

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGJALEN CHONGLOI (25 YEARS)

S/O SATMANG CHONGLOI

ADDRESS: TWISOMJANG, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 28TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: SAIKUL, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
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.

BIREN THE CHIEF ARCHITECT OF MANIPUR VIOLENCE'S CONFESSIONS CAUGHT ON TAPE; KSO GHQ RAISES CONCERN

The KSO General Headquarters has obtained a highly disturbing audio recording purportedly featuring Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh. In the recording, Singh is heard making alarming admissions about orchestrating violence against the Kuki-Zo people under the guise of "saving Meitei Civilization."

Key revelations from the recording include:
Ethnic Cleansing Admission: Singh admits to initiating a campaign of violence against the Kuki-Zo people, stating, "We (the Meiteis) are all finished. I foresaw the downfall of the Meiteis which is why I started this (Ethnic Cleansing)." (9:10 mins)

Use of Force: Singh reportedly directed state forces to the conflict zone, saying, "I am the one who had sent, directed, and ordered the state forces and commandos to the war zone (the hills)." (1:29 mins)

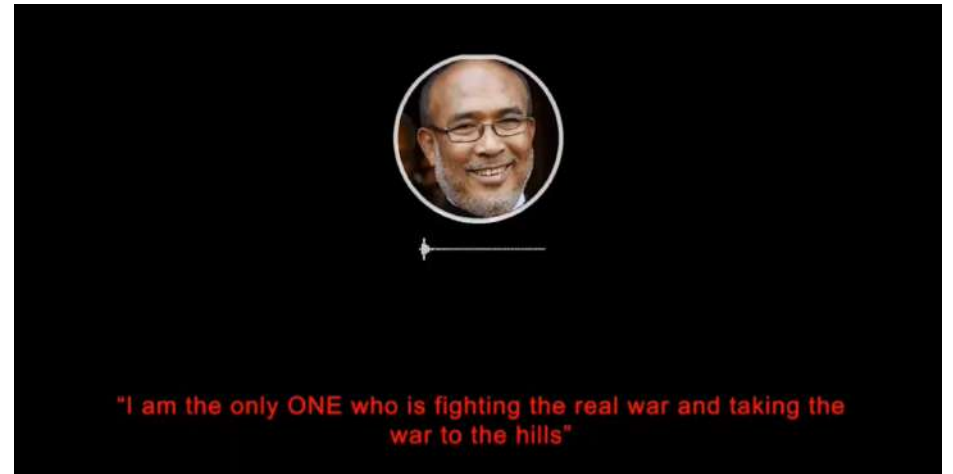
Looted Arms: He boasts about the unchecked looting of arms, claiming, "The 4000-5000 guns and arms that were looted till now... it's all because of Me and my power." (2:49 mins & 40:53 mins)

Manipulation of the NIA: Singh allegedly instructed the NIA to reward rather than punish perpetrators, stating, "I told the NIA sleuths who arrested the perpetrators not to punish them but to reward them for saving their lives." (11:45 mins)

Collaboration with Insurgent Groups: Singh proposes uniting valley-based insurgent groups with police forces, suggesting, "Let us unite all the valley-based insurgent groups like UNLF, PREPAK, UNLF (Pambei), etc., with Police Commandos." (45:01 mins)

The KSO General Headquarters is prepared to provide the full audio clip for authenticity verification through acoustic or forensic analysis to any media or governmental agency.

The recording raises critical questions about the Government of India's response and actions:



- 1. Why has the Government of India not addressed the evidence of Singh's crimes against the Kuki-Zo people? Is there complicity in his agenda?**
- 2. What measures will the Government of India take to ensure justice for the Kuki-Zo people and hold Singh accountable?**
- 3. Why have the atrocities committed by state forces under Singh's orders not been thoroughly investigated?**
- 4. What steps will the Government of India take to prevent future incidents and protect citizens' rights?**
- 5. Will there be an investigation into Singh's proposal to merge insurgent groups with state forces, and if not, does this imply support for his actions?**

The KSO General Headquarters demands immediate action from the Government of India. The inaction in response to such grave allegations is deeply concerning and undermines the commitment to human rights and justice.

Additionally, the KSO General Headquarters warns against the misuse or defamation of the NIA and insists on legal action against Biren Singh to uphold justice and accountability.

KUKI APEX BODY CONDEMNS DISCRIMINATORY AFSPA IMPOSITION IN HILL DISTRICTS OF MANIPUR

The Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kukis, has strongly condemned the ongoing imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) exclusively in the hill districts of Manipur, describing it as a human rights violation and discriminatory. They argue that the Kuki-Zo areas, under Suspension of Operations (SoO) with insurgent groups, have maintained relative peace and pose no conflict with the Indian state.

The Kuki apex body highlights the discriminatory nature of AFSPA's imposition, noting its withdrawal in the valley areas despite recent violence and the presence of over 6,000 looted arms. They contend that the AFSPA should instead be enforced in the valley, where Meitei insurgent groups have a history of secessionist demands.

The organization asserts that the partial removal of AFSPA has led to deteriorating law and order in the valley and has forced the Kuki-Zo community to defend against ongoing aggression. They argue that



the Assam Rifles' role in border management and counter-insurgency is crucial due to the presence of radicalized militias and weapons in the valley.

The Kuki apex body calls for an immediate revocation of AFSPA in the hill districts or its reimposition in the valley areas to address the security needs effectively. They urge the Central Government to address what they see as a misuse of AFSPA powers by the Manipur state government.

SECURITY FORCES NAB REBEL CADRES IN IMPHAL, RECOVER WEAPONS CACHE IN KAKCHING

Two members of the outlawed Revolutionary People's Front/People's Liberation Army (RPF/PLA) were arrested by security forces in Manipur on August 7.

The operation carried out in Changangei Awang Leikai, Imphal West District, led to the arrest of Nongmeikapam Naoton Meitei (45) and Moirangthem Premananda Singh (50).

Both suspects were allegedly involved in extortion activities in and around the Imphal area. During the arrest, authorities seized two mobile phones and a wallet from the suspects.

In a related development, security forces recovered a significant weapons cache in Sekmaijin Mamang Leikai,



Kakching District. The arsenal included various firearms, explosives, and tactical equipment. Among the seized items were an AK rifle, hand grenades, pistols, and assorted ammunition. The recovery also included anti-riot gear such as tear smoke grenades, stun shells, and bulletproof vests.

MANIPUR NAGA YOUTH ORGANISATION, TANGKHUL VILLAGE HEADMEN DENOUNCE SOCIAL BOYCOTT OF OUTER MANIPUR MP ALFRED BY MEITEI RADICALISED GROUPS

Strongly denouncing the social boycott of Mr. Alfred Kanngam Arthur, Member of Parliament from II-Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, by the radicalised Meitei groups of Meitei Leepun and My Manipur, the Manipur Naga Youth Organization (MNYO-HQ) and 36 Tangkhul Villages Headmen have demanded a retraction of the statement made against the parliamentarian.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Manipur Naga Youth Organisation stated that the recent actions taken by Meitei Leepun and My Manipur of imposing social boycott against the newly elected Member of Parliament from II - Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency might cause confusion and social discord among the people of Manipur. Such a social boycott was not just an attack on Mr. Arthur as an individual but a direct affront to all the people of Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, it said.

The Manipur Naga Youth Organisation warned that the Meitei Leepun and My Manipur should be held responsible if any untoward incident befall upon the life of Mr. Alfred Kanngam Arthur, an MP.

The MNYO-HQ also advised the Meitei Leepun and My Manipur to not repeat such irresponsible statements of social boycott regardless of the sentiment of the people of Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency in future to avert unnecessary social discords between the hills and the valley.

Mention may be made that the Member of Parliament, Mr. Alfred Kanngam Arthur had consistently raised issues through proper channel in a democratic means in the floor of Parliament for restoration of peace and order in Manipur in the interest of all the affected communities and victims.

Deeply concerned by the misinterpretation of Mr. Alfred Kanngam's statement by the Meitei groups, which seems to be inciting unnecessary tension, the MNYO-HQ urged the Meitei Leepun and My Manipur to respect the



other community areas of influence and appealed to engage constructive civil discourse rather than issuing social boycott and other means to suffocate the rights of the MP as a responsible lawmaker.

Meanwhile, the headmen of 36 villages from Ukhrul and Kamjong districts had denounced the false allegations made against MP Alfred Kanngam Arthur by Meitei Leepun and My Manipur.

In a statement, the Villages' headmen stated that the accusations, which claimed MP Arthur of "openly advocating for the destructive agenda of illegal immigrant Kukis in the Indian Parliament and elsewhere," were false, unfounded and a deliberate attempt to tarnish his reputation.

The village headmen emphasized that those allegations were not only ill-intentioned but also undemocratic, while highlighting MP Arthur's unwavering commitment to the development and peace of the entire state of Manipur, encompassing both Hills and Valley regions.

The Headmen urged all concerned citizens to reject the false allegations made by Meitei Leepun and My Manipur, and affirmed that MP Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur represents the entire state of Manipur. Any attempts to twist and misinterpret his words only serve to hinder peace and unity, the statement added.

KUKI WOMEN LAUNCH VIGOROUS VIGILANT DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF ASSAM RIFLES POST

In a determined move against the proposed withdrawal of Assam Rifles from their region, Kuki women, under the Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills, have initiated a robust protest in front of the Assam Rifles Post in Kangpokpi District.

The protest, which began on Tuesday evening, reflects the community's deep-seated concerns about security and stability in the area.

Earlier this month, on August 2 and 3, the Kuki people staged a massive, peaceful demonstration at Gamgiphai, urging the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister to reconsider the decision to withdraw Assam Rifles from Sadar Hills.

The community argued that the presence of Assam Rifles is crucial for maintaining peace and security in the region, given the history of ethnic tensions.

The Kuki community has warned that they will escalate their protests if the government proceeds with the removal of Assam Rifles.

In response to these concerns, women from the Kuki community have taken the lead in the ongoing protests, positioning themselves at the 22 Assam Rifles Post in Kangpokpi to monitor the movement of the paramilitary forces closely.

Protests are also planned in Saikul, Leimakhong, and Motbung, where Kuki women are preparing to launch similar demonstrations. The vigilant protests are aimed at preventing the withdrawal of Assam Rifles and ensuring that no other forces replace them.

The situation highlights the critical role of Assam Rifles in maintaining peace in the region and the significant impact of their removal on the local communities urging the government to listen to their concerns and reconsider the decision, emphasizing the need for a strategic and inclusive approach to security in Manipur.



The Kuki women protestors at the vigilant protest in front of 22 Assam Rifles Kangpokpi also shouted a slogan, "Assam Rifles - Friends of the Hills People", "Don't Remove Assam Rifles", etc.

Ng. Lun Kipgen, spokesperson for the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), highlighted that Kuki women across Sadar Hills are initiating vigilant protests at all Assam Rifles posts in the district aiming to prevent the transfer of Assam Rifles and block any attempts to replace them with other central forces.

In a heartfelt appeal, Kipgen addressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying, "The Kuki community is a very patient and peace-loving community. Dear Modiji, please don't make us resort to other non-democratic forms of protests."

Kipgen appeal's underscores the community's commitment to peaceful demonstrations while warning against potential escalation if their concerns are not addressed.

He further urged both the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to reconsider the decision to withdraw Assam Rifles, labelling it as "illogical, ill-timed, and unjust" at this critical juncture emphasizing the essential role of Assam Rifles in maintaining peace and security in the region.

The situation remains tense as the community awaits a response from central authorities.



FEATURED OPINION

Thoughtless Act by Naga People's Front, Manipur State Unit

Ngaranmi Shimray

EastMojo news reported on August 5, 2024, that the Naga People's Front (NPF), an ally of the BJP-led government in Manipur, has called on the state government to expedite the Autonomous District Council (ADC) elections. This statement was issued by its General Secretary (Administration), Mr. Honreikhui Kashung, of the NPF Manipur State Unit. Given the ongoing conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities and the Kuki-Zo tribes' demand for a Separate Administration, Union Territory, or territorial council, it is baffling that the NPF is pushing for district council elections under the outdated Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act of 1971. This shocking statement raises questions about why Naga politicians seem to lag in policy formulation compared to the Kuki-Zo tribes. Consider the following points:

1. Several tribal areas in northeastern regions have been under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, covered by Article 244 and Article 244-A, since India became a Republic. The autonomous district and territorial councils exist in four states: Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura. The scope, jurisdiction, power, and functions of these councils are outlined in the Sixth Schedule. The Bodoland Territorial Council, under Article 244-A, states that "Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may, by law, form within the State of Assam an autonomous State comprising

(whether wholly or in part) all or any of the tribal areas specified in Part I of the table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule and create therefor..." The Bodoland Council, akin to a state within a state, is the most powerful autonomous council compared to others under Article 244. Recognizing this, the TIPRA Motha and the Eastern Nagaland People's Organization (ENPO) have modeled their demands for Frontier Nagaland on the Bodoland Territorial Council. The Nagas should consider a similar approach. The tribes of Manipur should abandon any thoughts of empowering the outdated Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act of 1971 through amendments. This Act will always be at the mercy of the dominant Meitei community, which holds 40 of the 60 legislative seats and dominates the state government. Under Article 244-A and the Sixth Schedule, the scope, jurisdiction, functions, and powers of autonomous district and territorial councils are enshrined in the Constitution and cannot be easily amended to their disadvantage. The tribes of Manipur must decide whether they want to remain at the mercy of the dominant community or free themselves by establishing self-governance enshrined in the Constitution. The choice is obvious.

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2. Manipur is the only state where the district council is constituted under an Act of the State, enacted by Parliament in 1971 when Manipur was a Part C state without legislative powers. The Meitei community, which holds 40 of the 60 legislative seats and constitutes 53% of the state's population, dominates the state. Under these circumstances, the tribes are subjugated and under the thumb of the dominant community. The valley has empowered itself with Panchayati Raj institutions since 1994 under Articles 243 to 243 O of the Constitution, but the tribes are denied empowered self-government in the form of district councils under Article 244. The tribes should not stoop down to the manipulative enticements of politicians seeking short-term selfish benefits but raise their voices to demand their rights, denied for more than half a century.

3. The Kuki-Zo politicians understood the plight of the tribes of Manipur and the devious designs of the dominant community. They reacted strongly when the Manipur High Court passed an order on March 27, 2023, to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Meitei community. The Nagas stood by and watched the mayhem from May 3, 2023, as the subjugation of the Kuki-Zo tribes by the dominant community continued. Who knows, the Nagas could be the next target in this divide-and-rule game. The Kuki-Zo, realizing there would never be fair play and justice under the Meitei-dominated Manipur government, have demanded separate administration. Regardless of the feasibility of this demand, it highlights their lost confidence in

the state government. There have been hints that the demand may scale down to a territorial council under Article 244-A, a very practical move. At a time when the Kuki-Zo are asking for separate administration, which could materialize as an autonomous district or territorial council under Article 244-A, the NPF's demand for district council elections under the antiquated Manipur (Hill Areas) Act of 1971 is absurd and mind-boggling. This shameful act deserves condemnation by civil society organizations and the public. The Nagas should demand nothing less than what the Kuki-Zo tribes are demanding. Everyone knows there is a stalemate in the Indo-Naga peace talks of 27 years, and no one can predict when a final settlement will occur. However, the Nagas must capitalize on the situation created by the Meitei and Kuki-Zo conflict and make a concerted demand for a separate administration or autonomous district or territorial council under Article 244-A, as the Kuki-Zo tribes have done. Holding elections under the existing, ineffective district council Act will amount to a sell-out to the dominant community by the Naga politicians.

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(Ngaranmi Shimray is an activist and political observer based in New Delhi. Views are personal. Shimray2011@gmail.com. Feedback/comment @ Aran Shimray on X)



It is better to be violent, if there is violence in our hearts, than to put on the cloak of nonviolence to cover impotence.

- Mahatma Gandhi

**FEATURED ARTICLE**

Is Manipur Headed for More Carnage?

Gen. Prakash Katoch

On the opening day of the ongoing Manipur Legislative Assembly Session scheduled from July 31 to August 12, Chief Minister Biren Singh informed the house of the gory achievements of his administration since violence broke out on May 3, 2023, i.e. 226 persons killed, 39 missing, over 59,000 displaced, 11,133 homes burnt, 4,569 homes destroyed and 11,892 cases of violence filed, so far, without mentioning how many of these cases have been resolved, if any at all.

None of the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs attended the 60-member legislative assembly session, nor had they attended the previous two sessions after violence erupted in May last year. In the latest episode, the CM invited them to attend the assembly session but without guaranteeing their safety, which made it a farce. For the Kuki-Zo, travelling to the Imphal Valley is not safe, where even the Naga are getting attacked.

Biren Singh's myriad achievements "also" include: one, thousands of arms and ammunition looted from police and IRB armouries in May 2023 in Imphal Valley, which were actually distributed to Meitei radicals according to ground sources; two, expansion of 'Arambai Tenggol' (radical armed Meitei group) from a cadre of 7,000 till March 2023 to 50,000 by January 2024 spread across 59 units; three, according welcome to Arambai Tenggol sporting arms and taking control of Imphal with security

forces nowhere in sight; four, allowing Arambai Tenggol to 'summon' MLAs at Kangla Fort and compelling them to sign a proposal and take an oath of allegiance; five, allowing UNLF cadres (who signed a peace deal and surrendered arms) to carry arms and establish posts.

On August 1, 2024, the Meitei and Hmar (belonging to the Kuki-Chin-Zo ethnic group) of 'Jiribam District', signed an agreement to end hostilities and re-establish peace. The state administration called it a big achievement although it applies only to Jiribam District, which remained largely peaceful since May last year with only two incidents of violence this year; a 59-year-old farmer went missing in June, and an ambush on a joint CRPF-state police patrol in July that killed a CRPF person and injured three security personnel.

Removing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Imphal Valley before May 2023 gave freehand to the Arambai Tenggol and other radical Meitei groups, which contributed to the lawlessness and violence in the area. More violence can be expected now with some Assam Rifles (AR) troops being pulled out from Manipur (to be replaced by

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CRPF) for deployment in Jammu region of J&K, where the AR is to have a base according to newspaper reports.

July 31 witnessed massive protests in violence-hit Churachandpur District, with the Kuki-Zo protesting in large numbers at Gothol, Khouabung and Kangvai areas against the Centre's decision to pull out the Assam Rifles. They also held candle light vigils and held placards inscribed 'AR protect and save our lives', 'AR don't go back', 'Meitei militants are the problem, not AR' and the like. Intriguingly, Manipuris have more confidence in AR, which operates in a totally impartial manner.

India is still without a national security strategy (NSS), perhaps by design, since that would make governments accountable. In the absence of NSS the hierarchy enjoys shadow boxing – firefighting

crisis after crisis. Why else did we rush off 'Uniform Force' of Rashtriya Rifles (adept in CI operations) to eastern Ladakh, weakening the CI-grid that led to the surge of violence in J&K? And, now we are similarly disturbing the CI-grid in Manipur by pulling out AR?

It is no secret that the politico-bureaucratic nexus is not happy with operational control of the AR under the Army. That is why a few years back there was a proposal to merge AR with the ITBP and place them under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). One obvious reason was to take full control of the narcotics trade in the northeast, which in a small state like Manipur alone is to the tune of Rs 50,000 crore annually, according to a report by the Editor's Guild of India released last September.

All Indian governments, including the present one, fear a military coup. Hence, the Army is looked down upon – as a necessary evil. Hence, efforts continue to downgrade soldiers below the police and CRPF under the present administration. John Swinton, former chief of staff of New York Times had stated that the "business of journalists is to destroy truth....we are tools and vassals of the rich, behind the scenes we are intellectual

prostitutes." We have had an intellectual prostitute who even accused a serving Army Chief of trying to engineer an army coup.

The cumulative effect of the above, together with the absence of NSS, is why we have capitulated to China in Ladakh, and are trying to "buy" peace from Beijing and do not even respond to Pakistan's proxy war in the manner we should. National defence remains a casualty. Why else would Bloomberg say 'Modi Can't Build India's Military This Way'?

One may argue that the CRPF has also been deployed in CI environments like the AR. But it is also a fact that they cannot operate as impartially as the Assam Rifles because of the politics involved, especially when the state administration is involved in ethnic cleansing. Also, the CRPF must go by what the MHA wants. If this is not true, how are reports of infiltration from Bangladesh and smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh coming so periodically, when BSF manning the border is directly under the MHA?

The pullout of AR from Manipur, especially from violence-ridden areas like Churachandpur District would increase the carnage, with Arambai Tenggol, UNLF and other Meitei radical organisation going after the Kuki-Zo, under the tutelage of Biren Singh who doesn't even acknowledge that 'Arambai Tenggol' even exists and is involved in ethnic cleansing by even using Manipur police commandos for this. The Naga know that after Kuki-Zo, they will be the target. Hence, the NSCN (IM) has issued a warning to Arambai Tengoll not to target Christians. Hopefully, better sense will prevail at the Centre and state level.

First published by [Raksha Arirveda](#)

-The author is an Indian Army veteran. Views expressed are personal.

THE BUZZ

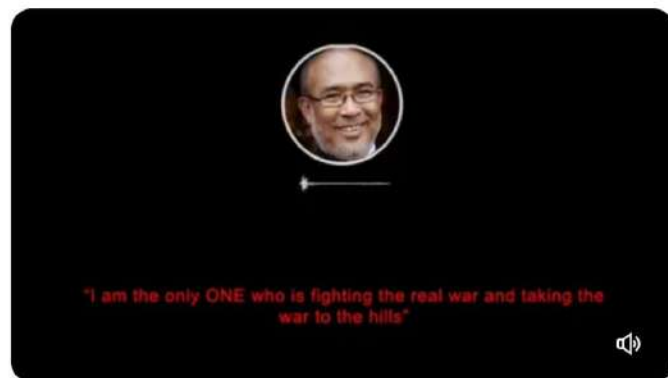
SOCIAL MEDIA



Bhavika Kapoor
@BhavikaKapoor5

News :-

- In Manipur, an audio clip has emerged featuring Chief Minister N. Biren Singh admitting to initiating ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo community.
- The clip, widely shared on social media, has sparked outrage and calls for accountability. The Kuki community and its supporters accuse Singh of discriminatory actions, including derogatory remarks, arbitrary arrests, and state-backed violence.
- The situation in Manipur has escalated to a point where people have armed themselves for defense, indicating a breakdown beyond typical law and order issues.



22:35 · 07 Aug 24 · 847 Views



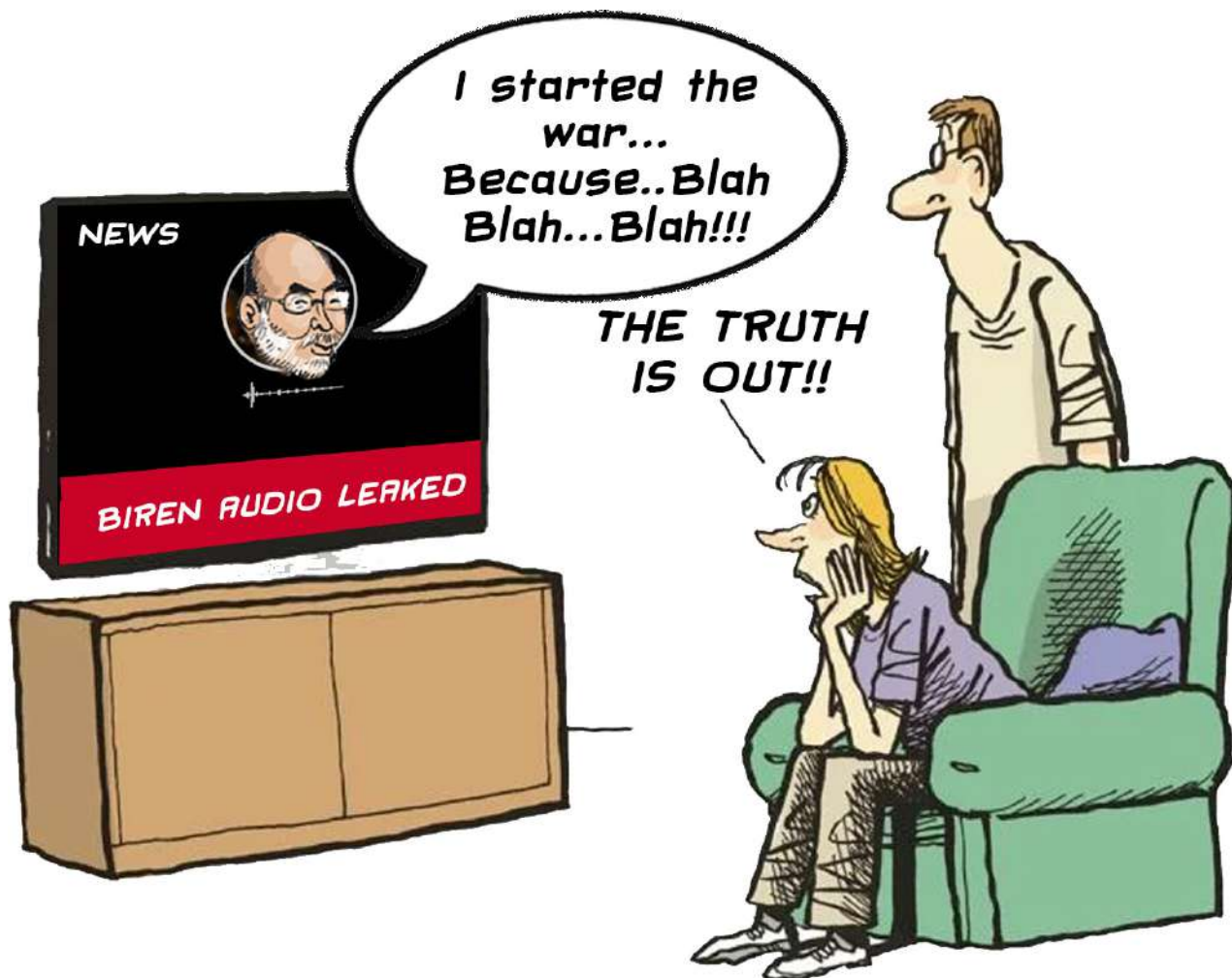
Sominthang Doungel
@sominthang

After 140 years, the Assam Rifles, especially the 9th and 22nd battalion Assam Rifles, are being sent to Jammu and Kashmir and they are being replaced by CRPF, so that Manipur govt can take over lands belonging to kukis rich in petroleum deposits. @ndtv @AmitShah @the_hindu

9:26 · 06 Aug 24 · 1,266 Views



BIREN'S LEAKED AUDIO





HOME LOST FAITH FOUND

CH ROBERTH MATE

Khongsai Veng, I miss my home,
Where childhood dreams would freely roam,
Our humble house, our loving nest,
The place where life felt truly blessed.

But now I wonder, with a heavy heart,
What have they done, those torn apart?
The unkind hands that wrecked our peace,
Left scars that seem to never cease.

Our puppy Shimbo, where does he roam?
Does he still guard our once-happy home?
His wagging tail, his joyful bark,
Are memories now, a glowing spark.

"Son, why dwell on what's behind?
In the past, no peace you'll find.
God has saved us, brought us through,
From that dark day in May, we grew.

With hearts that beat, with breath anew,
He'll guide us to what's right and true.
Our home may change, but we remain,
Bound by love through joy and pain.

Why linger in sorrow, in shadows deep?
Let gratitude within us seep.
For every tear that we have shed,
Let faith in God replace our dread.

Pray for our kin, for a separate place,
Where Kuki people can thrive with grace.
In faith and hope, we'll pave the way,
For brighter dawns, for better days.

He will guide us, strong and free,
To the life that's meant to be.
In every trial, in every strife,
Trust in God, embrace new life."