMPS IN KUKI AREAS

The Moreh civil society organisations (CSOs) such as the Hill Tribal Council, Kuki Women Union & Human Rights and the Kuki Students' Organization, Moreh, have vehemently opposed the setting-up of proposed UNLF designated camps in Kuki areas.

In a statement issued on Monday, the CSOs of Moreh said, "The signing of Peace Agreement between the Government of India and the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) on November 29 is good news to all peace loving people. We sincerely welcome and appreciate this milestone as we visualize and look forward to an era of peace and normalcy."

While endorsing the peace pact, Moreh CSOs pointed out and appealed to the Union Home Ministry to make sure that no room is created for dissent to stakeholders which could hinder the peace process.

Maintaining that Moreh and Kwatha are located along the international border between India and Myanmar within Tengnoupal hill district of Outer Manipur with the Kuki-Zos as the major inhabitants, the Moreh CSOs raised concern about the need for immediate relocation of the proposed designated camps for the surrendered cadres of the UNLF Pambei faction to more appropriate areas.

At a time when the violence and atrocity against the Kuki-Zos by the hate-filled Meiteis is still at its peak, the proposal to set up a Meitei UG surrenderees' designated camp at the area and vicinity of the Kukis is sinister in nature, uncalled for, unwise and not acceptable, the Moreh CSOs said, adding that the proposal was tantamount to intrusion and a threat to their existence.

"Let wisdom and good-will prevail among the concerned authority to setup the designated camps in the valley districts as it should such as Bishnupur

PRESS RELEASE
Dated, Moreh the 4th Dec. 2023

The signing of Peace Agreement between the Government of India and the Manipur valley based extremist group, United National Liberation Front (UNLF) on November 29, 2023 is good news to all peace loving people. We sincerely welcome and appreciate this milestone as we visualise and look forward to an era of peace and normalcy.

While endorsing the peace pact, we would like to point out and appeal to the Union Home Ministry to make sure that no room is created for dissent to stakeholders which could hinder the peace process.

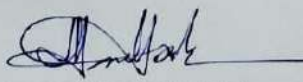
Now, there arise the need for immediate relocation of the proposed designated camps for the surrendered cadres of the UNLF (Pambei), the oldest Meitei-Manipuri valley UG group. The cadres should be stationed at the appropriate area.


It should be noted,


1. Moreh and Kwatha are located along the international border between India and Myanmar.
2. Moreh border town and Kwatha border village are within Tengnoupal hill district of Outer-Manipur with the Kuki-Zo as the major inhabitants.

At a time when the violence and atrocity against the Kuki-Zo by the hate filled Meitei is still at its peak, the proposal to set up a Meitei UG surrenderee designated camp at the area and vicinity of the Kuki-Zo is sinister in nature, uncalled for, unwise and not acceptable. The proposal tantamount to intrusion and a threat to our existence.

Let wisdom and good-will prevail among the concerned authority to setup the designated camps in the valley districts as it should such as Bishnupur district, Thoubal district, Kakching district, Imphal East district and Imphal West district to usher real peace.


(JAMKHOKAM MATE)
 Vice President
 Hill Tribal Council, Moreh
VICE-PRESIDENT
Hill Tribal Council
Moreh


(LALHRIETSANG)
 President
 Kuki Students Organisation, Moreh
President
KSO Moreh Block
Tengnoupal Dist. Manipur


(LHAINETHEM HAOKIP)
 Secretary
 Kuki Women Union & Human Rights, Moreh
GENERAL SECRETARY
KUKI WOMEN UNION & HUMAN RIGHTS
Moreh, Manipur

11 12 5G04/12/2023 12:1

district, Thoubal district, Kakching district, Imphal East district and Imphal West district to usher in real peace," the statement added.

UNKNOWN MISCREANTS KILL 13 SUSPECTED MEITEI MILITANTS

At least 13 people, suspected to be the cadres of the outlawed PLA terror group, were killed after a gunfight in a remote border village of Manipur's Tengnoupal district on Monday, officials said.

As soon as the information was shared with police, teams were dispatched to Leithu village, 15 kms from the Myanmar border, where they found the bodies of at least 13 people, the officials said. Quoting some witnesses, the officials said that a gunfight had broken out on Monday noon after which the bodies were found.

Initial reports suggest that these could be cadres of the valley-based insurgent group People's Liberation Army, whose ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was extended recently.

However, the officials said that no arms or ammunition was found near the bodies. "A group of militants on their way to Myanmar were ambushed by another group of insurgents dominant in the area," an official in the hill district said. The areas around the place where the incident occurred are dominated by tribal people. They said a part of the group could have probably escaped to Myanmar where they got their arms training before being sent back to Manipur.



TLM View: This is a clear case of "transnational conspiracy" for waging war against India. In spite of a peace pact deal with the Government of India, the Meitei militants continue signing new recruits to wage war against India and also as part of their efforts to annihilate the Kuki-Zo Indians in Manipur. This development has raised serious questions on the intention of the much hyped "Peace Agreement with UNLF" on November 29.

The Meitei militant groups, irrespective of the different parties, are all the same in their zeal for "Independent Kangleipak" and they are conglomered under the Corordination Committee (CorCom). The incident in Tengnoupal proves that the Meitei militants are still preparing for war against India.



A man's ethnic identity has more to do with a personal awareness than with Geography.

— William Saroyan

SUPREME COURT STAYS FIR AGAINST JOURNALIST MAKEPEACE SITLHOU BOOKED FOR TWEETS ON MANIPUR VIOLENCE

The Supreme Court today protected independent journalist Makepeace Sitlhou from criminal proceedings initiated in connection with her tweets concerning the violence that erupted in Manipur earlier this year. (Makepeace Sitlhou vs State of Manipur)

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal appeared for Sitlhou and informed the top court that the scribe currently faces a first information report (FIR) in Imphal over her tweets on the Manipur violence.

The bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra granted the journalist interim relief and ordered a stay on the criminal proceeding against her for now.



“Pending further orders, there shall be a stay in proceedings concerning the FIRs against her. Issue notice. Serve to the standing counsel of the Manipur government,” reads the Court’s order.

THE 7TH REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVED

As the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing enters eight months of long hardships and atrocities against the minority Kuki-Zo people, Kanggui district on Sunday observed the 7th Remembrance Day at Kangpokpi, Keithelmanbi, Sapormeina, Motbung, and in Tuilongkon area, Tujang Area, Tuilang area, Saikul Area and Leimakhong & Kangchup area.

The Remembrance Day was observed to mourn and honour the supreme sacrifices of the fallen Kuki-Zo heroes who lost their precious lives in defence of their ancestral lands from the Meitei aggressors, under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), an apex body spearheading the movement in Kanggui district.

On the 7th Month Remembrance Day, the Kuki-Zo people slammed the central government for failing the tribal community by not stopping N. Biren Singh and his cohorts in desecrating the law of the land, trampling the constitution and making a mockery of Indian democracy.

Once again, the Kuki-Zo people stood their ground to defend and protect their lands from the oppressive administration headed by a deluded fascist, N. Biren Singh, who still believes in the relevance of Hitler’s philosophy of governance.



Remaining vigilant and steadfast about their uncertain future, the Kuki-Zos remain hopeful that there is God Almighty to protect the weaklings, to speak for the voiceless and to give hope to the hopeless.

The 7th Remembrance Day observance of the Meitei atrocities on the Kuki-Zos was also held in Lamka Peace ground under the aegis of Kuki Christian Leaders’ Fellowship (KCLF) and in many other Kuki-Zo inhabited places including cities and towns across the country.

SUPREME COURT STEPS IN TO HELP VIOLENCE-HIT KUKI-ZO STUDENTS CONTINUE EDUCATION

Supreme Court of India, today, directed displaced students of Manipur University, Imphal to avail their education at two Central universities in Assam or Meghalaya, or through the online mode.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice India (CJI) Dr D.Y. Chandrachud and also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, was hearing a plea by 284 students, seeking relocation to Central universities across the country.

At the previous hearing, senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the petitioners, had argued that the students had already lost six months of the academic year.

Today, the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, representing the Union government, apprised the court of the steps taken by Manipur University for its students.

Mehta submitted that the university has appointed nodal officers to facilitate the admission of students in the hills and the provision of Internet facilities.

On the CJI's inquiry whether the Kuki students can get their education in the hills and if this solution is "workable", the advocate general of Manipur replied in the affirmative.

To this, the counsel appearing for the petitioner stressed that students have taken refuge across the country and they apprehend risk to their lives in going back to the hills. On availing of internet facilities, the counsel submitted that displaced students are living on charity in various parts of the country and lack resources for computers or internet facilities.

The counsel also objected to the "long-drawn" process of contacting the appointed nodal officer. On June 8 this year, the government of Manipur appointed nodal officers to coordinate with the directorate of government schools of the state and other authorities for admission of displaced students in feasible nearby schools and on other matters such as the availability of books.

Having already lost a semester, the counsel pressed for the immediate relief of admission to Central universities in places where students have sought shelter.

Of the 284 students who have petitioned the Bench, 93 have relocated to Delhi, 30 to Guwahati, 125 to Mizoram and Shillong and 33 to southern states, the counsel added.

Opposing the plea for admission to Central universities where displaced students are relocated, Mehta argued that the displacement constitutes a "temporary situation" wherein the students can return to Manipur after the violence settles down.

Mehta expressed concern that since certain Central universities are considered "good", it would be difficult to ascertain whether a student relocated out of displacement or after getting admission to another Central institution.

The CJI expressed doubts about the online learning aspect of education and suggested that the students be accommodated in a few Central universities.

In reply, Mehta presented the option that the displaced students could attend classes at Assam University in Silchar and North-Eastern Hill University in Shillong.

Finding the solution acceptable, the Bench allowed the dispersed students to opt for either of the Central universities in Silchar and Shillong. The Bench directed students who wished to get admission to either of the two universities to contact the nodal officer appointed by Manipur University.

In addition, the Bench directed the process of relocation to be completed within two weeks from the time of request from such students.

In the alternative, the students have been permitted to complete their pending education at Manipur University through the online mode.

The Bench also noted that students can place their grievances before the three-member expert committee, which was constituted by the Supreme Court on August 7. The committee was directed to engage with the state administration and in case of the scope of another solution, submit a report for further directions.

ZPM SWEEPS MIZORAM STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), an Opposition alliance of six parties, has posted a thumping victory in Mizoram, which went to polls on November 7. ZPM won 27 seats in the 40-member assembly, comprehensively defeating the ruling Mizo National Front.

According to the Election Commission's website, ZPM won 27 seats in the 40-member Assembly. The ruling MNF managed 10 seats. The BJP has won two seats, while the Congress won just one.

In a shock poll result, Incumbent Chief Minister Zoramthanga lost the election from Aizawl East-1 constituency. His deputy Tawnluia too suffered defeat in Tuichang.

Incumbent Chief Minister Zoramthanga submitted his resignation to Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati in Aizawl this afternoon. Speaking to the media, he said, "Because of the anti-incumbency effect, people are not satisfied with my performance, so I lost... I accept the verdict of the people and I hope that the next government will perform well... It is the anti-incumbency and Covid onslaught."

In the last assembly election in 2018, the MNF won 26 seats and the ZPM eight seats, relegating the Congress



that bagged five seats to the third place. The BJP won one seat.

ZPM leader Lalduhoma, a former IPS officer who also guarded former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, is set to become the new Chief Minister of Mizoram.

Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) said it will stake claim to form the government in Mizoram after holding a consultative meeting of newly elected MLAs and senior party leaders.

ZPM leader Lalduhoma, a former IPS officer who also guarded former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, is set to become the new Chief Minister of Mizoram.

KNO, ITLF CONGRATULATE ZPM CHIEF LALDUHOMA

The Kuki National Organisation (KNO) has extended its heartfelt congratulations to the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) President Lalduhoma on his party's landslide victory in the recently held Mizoram Assembly Elections, 2023.

"On behalf of the Kuki National Organization, I take immense pleasure in congratulating you on your landslide victory of the ZPM in the Legislative Assembly election, 2023," PS Haokip, President KNO said in his congratulatory letter.

The KNO expressed its trust under the leadership of Lalduhoma who would continue to strengthen the unification of the minds and hearts of the Kuki Mizo Chin people.

The KNO President wished the ZPM chief, Lalduhoma, the very best in his endeavour to serve Mizoram, and hoped that the state would continue to shine as the Jerusalem of Mizo Chin Kuki people, as always, throughout his leadership.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) also on Monday congratulated Zoram People's Movement for the party's landslide victory in Mizoram's Assembly election.

"We share the faith of the people of Mizoram, who have overwhelmingly voted for ZPM to steer the state towards a better and brighter future. We urge the party and Leader Pu Lalduhoma to stand firm for the interest of Mizoram and for the entire Kuki-Zo kindred tribes who are looking to the state to give them a voice and to unify them in these trying times."

The ITLF also thanked the outgoing Chief Minister Pu Zoramthanga "whose unwavering support for the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur is the reason that we are able to withstand seven months of state-sponsored attacks by the majority Meitei community. We wish the best for ZPM, and hope that Mizoram continues to be a beacon of hope for all Kuki-Zo kindred tribes under Pu Lalduhoma's leadership," the ITLF said.

Congratulations

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ELECTION 2023



MEMBERS OF NINTH MIZORAM STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

 Robert Romawia Royte Hachhek	 Lalrintluanga Sailo Dampa	 H Lalzirliana Mamit	 K Laldawngliana Tuirial	 Lalfamkima Kolasib	 Lalrinsanga Ralte Sertui	 Lalchhandama Ralte Tuivawl	 Lalbiakzama Chalfilh
 Prof Lalnilawma Tawi	 Vanlalhiana Aizawl North 1	 Dr Vanlalhlana Aizawl North 2	 K Sapdanga Aizawl North 3	 Lalthansanga Aizawl East 1	 B Lalchhanzova Aizawl East 2	 TBC Lalvenchhunga Aizawl West 1	 Lalnginglova Hmar Aizawl West 2
 VL Zaithanzama Aizawl West 3	 C Lalsawivunga Aizawl South 1	 Lalchhuanthanga Aizawl South 2	 Baryl Vanneihsang Aizawl South 3	 F Rodingliana Lengteng	 W Chhuanawma Tuichang	 H Ginzalala Champhai North	 Clement Lalhmingthanga Champhai South
 Ramthanmawia East Tuipui	 Lalduhoma Serchhip	 PC Vanlalruata Tuikum	 Lalmuanpuia Punte Hrangturzo	 Jeje Lalpekhlua South Tuipui	 V Malsawmtluanga Lunglei North	 Lalrinpui Lunglei East	 T Lalhimpuia Lunglei West
 Lalramliana (Papuia) Lunglei South	 R Rohmingliana Thorang	 Prova Chakma West Tuipui	 Rasik Mohan Chakma Tuichawng	 C Ngunlianchunga Lawngtlai West	 Dr Lorrain Lalpekliana Chinzah Lawngtlai East	 Dr K Beichhua Saiha	 K Hrahmo Palak

Image Credit: Vanglaini



Click to Follow



WARM HEARTS

A Charity Drive for the Displaced - An Initiative of Kuki Students' Organisation

As part of the KSO's ongoing commitment to supporting those in need within our community, we are excited to announce the launch of the Clothing Drive in aid of the Internally Displaced Persons. Therefore, we invite everyone from all walks of life to join us in this journey of compassion and kindness! Your generosity fuels hope and creates lasting change in this challenging and tumultuous time.

What You Can Contribute:

GENTLY USED CLOTHES: We welcome donations of gently used clothing for all ages. (Donation of Summer Wears will also be accepted).

WINTER APPARELS: With the colder months approaching, warm clothing items such as coats, jackets, and blankets are especially appreciated.

MONEY: Your generous contributions will directly support in meeting the needs of miscellaneous items which are being missed out. Every donation, no matter the amount, plays a crucial role in achieving our goal.

Why Your Contribution Matters:

Your generosity can make a significant impact on the lives of individuals and families of IDPs in our community who are facing challenging circumstances.

By coming together, we can provide warmth, comfort, and support to those who need it most.

Spread the Word:

Help us reach our goal by spreading the word! Share this invitation and information with your friends, family, and colleagues, and encourage them to join us in making a difference.

LAMKA REGION GIVE WARMTH THIS WINTER TO SOMEONE IN NEED

WARM HEARTS

A CHARITY DRIVE FOR THE DISPLACED
DECEMBER 4-15, 2023

Unleash the **Santa Claus** in you!

CLOTH DONATIONS

Nothing makes decluttering easier than knowing your clothes are going to a worthy cause- or at the very least, not going to the dump. A small gesture of yours will be a boon for the displaced persons in relief camps.

Your unused shoes are not useless unless they are beyond any scope of repair. A simple act like donating a pair of shoes to someone in need and the joy that you give to yourself costs nothing.

You can also make a pecuniary contribution by donation whatsoever amount you could.

Scan, Verify, Donate & Share to 9366588474 (Mangpi Mate)

9366588474 (Mangpi)
7085604509 (Mimin)
8787894835 (Lunboi)
6009406153 (Henry)

Donation Centre:
Warm Hearts Charity
Opposite Nute Kailhang
Tuibong Bazar, Lamka

An Initiative of
Kuki Students' Organisation

DONATE TODAY

UPI Payment:

Scan, Verify, Donate & Share to
9366588474 (Mangpi Mate)
mangpimate365@oksbi

Donation Centre:

Warm Hearts Charity
Opposite Nute Kailhaang
Tuibong Bazar, Lamka

For more, please contact:

9366588474 (Mangpi)
7085604509 (Mimin)
8787894835 (Lunboi)



ANALYSIS

Understanding the Manipur Conflict in India and the Kuki-Zo Perspective

Douminlal Kipgen

The northeastern state of Manipur in India is renowned for its diverse cultural heritage, distinctive customs, and delicate past involving numerous ethnic groups. Pressure on its social cohesion has always existed in the state, which was formed by numerous ethnic groups, each with its own distinct character and customs. Each of them were given their own unique domain as a result of the redrawing of administrative lines and construction of artificial boundaries, paving the way for latter conflicts, such as historical land disputes, economic injustices, and political problems. Some actions that exacerbated preexisting tensions have led to the current bloodshed. The idea of a unified Manipuri identity and nationhood has been called into question, and the violence has revealed the state's long-standing ethnic differences and frustrations. Pre-existing historical, social, and economic grudges have been brought to light by the conflict, which has led to a horrifying outburst of animosity that affects the area till today. Nonetheless, the origins of the disputes can be found in the colonial period, when the Burmese and subsequently the British had a significant influence on the political geography and demography of the region.

The Kuki-Zo people, an ethnic group, inhabit the bordering regions of Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the northeastern Indian states of Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. With a historical presence in the Manipur highlands, they have upheld customary rights to their resources and lands. However, they have grappled with challenges pertaining to

property rights, political representation, and economic opportunities. Consequently, they have demanded greater recognition, self-governance, and protection of their ancestral lands, which are rich in biodiversity and natural resources. On the other hand, the Imphal valley has long been home to the Meitei ethnic community, constituting the majority in Manipur. The community's regions have often received prioritisation concerning political representation and economic advancement. Due to their deeply rooted association with Manipur's cultural and historical traditions, any perceived challenges to their rule have historically led to conflicts. Moreover, their prolonged political and economic dominance has sparked concerns among other communities, particularly the Kuki-Zo, regarding fair distribution of opportunities and resources. Consequently, they have called for the preservation of their political standing and cultural heritage within the state.

The land issue has emerged as a central point of conflict between the Kuki-Zo and the Meitei. Due to Manipur's unusual terrain, there is competition over resource-rich areas, fuelling long-standing disputes over land ownership and fostering hostility between communities. Both groups engage in claims and counterclaims, fiercely defending their ancestral lands. The Meitei-Kuki/Zo relationship has become more complex within Manipur's political landscape. Political power struggles exacerbate existing tensions as ethnic groups strive for representation and influence in the state's governance. Historical events, such as the creation

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of autonomous regions, have added complexity to these ethnic disputes. Cultural differences between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei populations also contribute to conflicts, with language, customs, and social behaviours often becoming flash points. The struggle for recognition and acknowledgement involves crucial aspects such as preserving and promoting diverse cultural identities. Economic disparities further intensify these conflicts. Discussions regarding resource distribution, development projects, and employment opportunities can leave certain segments of the population feeling marginalised. The economic element adds turbulence to an already-complex situation, amplifying existing frustrations. Violent clashes, blockades, and strikes have manifested as expressions of this conflict, resulting in a significant loss of life and property. These actions have damaged inter-community relations, disrupted socioeconomic activities, and posed a grave threat to the state's administration. Moreover, they have exacerbated distrust among diverse groups, underscoring structural flaws that urgently require attention.

All stakeholders in this conflict, including the government, communities, and international organizations, must cooperate to find a lasting resolution ensuring the prosperity and well-being of all Manipur residents as the state deals with its aftermath. The discord in Manipur is deeply entrenched and multifaceted, demanding earnest attention and focused efforts towards reconciliation. To move towards a future of peace and cooperation, the state administration must address historical grievances of both communities. Through fostering communication, understanding, and inclusivity, the state can progress toward a future that is equitable and harmonious. Human rights organizations are alarmed by the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the area, drawing global attention due to the violence. The unrest not only destabilizes the affected areas but also has broader implications for the stability of the entire region. Establishing a lasting foundation for peace in the state necessitates efforts to narrow economic disparities, ensure fair representation, and safeguard the rights of all communities. Leaders can potentially forge understanding and consensus through facilitated dialogues centred on historical coexistence and shared interests, with impartial state mediation ensuring comprehensive resolution of each community's concerns. Both state and central authorities have undertaken various initiatives to address this issue, but resolving the conflict demands a multifaceted strategy addressing its root causes. Political

dialogue serves as an essential initial step toward peace, addressing structural problems contributing to ethnic tensions, such as identity assertions, territorial disputes, and socioeconomic inequalities. Policies prioritizing equitable resource allocation and inclusive development can address the underlying socioeconomic disparities. The Indian government, in addition to announcing measures for rehabilitation and relief for affected individuals, has initiated negotiations with leaders from both communities. However, finding common ground remains challenging due to intricate political power dynamics, cultural differences, and historical grievances. It is vital to support initiatives fostering inclusivity, understanding, and discourse.

The situation in Manipur continues to be unstable and dangerous, lacking signs of a lasting peace or diplomatic resolution. Root causes of the conflict remain unaddressed, severely damaging mutual respect and cohesion between communities. The varied agendas and ethnic identities within these groups has fuelled the ongoing violence. Perceived marginalisation has bred bitterness, prompting a demand for an independent state separate from the majority society. The Kuki-Zo tribe has fervently sought autonomy and self-determination through various campaigns and organizations, advocating for a separate administration to safeguard their people due to ongoing violence and perceived state failure in protection. They have articulated their demand for a separate hill council or district for governance, or even the formation of a distinct state within the Indian Union named Kukiland or Zoland. In regions where they hold the majority, they have asserted self-rule, stating it as the only viable means to halt oppression, bloodshed, and secure their rights, lives, and dignity. They have urged the central government to intervene and resolve the situation.

The Kuki-Zo's call for a distinct administration reflects both their aspirations for a better future and their despair and desperation. Further dialogue and consideration between the involved parties are imperative to assess the reasonableness and desirability of this demand, as well as its potential to address the fundamental issues at the heart of this disagreement.

First published by [The Hills Journal](#)

THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

Manipur Tribals' Forum Delhi
@mtfdelhi

#SeparateAdministrationOnlySolution

Every time you think we are falling, rest assured, we are not. Our determination for a 'separate administration' from the Meitei-centric Manipur government has never been more resolute than it is now. The atrocities committed by the Biren Singh regime and his radical Meitei cohorts against the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar Mizo tribes represent blatant violations of human rights. Attempts to erase our tribesmen by #MeiteiTerrorists like UNLF/PLA etc and radical outfits will never succeed.

Jai Hind!

Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

Much delayed but necessary move. The internet ban has no effect on law and order. It is a way of controlling flow of information and punishes people when every service in India is online.

Barring stretches along conflict zones, Net restored in Manipur

JD(U) Neta Shot At By Unidentified Attackers

Prabin Kalita & K Sarojkumar Sharma | TNN

Guwahati: The Manipur government restored internet services in the state on Sunday, barring 2 km stretches in conflict zones lying along the inter-district borders of nine districts.

The government said the decision has been taken considering the improvement in the law and order situation and "inconveniences faced by the general public due to the long duration of such suspension". The government cautioned all internet users "to refrain from activities which may cause situations which will warrant suspension of internet services in future".

The internet ban along 2 km stretches in areas between Chandel and Kakching, Churachandpur and Bishnupur, Churachandpur and Kakching, Kangpokpi and Imphal West, Kangpokpi and Imphal East, Kangpokpi and Thoubal, and Tengnoupal and Kakching will remain till 7.45 pm on December 18.

There was tension, meanwhile, in Waithou area of Thoubal district late Saturday when unidentified armed men shot at Manipur unit JD(U) youth president Bhaktaraj Thiyam who escaped unhurt.

Thiyam was going towards Imphal in his car after meeting a relative in Thoubal along NH-2 when a jeep chased and stopped him in the Waithou ar-

ea at 8.15pm. "Three unknown armed persons alighted from the vehicle and asked me at gunpoint whether I am Bhaktaraj, Manipur unit youth president of JD(U). Sensing the critical situation, I replied in the negative," Thiyam said.

"Before long, the men began searching my vehicle and took some money I had kept inside a black polythene bag. Soon after, they fired at the windshield and the rear of my car but I escaped unhurt." The three men then sped away in their vehicle towards Thoubal, added Thiyam.

Earlier last month internet services were resumed in the district HQs of four Naga-inhabited districts which have not been affected by the strife.

8:52 AM · Dec 4, 2023 · 6,552 Views



THE CHICKEN-HEARTED SON-IN-LAW

NGASIDI NUNGAIRE YEN THONGBA CHAAGE....



Oh, Lamka!

Oh, Lamka town of ole Songpi Sub-division.
A dust bowl, but proud we are of you, your
people in division.

Rain flushes from drains to streets, grime;
But proud, we, your people remain.

Oh, Lamka Town, today, we, your people,
imagine you in state pristine;
Clean and green, tidy and smart - a state divine.
Overflow our cup of pride will - when we, that
state achieve,
Come rain or shine.

- Anonymous