ISUE No. 116 SATURDAY | JANUARY 06, 2024



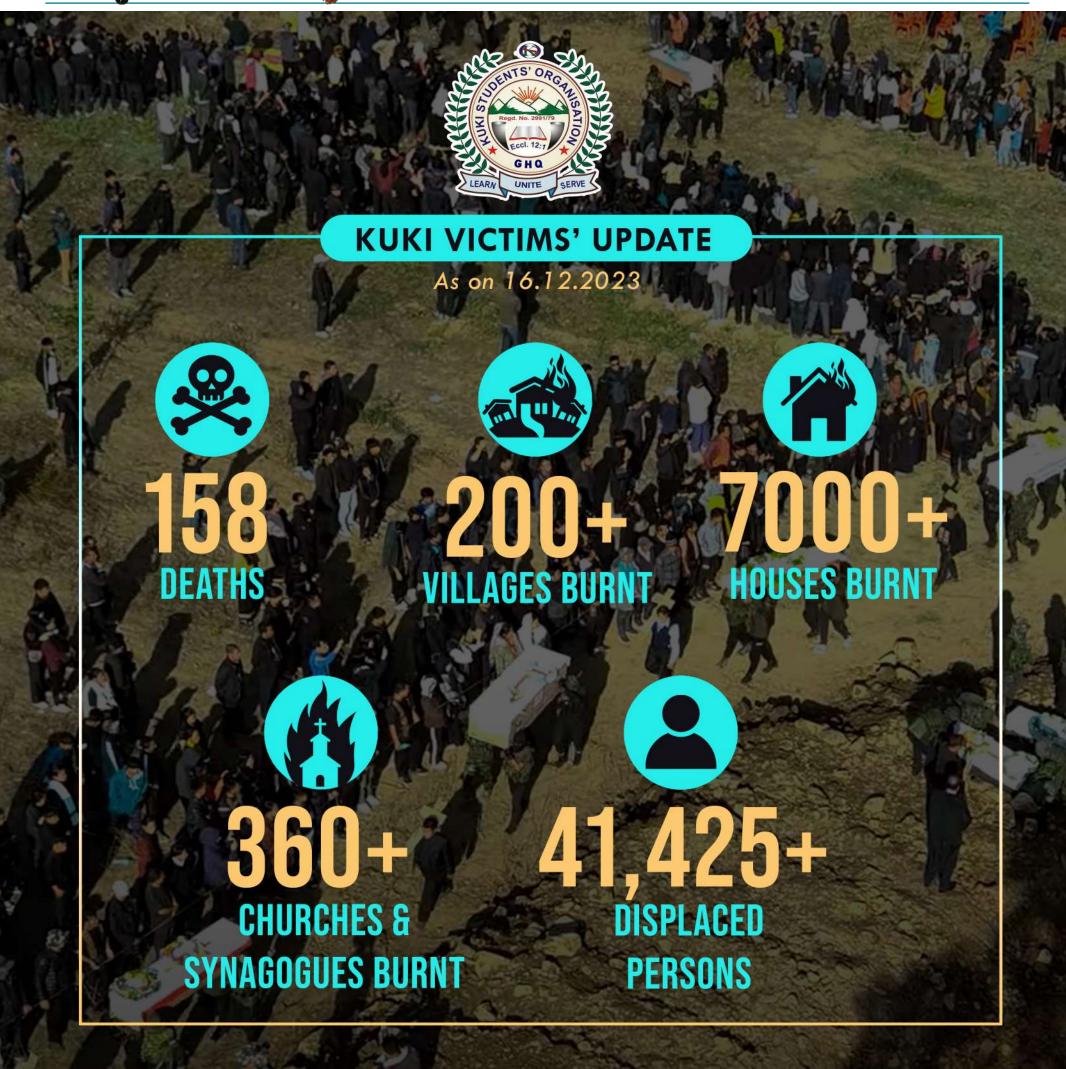
Kipgen Veng RELIEF CENTRE

Fishery Office, Tuibong, Lamka

Managed by Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi General Headquarters(KKL-GHQ)



Thingkho Le Malcha



Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.





ZORO OPPOSES THE IDEA OF SCRAPPING FREE MOVEMENT Regime Along Indo-Myanmar Border

The Zo Reunification Organization (ZORO) on Friday vehemently opposed the Indian government's plan to abolish the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and install a border fence along the Indo-Myanmar border, thereby dividing the Zofate (Zo people) residing in India and Myanmar. This proposed action would necessitate passports and visas for their interactions and contacts.

In a statement issued on Friday, ZORO fervently urged the Government of India to reconsider its decision to terminate the connections of Zo people living in the international border areas of India and Myanmar.

ZORO said: "It is crucial to note that the Government of India is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007 (UNDRIP). Article 36 of this declaration asserts the right of indigenous peoples, divided by international borders, to maintain and develop contacts, relations, and cooperation across borders for spiritual, cultural, political, economic, and social purposes—with their own members as well as with other peoples across borders."

Denouncing the notion to abolish Free Movement Regime (FMR) and implementing border fencing, ZORO stated that is in direct contradiction to Article 36 of the UNDRIP and runs counter to the spirit of the declaration. India, of course, presents its excuses and justifications for this proposal, ZORO said, however, as a powerful country, it possesses various alternatives to address such issues. Border fencing that divides a community of indigenous peoples is more suitable for weaker governments with limited options, rather than for a country like India, which asserts itself as a world power and is a signatory to the UNDRIP.

"The Free Movement Regime initially allowed travelling up to 40 kilometers without separate permission, which was later reduced to 16 kilometers. This regime played a crucial role in allowing us to seamlessly traverse



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Dated Aizawl, January 5, 2024

ZORO opposes the idea of scrapping the FMR

The Zo Reunification Organization (ZORO) vehemently opposes the Indian government's plan to abolish the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and install a border fence along the Indo-Myanmar border, thereby dividing the Zofate (Zo people) residing in India and Myanmar. This proposed action would necessitate passports and visas for their interactions and contacts. ZORO fervently urges the Government of India to reconsider its decision to terminate the connections of Zo people living in the international border areas of India and Myanmar.

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The Free Movement Regime initially allowed travelling up to 40 kilometers without separate permission, which was later reduced to 16 kilometers. This regime played a crucial role in allowing us to seamlessly traverse borders without being constantly reminded of the political divisions. If India decides to abolish this regime, we would be compelled to obtain passports and apply for visas to visit our relatives or attend funeral services, significantly impacting our traditional and daily lives.

(VANLALREMRUATA TONSON) General Secretary

borders without being constantly reminded of the political divisions. If India decides to abolish this regime, we would be compelled to obtain passports and apply for visas to visit our relatives or attend funeral services, significantly impacting our traditional and daily lives." it stated.



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CMC ANNUAL DAY FESTIVITIES SPARK CONTROVERSY: JOINT Students Body Lamka Addresses relocation concerns

Celebration of Churachandpur Medical College annual day in Imphal reminds one of the repeated unethical attempts to relocate the college to one of the valley districts, says Joint Students Body Lamka

The evil intention of the Meiteis has once again been proven with the celebration of the Churachandpur Medical College foundation day in Imphal even though the same was celebrated in the college campus in Lamka.

The celebration of Churachandpur Medical College foundation day in Imphal though the college campus being situated in Lamka has raised many eyebrows.

The case would have been much different and the meitei CSOs would be hyper active to react, question and condemn if at all the foundation day of an institute solely based in Imphal had been organsied in Lamka.

In response to the celebration, Joint Students Body, Lamka on Saturday stated that the annual day celebration of Churachandpur Medical College in Imphal reminds one of the repeated unethical attempts to relocate the college to one of the valley districts.

In the release, the Joint Students' Body, Lamka strongly condemned the simultaneous celebration of the annual college Day in Imphal.

The students body stated that the annual day celebration of a Medical College based in one of the hill districts in Imphal epitomises the disdain of the majority community for tribal rights and the discrimination they face to this day.

"The celebration reminds one of the repeated unethical attempts to relocate the Medical College to one of the valley districts" stated the release.

While JSB, Lamka has fought long and hard to prevent the relocation of the Medical College and for the proper functioning of the Medical College,



Pic: Foundation Day Celebration of Churachandpur Medical College in Imphal



Pic: Foundation Day Celebration of Churachandpur Medical College at Lamka

in particular, at this time of civil war and displacement of medical students, the annual day celebration in Imphal is viewed as nothing short of an insult to the people of the district, it added.

Further the JSB stated that at a time of civil war and unrest, the annual day celebration of the 'Lamka Medical College' carried out on Saturday at the premises of the College is a reflection of God's grace and guidance on our people.





Thingkho Le Malcha

WHY HAS PM MODI NOT VISITED MANIPUR, ASKS KHARGE

n a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the situation in Manipur, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday asked Modi why he has not visited the strife-torn state.

Notably, hundreds of people lost their lives while thousands others were forced to take refuge in the relief camps following ethnic clashes erupting in the northeastern state on May 3, 2023. Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said the state is returning to normalcy.

"Unfortunate incidents took place in Manipur. (Narendra) Modi ji goes everywhere and does photo sessions. He had a photo session of swimming, took photos at the ongoing temple construction site or went to Kerala and Mumbai. You can see his photos everywhere just like the 'darshan' of God. Every morning you can see his photos after waking up .But, this 'mahapurush'(great man) did not visit Manipur," Kharge said at a press conference at the party headquarters here, while apprising about the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' which is scheduled to kick-off from Manipur's Imphal on January 14, in an apparent reference to his recent visit to Ayodhya and Lakshadweep.

Attacking the Prime Minister, he said, "Why did not he go to Manipur where people are dying ... ? Why is he not going there to inquire about their situation ? ? Isn't



that a part of the country ? He has no compassion for Manipur."

Kharge reiterated that Manipur is a part of the country.

It may be mentioned that the Prime Minister has been facing criticism from the Opposition parties for not visiting the northeastern state. They have been accusing the BJP-led governments in the State as well as the Centre that it has failed to resolve the issue.

In July, 2023,Opposition MPs' delegation from the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) had visited Manipur. *(Source: The Statesman)*

2 EDITORS ARRESTED IN 8 DAYS OVER REPORTS ON LAW AND ORDER IN MOREH

A Manipur editor was arrested on January 5 and charged with "promoting enmity on grounds of religion and race" following a report on the law and order situation in the state's Moreh town. This is the second such arrest of a journalist in over a week.

Dhanabir Maibam, editor of Imphal's Hueiyen Lanpao paper, is also accused of criminal conspiracy and violating various clauses of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, according to a report on Times of India.

Maibam had overseen an article which was published after a Senior Divisional Police Officer died and nine personnel belonging to the security forces were injured over the course of multiple attacks since October 31. Maibam was kept in police custody for three days.

This comes days after the December 29 arrest of Wangkhemcha Shyamjai, editor-in-chief of Kangleipakki Meira. Shyamjai got bail on December 31.

He too was accused of deteriorating the law and order situation after drawing attention to it in a report.

In September, the Manipur police had filed an FIR against the fact-finding team from the Editors' Guild of India that had visited the state and published a report on media coverage of the ethnic conflict.





IMPHAL VALLEY: A SAFE HAVEN FOR PROSCRIBED MEITEI TERRORISTS; MEITEI MILITANTS ARRESTED IN TWO SEPERATE INCIDENTS, GUNSHOTS RAMPANT

In the absence of imposition of Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the Meiteis' ancestral land of Imphal valley, the proscribed militants have now used the capital city as a safe heaven for any sort of unlawful activities, thereby becoming the de-facto rulers of the Meitei populace.

Law and order has been completely shattered within the whole jurisdiction of Imphal valley, and the law enforcing agencies along with the extremist groups including the radicalised goons have run the state machinery according to their whims and fancies. Rampant extortion, death threats to critics, gun culture, mob policing, etc., have become new norms of the valley of bloodshed, Imphal.

Even though the chief liar N. Biren Singh has constantly claimed that normalcy has returned in Imphal valley, the present situation speaks otherwise. On Friday at around 10:45 PM, suspected Arambai Tenggol goons reportedly fired two rounds of shots at the residence of one Koijam Pahari at Maningkhol Mamang Leikai, Imphal West district under Lamsang police station.

Koijam Pahari is said to be a former Member of Mayanglangjing Gram Panchayat Ward No 2. Taking strong exception to the firing, local people staged a protest demonstration at Manaingkhol on Saturday.

Speaking to media persons on the sidelines of the protest demonstration, one Meira Paibi activist condemned the firing incident in the strongest terms. She appealed to all concerned not to repeat such attacks in civilian areas.

On January 5, 2024, Manipur Police had arrested 3(three) active members of the proscribed outfit KCP (Noyon), the cadres of which were identified as Md. Imtiyaz Khan @ Angouba (21 years) of Kairang Mayai Leikai, Imphal East; Thokchom Romeshchandra Singh @ Ayangba (33 years) of Phubala Awang Leikai, and Md. Salim (30 years) of Kairang Mamang Leikai, Imphal East in Imphal East District.



The arrested individuals were engaged in extorting money from various business establishments. A case has been registered at Heingang Police Station for thorough investigation and the identification of their associates.

The same day on January 5, a joint security team had arrested a proscribed member of the RPF/ PLA, namely Aheibam Amorjit Singh (50 years) of Kongba Kshetri Leikai, Imphal East during mobile frisking and checking at Mantripukhri Bazar, Imphal East. The individual was involved in extorting money from three-wheelers plying along NH-2. A case has been registered for further investigation.

It should be noted that the Meiteis' Imphal Valley has become the "valley of death" not only for the Kukis but for some of the sane individuals irrespective of ethnicity. The deep divide between the Kukis and Meiteis has reached such a level of reconciliation that separate administration for the Kukis is the inevitable option for peace and normalcy to return.





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BJP PROMOTING 'HINDUTVA FASCISM', SAYS SHARAD PAWAR

Former chief minister of Maharashtra and Nationalist Congress Party founder Sharad Pawar accused the BJP of pushing a five-point agenda promoting "Hindutva fascism" in India, expressing that the political situation does not favor the saffron party ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, as reported by PTI.

Speaking in Shirdi, he dismissed the notion that there is no alternative to Narendra Modi as deceptive. Pawar cited historical instances, like the post-Emergency Lok Sabha polls in 1977, to emphasise the effectiveness of opposition unity without presenting a specific PM candidate.

Pawar revealed discussions with Prakash Ambedkarled Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and plans to engage with 'INDIA' partners to include the Maharashtra-based outfit in the opposition grouping against the BJP. He criticized the BJP's focus on cow, 'gaumutra,' and the ideology of RSS leader M.S. Golwalkar, linking it to what he termed as "Hindutva fascism."

Pawar alleged a five-point program, including privatization, increased animosity towards Muslims, religious polarization, control of independent bodies, and emphasis on "manuwad" and ultra-nationalism.

He accused the Modi government of insulting women and highlighted incidents like the disrobing and parading of women in Manipur. Pawar criticized the Centre for not inviting President Droupadi Murmu to the new Parliament building inauguration.



He dismissed the propaganda demanding an immediate announcement of the opposition's prime ministerial candidate and asserted that the belief in no alternative to Modi is deceptive.

Pawar suggested that the BJP's unfulfilled promises and the situation in states where the party is not in power indicate an unfavorable condition for the BJP.

He also addressed issues such as unemployment, the December 13 Parliament security breach, inflation, and the Maratha reservation matter in Maharashtra.

Source: Free Press kashmir

Civil disobedience becomes a sacred duty when the state becomes lawless or corrupt.

– Mahatma Gandhi





MANIPUR PRESS CLUB FOUNDATION DAY: CONCERN OVER IMPHAL BASED Media Houses' bias reporting

In an address during the 49th foundation day celebrations of the Manipur Press Club, Governor Anusuiya Uikey highlighted the formidable challenges and difficulties faced by the media fraternity, particularly in conflict-ridden states like Manipur. Stating the vital role of journalists, she urged them not to succumb to threats and pressures, emphasizing the importance of delivering unbiased, accurate, and clear reports.

However, the perception of biased news reporting can be a concern in strife torn state like Manipur, especially the Imphal valley based Meitei media houses. The Imphal-based media houses are exhibiting bias in their reporting with an attempt to malign the image of a particular community.

When dealing with constant bias, fake, or concocted news reports, it's crucial to approach information critically and seek reliable sources. But there have been several instances where the Meitei media houses have resorted to publishing unverified news without authenticating its authenticity. Their partiality in their news report is evident, and on some occasions they rather presented themselves as propaganda paper than their supposed purpose.

Many of their news reports are unsubstantiated claims, lacking credible evidence or verification; fabricated information. falsehoods or concocted details presented as facts; misinformation, inaccurate or misleading information; disinformation, deliberately false information spread to deceive or manipulate; propaganda, information, often biased or misleading, designed to promote the interest of a particular community; sensationalism:, reporting that exaggerates details to evoke strong emotions; partisan reporting, news coverage that shows a clear bias in favor of a Meitei community and their ideological stance; manipulative reporting, presenting information in a way that influences perception without regard for objectivity, biased narrative: presenting information with a pre-existing bias that influences the interpretation of events, factually



incorrect reports, news stories that contain inaccuracies or errors and questionable sources.

To ascertain the veracity of claims that the media in Manipur was biased and potentially divisive, the Editors Guild of India (EGI) sent a three member fact-finding team to Manipur in the month of August 2023 after Indian Army's 3rd Corps headquarters submitted a written complaint, expressing concerns that the media in Manipur was displaying a biased stance in the ongoing ethnic conflict, potentially obstructing the path to peace.

Following its fact-finding mission, the EGI had reported that during Manipur violence, some of the state's journalists predominantly penned one-sided stories. The EGI team observed that some of the media in Manipur seemingly transformed into a Meitei-centric platform during the conflict, with editors collaborating and agreeing on a unified narrative or language to recount events. The state government displayed evident partiality during the conflict. There's a predominance of the Meitei community in the government, police,

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and bureaucracy in Imphal, leading to a deep-seated lack of trust among the tribal people residing in the Hills. The EGI's report cites over ten instances of local media disseminating fake news and misinformation.

The EGI fact-finding team was not the only one who faced legal consequences after releasing a report on Manipur violence. Previously, in July, Annie Raja, Nisha Siddhu, and Deeksha Dwivedi from the National Federation of Indian Women's team faced legal action. Their report claimed Manipur was undergoing "state-sponsored violence."

The role of media in intensifying Manipur violence is a complex and debated topic. While media plays a crucial role in disseminating information, fostering public awareness, and promoting open discourse, the Meitei media houses on the other have unintended consequences that contribute to the escalation of violence.

It's essential to note that media can also play a positive role in conflict resolution by promoting dialogue, understanding, and providing accurate information. Responsible journalism, adherence to ethical standards, and a commitment to impartiality are crucial in mitigating the unintended consequences of media involvement in conflict situations which the Meitei media houses are expected of.







Thingkho Le Malcha



When the Meiteis started their pogrom against Kuki-Zo on May 3, 2023, little would they have imagined that it would stretch the whole year. They have seriously underestimated the Kuki-Zo. Now that the year has lapsed and a new year has dawned, it's time for Meiteis to asses what they have actually benefitted by declaring this war.

At the beginning of the war, the Meiteis rampaged the Kuki-Zo(henceforth Kuki) in Imphal and hounded the people like dogs. Meitei society from all hues were cheering the Arambai Tengol and Meitei Leepun as they went about venting their deep-seated envy, insecurity and misplaced apprehensions. Biren was even hailed in some corners as a legendary Meitei leader who has gone full throttle to regain Meitei's 'lost glory'.

However, as the war went on, the Kukis started regrouping after their initial setback when they were caught napping. Soon, Meiteis invaders were 'Khamenloked' and that signalled a shift in the war. If one counts the number of deaths of Meiteis in Sugnu, Kangchup, Leimakhong, Saikul, Kanggui and Lamka frontlines, Meitei casualty while attacking Kukis will triple the number of innocent Kukis killed in Imphal. Did the Meiteis expect Kukis to defend with stick and stones when their zombie like herd came attacking the

Hills with automatic rifles? Was the high casualty worth the war?

For years, Kuki-Zo officers have made Imphal their home as most of the government officers were kept in Imphal by the partisan government. The investment of Kukis in Imphal might have become an eyesore for Meiteis but it also comes at the cost of development of their own hill areas. However, once this war started, the separation between the Kukis and Meiteis is now complete. Kukis are unlikely to go to Imphal any time soon. Having learnt their lessons, Kuki officers will now invest instead in the hill towns of Kanggui, Lamka, Saikul, Moreh, etc. These towns will drastically grow now whether one likes it or not. There would be a real estate boom, and business enterprises are bound to increase even as human settlement also increases. New colleges, hospitals, schools and such other institutions would grow which would turn into a blessing amidst the storm.

On the other hand, since almost 40-50 thousand Kukis have left Imphal, the impact is bound to be

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huge. Meitei businesses will severely be hit in the short term as they will lose many Kuki customers, not to mention the closure or affected-operations of a huge number of service-based business establishments which were staffed by Kukis. In the erstwhile Kukidominated areas of Imphal, the small-time Meitei pan shops might find it hard to survive. Not to forget the houses that had Kuki students as their tenants! While it wouldn't be difficult to find replacements in the long run, the people who would eventually populate these spaces would likely be the mainland Indians who would increasingly give tough competition to the Meiteis in every sphere - especially small-scale businesses. In trying to chase out Kukis, Meiteis have cursed themselves by inadvertently inviting a far bigger leviathan!

The greatest loss for Meiteis in this conflict is that they have lost their age-old trusted ally, the Kuki, forever. Friendships and loyalties that were built brick by brick for ages is now bulldozed by Biren Singh with the full support of all Meitei societies. If one looks at history, Kukis had always been an ally of the Meiteis. Kukis are said to have aided the Meiteis during the Ava invasion. Meitei King Chandrakirti was rescued from kindred Kamhau-Suktes by Kukis. Kuki Levies were used by Meitei Rajas to do most of their dirty works of invasions and conquests. This has even resulted in Kukis making enemies which actually was not of their own bidding. For many years, the Meiteis courted the Kukis to prevent the break up of Manipur by the Naga revolutionary groups. Kukis were not opposed to the Naga movement as such but were only opposing the exclusive claims of all hills barring Churachandpur. In a sense, Meiteis were afraid to stand up to Nagas alone even as Nagas themselves didn't have much confidence to take the Meiteis for a full scale war. Now, the Meiteis have lost the trust of the Kukis forever.

The propaganda machines have drugged the Meiteis

so much that there was not even one Meitei intellectual who saw through the hate-filled narratives that were spewed against Kukis. From news reporters to politicians, from celebrities to intellectuals, it was like drowning in a deluge of lies. In fact, they all believed what their itching ears wanted to believe, and that is because they have been fed a venomous narrative for the last 7 years. Suddenly, the tribe that has helped them for ages now became refugee; there could be Anglo-Manipur War but no Anglo-Kuki War; Kuki illegal immigrants were allegedly growing and were about to take over Manipur but there is no illegal migrants among Meiteis from Cachar or Myanmar! Oh for that matter, no Nagas entered Manipur from Myanmar! In simple words, it just exposes the intellectual poverty of the Professors in Manipur University and the editors at the press rooms in Imphal.

Meitei societies have been frequenting Hebron Camp in the last few years. Similarly, Meiteis have also been hobnobbing with the Saffron brigade from Nagpur. While one can't be sure of what transpired in those meetings, it sometimes seem like they have been hoodwinked to fight someone else's battle. The overzealousness of the Federation of Haomee also indicates that some one else is pulling the strings far away from the valleys of Imphal. In the end, what have the Meiteis benefitted? Meitei Revolutionary groups have now done a never-before act of signing a Ceasefire with the Government of India. Manipur independence dream has sure gone to the drain. Will the silent legions of Meitei revolutionaries and the families of those who had already died for the cause ever forgive Biren and his Tenggols? Moreover, a much weakened Meitei society now stands vulnerable in an eventuality of having to face another formidable foe whose

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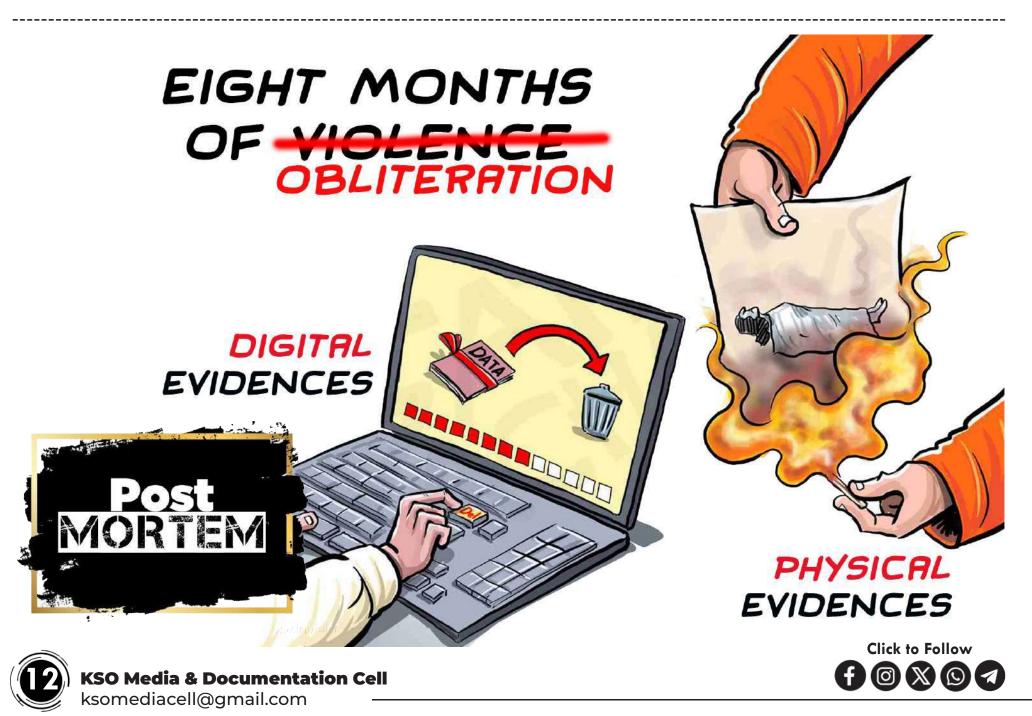




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entire politics revolved around stopping the Meitei nationalism and breaking Manipur's territorial integrity.

Another great loss for the Meiteis in this conflict is that it has killed the Meitei social fabric. A time is soon coming when there will be a civil war within Meiteis: they themselves will no longer trust their press; every new day, a new organisation is being formed and people will be at a loss as to whom to trust; the monetary demands from the 'Who knows who' will increase; the Kuki-Zo can even shut the highways indefinitely if the war stretches longer; the Scheduled Caste will soon refuse to send their kids to the frontlines since the sons of the affluent have mostly left for the Metros; the patience of the Pangals might not last longer; Naga integration and Zeliangrong movement will also soon rock the boat. Meiteis better prepare themselves to face the wrath of the monsters that they have created. One sure discovery that Meiteis would have made is that the Kuki-Zo whom they underestimated actually turned out to be the only group who had the guts to stand up to them (while others are busy selling their dignity with pigs and compensations) and in a nightmare beyond their dreams, the Kukis are actually hunting them like dogs in the Hills of Kuki-Zo Gam! Having used all the State machineries, Manipur Commandos, bullet proof vehicles, helicopters, crores of developmental funds, Meiteis continue to die and Biren has made himself a laughing stock. He has actually emerged as the weakest ever Chief Minister and has turned from a hero to a zero. A time might soon come when Meiteis will demand Seperate Administration, far seperated from Kuki-Zo, and they will hang Biren that day for starting this war!





Our Martyrs' Voices Matter

Dear Maa, Paa, and others dear to our hearts, Your concerns for us weigh heavily, Enduring day and night on our behalf. Your love, boundless, Yet, we sometimes falter, falling short of your expectations In our earthly journey.

Through many days and nights, In tattered attire, amidst freezing temperatures, Lying in the morgue as strangers without kin, Time passes by, No one arrives to awaken us. After seven long months, peacefully resting in our ancestral land, having fulfilled our roles.

Congratulations on the burial sites, However, we've reached our destination while you linger behind. Perhaps weariness is the case, Rise and strive for our sole intention: SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION. The key to this is unity, Leave no stone unturned until it is achieved.

We are silenced for you to speak out, Inaudible for you to hear, Sightless for you to see, 24/7 Entombed for the intention Where the almighty God is, There lies the key [UNITY]; consequently, Him first, and the rest shall unfold.

~ Lamgoupao Lipgen



ISSUE No. 116 SATURDAY | JANUARY 06, 2024