

Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LAMNEIKAM VAIPHEI (56 YEARS)

S/O LAMKHOLEN VAIPHEI

ADDRESS: SALAM PATONG VILLAGE, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MILITANT



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.

MEITEI ARMED GROUPS RESUME ATTACKS ON KUKI INHABITED AREAS OF JIRIBAM, KANGPOKPI; JIRIBAM KUKI APEX BODY CONDEMNS MEITEIS' ATROCITIES

A day after several Kuki-Zo houses were set ablaze in Jiribam district, the Meitei militants including Biren's private militia group of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Police force resumed indiscriminate attack on the Kuki inhabited locality of Raniveng in Jiribam district using sophisticated weapons including powerful bombs.

The attack occurred in the afternoon at around 4:30 PM which lasted for about two hours. However, the central security forces present at the incident site managed to push back the assailants. The central forces also reportedly relocated the civilians to safer places.

Tension is still high between the majority Meiteis and minority Kukis in the area in the aftermath of the violence perpetrated by the Meitei extremists as the war mongers of N. Biren Singh's private militia group of Arambai Tenggol set ablaze several houses of Kukis in Uchathol locality of Jiribam yesterday night at around 8:30 PM, thus breaching the peaceful environment of the region since the outbreak of state-sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kukis since last year.

Apart from the violent attack against the Kukis in Jiribam, a combined force of the radicalised armed groups such as the Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, proscribed Meitei Militants and communal Meitei Police renewed their aggressive attack towards Phaileng area situated along the buffer zone between Kanggui and Imphal West districts.

The gun-firing attack began at around 6:30 PM on Friday after which the Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers who were guarding the Kuki ancestral land retaliated. The ensuing gunfight lasted for about two hours. After a few minutes of interval, the gun battle resumed until late night. However, there was no report of casualties from both sides until the filing of this report.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi Jiribam, Tamenglong & Noney (KIJTN), an apex body of Kuki Tribes, vehemently



condemned the killing of Saratkumar Singh, a Meitei, by unknown miscreants yesterday night on 6th June, 2024 and appealed the concern authority to book the culprits as soon as possible.

Moreover, the Kuki Apex body said, a Kuki-Zo man, Mr. L Thianmuang (40), S/o (L) Luai of Vengnuam Dibong khunou, Jiribam, had been captured from his house at around 6:30 pm yesterday night by suspected Meitei militants with black dresses and his whereabouts remain unknown till now. The Kuki Inpi has appealed for his safe release and also urged the concerned authority to find him at the earliest possible to prevent further aggravation of the situation.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Kuki Inpi strongly condemned the provocative attitude and action of burning Kuki -Zo-Hmar houses by suspected members of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei militants yesterday night at Uchathol Hmar veng, Vengnuam Paite Veng and Songkoveng.

"Blatantly blaming the Kuki-Zo tribals for the murder of Saratkumar Singh, a Meitei, without any slight evidence and thereby attacking Kuki-Zo tribals solely indicates that some people are

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insistent on bringing upon the Manipur crisis to Jiribam area which had remain at peace till now,” said the Kuki apex body, while expressing its dismay as to how Kuki-Zo houses could be attacked and burnt the whole night inspite of imposing Curfew under CrPC 144.

It appealed the concerned authority to be stringent upon miscreants creating havoc in the area so that further escalation of violence may be prevented.

The Kuki Inpi further appealed to the general public, CSOs and community leaders particularly to those of Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities not to aggravate the situation but to stand for peace.

“The Kuki Inpi Jiribam, Tamenglong & Noney along with District authorities, Jiribam CSOs and leaders had been toiling hard to maintain

peace and tranquillity in the area since the beginning of Manipur ethnic crisis,” it added.

Mention may be made that uneasy calm prevailed in Jiribam between the warring communities in the aftermath of the brutal and cold-blooded murder of a Kuki young boy Mr. Seigoulen Singson @ Bosco S/o. Mr. Seikholet Singson of Phaitol village, Tousem Sub-division, Tamenglong District, by the Meitei armed militants on May 14, 2024. He was kidnapped and murdered on the night of 14th May, whose decomposed and badly tortured body was later retrieved from Jiri River on 17th of May near Molzawl village. The spot in which he went missing was hardly 30 metres from the Police Commando outpost and as such it was pertinent to conclude that the police commandos were directly or indirectly involved in the crime.

NO CONNECTION WITH INDIVIDUAL ARRESTED BY NIA, KNF-MC CLARIFIES

In connection with a recent development about the arrest of one individual by the NIA, the KNF-MC has issued a statement clarifying that they have no connection with the arrested individual.

Thongmonthang Haokip, also known as Thangboi Haokip or Roger, was apprehended on June 6, 2024, at Imphal airport.

The organization asserts that Mr. Haokip has no association with the Kuki National Front-Military Council (KNF-MC) and has never been enlisted as a cadre nor maintained any ties with the organization.

The arrest of Mr. Haokip, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UA(P) Act), as part of case RC-24/2023/

NIA/DLI, initiated suo moto by the NIA, is clarified by the organization as entirely disconnected from their operations or membership.

The clarification aims to address any concerns or speculations regarding Mr. Haokip’s alleged involvement with the KNF-MC or the organization’s activities.

The organization underscores its commitment to transparency and adherence to the law, urging the public and concerned agencies to understand the distinction between Mr. Haokip’s arrest and any association with the Kuki National Front-Military Council. The clarification further seeks to ensure accurate understanding and avoid unwarranted assumptions surrounding the matter.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES: DAILY AFFAIRS OF MEITEIS' ANCESTRAL LAND OF GREATER IMPHAL

Criminal activities or anti-social elements are the daily affairs of the Meiteis' ancestral land, Imphal. There are daily reports of rampant extortions, gun or bomb threats and intimidation, killings, etc., perpetrated by the proscribed Meitei militants, radicalised Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and other Meitei gang groups.

In a latest incident, suspected cadres of Arambai Tenggol, dressed in black uniforms, delivered a live hand grenade covered in a box at the reception counter of Diabetics Hospital and Research Centre, Ayangpalli road, opposite Karkinos Cancer Hospital near JNIMS hospital in Imphal East.

The incident took place on Friday at around 6.30 am under the jurisdiction of Porompat police station, Imphal East district.

Sources said that the healthcare centre is owned by Thiyam Dina (22), S/o Th. Bidyasagar of Nongmeibung Old Chekon.

As per Police, two men wearing black uniforms came inside the hospital and handed over a box, saying that it was medicine and requested to pass it over to Dr. Moirangthem Dhanabir, the managing director of the private hospital. After the hospital staff handed over the said box to Dhanabir, a hand grenade was found inside.

The matter was reported to the Porompat police station. A team from Porompat police station rushed to the spot and secured the area.

Later, a team of the bomb disposal squad diffused the hand grenade safely at around 2.30 pm.



Dr. Moirangthem Dhanabir said that it was the fourth time he has received such threats. About three months ago, bombs were found placed on two different occasions at his residence located at DM Campus, Thangmeiband, Imphal. A bomb was also found at his hospital earlier.

Various crime incidents occurring in and around Imphal have become a cause of serious concerns, threatening the security of not only the innocent civilians but the national security as a whole. With secessionist groups of Meiteis freely roaming in and around Imphal and carrying out their anti-national activities, the Government of India must take stringent actions to contain the devilish design of the extremists. The Central Government may also re-imposed AFSPA in the nineteen police station jurisdictions in Imphal valley.

BIREN ADMITS THAT ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST THE KUKIS IN MANIPUR IS STATE-SPONSORED

Chief Minister of Manipur N. Biren Singh has once again openly admitted that current ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kukis in Manipur is state-sponsored.

In a telephonic conversation with Philip Naoroibam, the Editor-in-Chief of SKTV, Biren Singh said that the war is between the government and the Kukis, not the Meiteis versus Kukis. When Philip asked him about the possibility of ending this conflict with the coming of new government at the Centre, Biren cryptically replied that it is due to the government action where a certain section of the society revolted against his dispensation. He said that those who opposed government policies started attacking the Meiteis, which the later retaliated. This is a wrong narrative, he added.

Well, for the unversed, Mr. Biren is known to have changed the narratives frequently even during this tumultuous period. Sometimes he blamed intelligence failure for the outbreak of violence. On other occasions, he stated that it was due to misunderstanding between the two communities – Kukis and Meiteis. He also said that the violence was due to narco-terrorism and later he blamed illegal immigrants for the violence again. He kept on changing his narratives. Now, he openly admitted state government's involvement in the violence. This man – Biren, keeps changing on his narrative like a headless chicken, not knowing whom to lay blame on.

Okay, let's accept what Biren says are true to our best knowledge, if the conflict was between the government and the Kuki community, why did the government



chase out its citizens from the state capital? The state capital is deemed to be settlement place for all citizens of the state, not only for a particular community. Various government employees of the state are living there. How did the government chase out its own employees? Biren Singh's government is waging a war against its employees.

During the telephonic conversation, Biren was asked about his opinion regarding the electoral defeat of NDA candidate in both seats of Manipur Parliamentary seats. He berated the electoral decision of the people of Manipur, saying that the people, who did not want enactment of NRC in Manipur, have voted otherwise. The public have been taking the demand for NRC in Manipur since long back, however, they have voted against us, he said. These are the people who did not want the territorial integrity of Manipur, he added. Instead of taking the blame himself, he belittles the sane decision of the majority voters.



People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.

— George Orwell

10 KUKI POLICE PERSONNEL ORDERED TO PROCEED TO IMPHAL FOR DUTY

In a move that risked the safety of security personnel attached with the Manipur Police Department, Ten (10) Police Commando Personnel, belonging to the Kuki community, have been ordered to proceed to Imphal for duty.

The name of Riflemen and Police Commandos to be deployed for duty at Jiribam was published by the Manipur Police Department today. As per the order, they shall proceed to Jiribam on 08.06.2024 under the command of Sub Inspector S. Kishorjit Singh, CDO/ OC-Jiribam. In the list of police personnel to be deployed at Jiribam, no Kuki police personnel were included. However, the order also detailed a list of police personnel to proceed to Imphal for duty. The list includes 10 Kuki Police personnel.

Considering the motive behind such order – ordering Kuki Police personnel to proceed to Imphal for duty, is beyond our wild imagination, when the life of Kukis is under constant threat from the Meiteis in the “Kukis’ Valley of Death.”

Demographic separation is already completed in Manipur between the Kukis and the Meiteis. For, the Kukis to go to Imphal valley for duty is akin to death. No single Meitei would dare to get job posting in Kuki

areas as of now and the same is true for Kukis. Even when the Meitei Police personnel got election duty in Naga dominated areas during the election, they had refused to report for duty, fearing their lives under threat, thus staged a protest in Imphal.

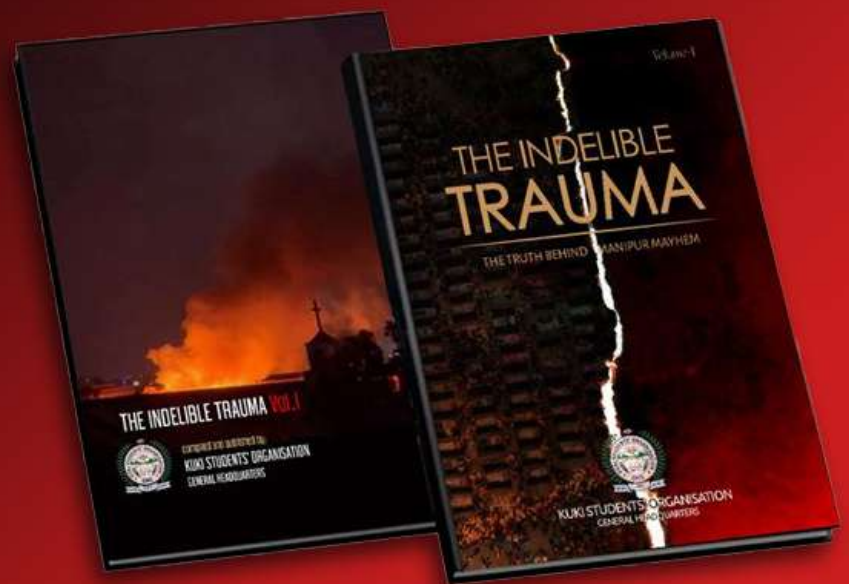
The Manipur Police department must be much aware of the precarious situation concerning the safety of its personnel, but what must be the intention behind this order – ordering Kukis to proceed to Imphal for duty is a serious concern. Are they trying to punish Kuki personnel, taking this order as an excuse? It is ridiculous that such an order from the Police Department was issued, ignoring the circumstances involved in the present situation.

The Government of Manipur should not downplay the fact of total separation between the Kukis and Meiteis. Buffer zones or the Lines of Control have been in existence and the warring communities have now lived in their respective ancestral lands. There is no way of crossing the “Lines of Control” each other by both the communities until formalisation of ‘separate administration’ for the Kukis.

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FEATURED ARTICLE

BJP's Distance From the Northeast Grows Wider as it Only Calls NDA Members Who Have Won in 2024

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

Members of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) invited by its chairman Amit Shah for the June 5 meeting in New Delhi were called only if they had won a seat in these general elections. Those who failed to win any seat, even if they were allies and had contested these parliamentary polls jointly with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), were not allowed to be at the high table. This has led to talks that it was the NDAW now, W standing for only winners being invited, not allies.

This has widened gaps between the BJP and the region, which has so far taken the Northeast for granted, politically. Coming at a time when BJP needs to present a diametrically different face from what it has done for the past decade. There are 25 MPs that seven Northeastern states bring to the 543-member Lok Sabha. BJP has 240.

There is discontent brewing in the Northeast for the BJP, which had so far taken their 'loyalty' for any party ruling Delhi to another level. The electoral verdict, with shock victories for the Congress in Nagaland and Manipur, has opened the door on a new phase of politics of the periphery. Modi's centralising rule and Hindutva push have got pushback, which Assam's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has widened by speaking bitterly of Christian resentment against the BJP.

No Nagaland

Neiphiu Rio, Nagaland chief minister and leader of the Nationalist Democratic People's Party (NDPP), was present in Delhi yesterday, but not at the meeting.

Aside from being an NDA member, Rio also runs the Nagaland government in coalition with the BJP, and had fought the April 19 polls for the lone Nagaland parliamentary seat in alliance with the BJP. To the shock of both BJP and NDPP, the seat has been won by the Congress — after a hiatus of 26 years. K.A. Sangtam had won it for the Congress last in 1998.

"Our leader is naturally not happy at not being invited to the NDA meeting yesterday; it seems it was just because our candidate lost the elections. But we are still in the government with the BJP as NDA partners. Also, since the BJP contested the seat jointly with us, the blame can't simply be on our party," said a source in the NDPP, peeved at the national leadership of the BJP for ignoring Rio.

According to the NDPP source, as of June 6 morning, Rio is still in New Delhi. "He is staying at the official bungalow of the party Lok Sabha MP

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who had won the seat in 2019. Now, it looks like that bungalow will go from us soon.”

According to an NDPP source in Kohima, Nagaland BJP’s top leader Y. Patton, also the state home minister, had also avoided going to Delhi after the results were announced. In the run-up to the April 19 voting, Patton had told reporters that even though people from the six districts of Nagaland would not participate in these elections, their joint candidate would win “with a thumping majority”. Voters in those districts had stayed away from the polling booths on April 19 at the call of the Eastern Nagaland People’s Organisation (ENPO) because of the failure of Union home minister Amit Shah and the Narendra Modi government to fulfil the promise made to them about granting statehood to the region prior to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

“Patton went on record saying even if the joint candidate receives only one vote from ENPO (areas), he will win with a thumping majority. Mind you, those areas didn’t vote this time because they were angry with BJP, not us. So how can their central leadership make it look like the loss is only ours? If people had voted in those areas, the NDPP candidate would have won on June 4,” said the NDPP source.

No Meghalaya

Another NDA leader from the Northeast missing from the meeting was Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma. His party, the Nationalist People’s Party (NPP), had also contested the two parliamentary seats of the state jointly with the BJP. The national party is also part of the NPP government in the state.

The Tura seat was won by the Congress and the Shillong seat by Voice of People’s Party (VPP).

VPP is a new entity hinged on Khasi sentiments, while chief minister Sangma is a Garo from Tura. VPP winning the Shillong seat, where majority of voters are Khasis, is a significant development in that hill state.

Himanta Sarma widens fissures between Northeast and BJP

BJP sources in Meghalaya told this correspondent that the decision to contest the polls jointly with the NPP was taken by Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with Conrad Sangma. “Some within our party wanted to contest at least one seat (Shillong) on our own even if we knew it may not be easy to win it but if we have to grow in the state, we have to contest elections. But Sarma decided against it. Same was the case in Nagaland. Even though some Nagaland BJP members were wanting to contest separately, Sarma and Patton decided not to, along with chief minister Rio. So, this Meghalaya loss is as much NPP’s as it is of ours; we took a joint decision,” said the sources.

Meghalaya BJP sources, and the NDPP source in Nagaland, also blamed Sarma squarely for “taking away a lot of votes” in both these Christian-majority states by making anti-Christian public statements. “A video slip showing Sarma saying ‘Christianity should end’ was circulated widely by the opposition before the elections. It was such an insensitive thing to say. It confirmed only the fears the voters in our states against the BJP. Now, Sarma has blamed the voters in the hill states for not electing our candidates but did he also not contribute to it?” the NDPP source asked.

On June 6 too, Sarma repeated what he had said about these Christian-majority states while speaking to reporters in Guwahati, “In Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur, a particular religion went against NDA. That has made the difference as that religion has tremendous followers in those states. It is not a political defeat. Nobody can fight against a religion.” Sarma also said, “This religion (read Christianity) usually does not interfere in politics but this time they got involved and even in Assam. They have openly worked against the NDA this time.”

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In the run-up to these elections, Hindutva groups in Assam particularly targeted Church-run schools, demanding that they remove all 'religious symbols' from the educational institutions, kicking up considerable fear in the community in the state, and also condemnation from the people and Church and political leaders from neighbouring states.

Such utterances by Sarma at the June 6 press meet seem to be after the national leadership expressing its displeasure at the chief minister for not being able to deliver more seats from the region. Sarma is meant to be the primary strategist of the party in the region. On being asked, sources in the Assam BJP have confirmed to The Wire that Sarma had promised 13 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats of Assam along with the allies to the national leadership. "He was so confident that while we will win 12 on our own, two others will come from the allies. And Congress will be reduced to just one seat in Assam. But Congress ended up getting three seats, while we couldn't increase our 2019 individual tally. Overall, we could deliver only 11 seats. So, the national leadership is a bit upset with us."

The BJP sources also added, "Sarma was very positive about delivering 21 of the 25 seats from the region along with our partner parties. But we got only 16, including Sikkim. It is less than the 2019 NDA tally. Voters in the hill states clearly went against NDA. Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya are nil for us this time."

Modi missing from Manipur, now Manipur missing in BJP tally

In Manipur, more than the polarisation of Christian votes, Modi ignoring the ethnic conflict, and Shah endorsing the party's chief minister N. Biren Singh in spite of the massive violence suffered by both Meitei and Kuki communities of the state seemed to have proved to be rather costly for the party.

Both the Inner and Outer Manipur seats were snatched from the BJP by the Congress while Biren Singh failed to deliver the promise made to Sarma. "There was so

much violence we saw during the voting on April 19 in the Inner Manipur seat including attempts by the opponent party to capture polling booths. And yet, people have spoken," said a Congress source in Imphal. He also pointed out, "Our win in the Outer seat is also because of massive support shown by the Kuki voters. They didn't want the NPF (Nagaland People's Front) candidate to win, knowing well that his win would add to the NDA tally, and thereby Modi," he said, claiming, "The Congress's win in that seat was in spite of the NSCN (Isac-Muivah) support to the NPF candidate".

Amit Shah's NDA

Going by Shah's logic that an NDA partner must win at least a seat to be able to be present at the meeting on June 5, invitations were sent to the leaders of three other allies of the BJP from the region — Pramod Boro of UPPL (Liberal) which won the Kokrajhar seat; Atul Bora of Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) which won the Barpeta seat; and Sikkim chief minister Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) for winning the Sikkim LS seat. Each of them are reported to have handed over their letters of support at the meeting to elect Modi as the leader of the NDA.

Missing Ajit

Another significant absence from the NDA meeting, even though his party had received an invitation by dint of winning just a single seat, was Ajit Pawar of the National Congress Party (NCP). The Ajit faction's dismal performance at the polls was stark as against his uncle Sharad Pawar's faction in Maharashtra. Still, Praful Patel from the Ajit faction showed up, thereby endorsing Shah's rule that only winners can be invitees to an NDA meeting.

First published by [The Wire](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Nilanjan Das
@NilanjanDasAITC

Mausami Singh of India Today asked @MahuaMoitra why she called the Manipur violence a “crime against humanity”.

But the fearless journalist couldn’t muster up courage to ask Modiji or any Minister why they didn’t visit the State or why the BJP-led Manipur Govt was not dismissed.



6:47 pm · 07 Jun 24 · 153K Views



South Asian Christians
@S_AsianXtians

Follow

Last night, Meitei radical militias burnt a Church in Jiribam, Manipur 🇮🇳. For the past 13 months, the tribal Christians of Manipur are facing persecution from the majoritarian government led by Biren Singh.



4:13 pm · 07 Jun 24 · 5,732 Views



**THE
POST-POLL
PLANNED
VIOLENCE**





FROM SHADOWS TO GRACE

- *Lam Ngainieng*

In Manipur's shadowed land, on a fateful May day,
A rally of peace turned to war's cruel play.
The Meiteis struck first, with a fire's fierce spark,
Burning a memorial, igniting the dark.

Meira Paibi, with hearts turned to stone,
Spurred young men to crimes, chilling the bone.
Innocence shattered by violence and dread,
A man's life taken, his blood fiercely shed.

His wife and daughter, in humanity's wane,
Paraded in torment, bearing the stain.
Villages torn asunder, homes burnt to ground,
The cries of the tribal, a sorrowful sound.

Churches in ashes, faith scorched in the blaze,
Lives left in ruins, in dark, endless maze.
The path to the airport, a perilous flight,
For Meitei's wrath lingers, day into night.

Yet amid this bleak torment, a flicker of light,
A whisper of hope in the blackest of night.
The Lord, our strength, in these desolate times,
Guiding our hearts through the darkest of crimes.

Though the pain is immense, and the suffering wide,
With faith as our armor, we stand side by side.
For in unity and hope, our spirits are bound,
And the Lord's grace will lift us from the ground.