

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

CAMBODIA VIGIL



7 SEPT 2024 | WALL OF REMEMBRANCE (WOR)
TUIBONG, LAMKA



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.

STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC PERSECUTION: FOUR KUKI VOLUNTEERS KILLED IN ATTACK, TWO MEITEIS DIE IN RETALIATORY STRIKE IN JIRIBAM

At least six people were killed in a fresh outbreak of the state-sponsored ethnic persecution against the Kukis in Jiribam district on Saturday. The incident began while the Kuki Village Volunteers were sanitising their area when the Meitei militants laid a fatal ambush on their way, thus instantly killing two of the volunteers.

The Kuki Village Volunteers retaliated and a heavy exchange of gunfire ensued for about two hours. The Meitei militants, in complicity with the state police forces, surrounded two other Kuki volunteers, caught them alive and subsequently tortured to death.

The attack occurred today at around 4:30 AM in Jiribam district in Kuki inhabited areas of Sejang and Mongbung Villages, approximately 5 kilometers from Jiribam district headquarters.

The retaliatory strike from the Kuki Village Volunteers led to the deaths of an elderly man and a militant from the Meitei community. Tension escalates and the situation still remains tense in the region. The Kuki villages of Mongbung and Sejang were reportedly encircled by the Meitei militants, thus heightening the vulnerability of the Kuki ancestral villages.

In another violent escalation, at least two Meitei militants sustained gun injuries while attacking the Kuki areas of G. Songgel under Churachandpur district, adjoining the Meiteis' Sugnu in Kakching district. Sources said that the injured militants were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

At around 9:30 AM on Saturday, the combined team of Meitei armed groups such as the Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, proscribed militants and State Police Commandos, allegedly abetted by the Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF), started shelling of mortars towards the Kuki areas. The Kuki Village Volunteers retaliated and a heavy exchange of gunfire ensued thereafter.

In one of the viral video footage, a CRPF personnel was seen firing towards the Kuki hill areas. Apart from this, the Meitei militants were seen shelling mortal bombs



towards the Kukis. It is unfortunate that the CRPF personnel, instead of containing the Meiteis' terror acts, were seen firing at the Kukis alongside the Meitei militants.

In the ongoing State-sponsored ethnic persecution, hundreds of Kuki people have been killed so far and more than 40,000 people have been displaced.

Recently, audiotapes were put out in the public domain by The Wire, which were submitted to the Commission of Inquiry for Manipur Violence set up by the Union Home Ministry. The audiotapes clearly implicate that the Meitei Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his administration is directly orchestrating the persecution.

KUKI INPI CONDEMNS DEADLY ATTACKS ON KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY, DEMANDS ACTION FROM GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Kuki Inpi has strongly condemned the recent, violent attacks on the Kuki-Zo community in G. Songgel Village, Sangaikot Sub-Division. The organization denounced the use of 2-inch mortar bombs, allegedly supplied by the Manipur state government, as a severe example of state complicity in the ongoing conflict.

The Kuki Inpi's statement follows an ambush that led to the deaths of four Kuki-Zo village volunteers. Reports indicate that the volunteers were targeted by a coalition of Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) and the Meitei State Police Forces, with suspicions of involvement by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The volunteers were reportedly killed in a brutal and dehumanizing manner.

In its statement, the Kuki Inpi criticized the Government of India for its perceived inaction and failure to protect the Kuki-Zo people, who have been facing persecution for over 15 months. The organization called for immediate and decisive intervention to halt what it describes as state-sponsored genocide and to safeguard the rights and safety of the Kuki-Zo community.

"The armed assault on G. Songgel Village, executed with state-supplied mortar bombs, is a blatant indicator of the Manipur state government's complicity," the Kuki Inpi stated. They also highlighted the escalating violence and the increasing suffering of innocent civilians as a serious violation of their constitutional rights.

The Kuki Inpi extended condolences to the families of the victims and emphasized their solidarity with the Kuki-Zo community. They called on the Government of India and all concerned citizens to address the



PRESS STATEMENT Lamka, the 7th September, 2024


04/KIM/PR./22-75: Kuki Inpi vehemently condemns the recent, horrific attacks on the Kuki-Zo community in G. Songgel Village, Sangaikot Sub-Division, Churachandpur District. The use of 2-inch mortar bombs by the Meiteis, sponsored and supplied by the Manipur state government, yet again represents a glaring example of the complicity of the Manipur state government. Furthermore, we are deeply anguished by the killing of four Kuki-Zo village volunteers in an ambush by a combined force of Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) and the Meitei State Police Forces, with allegations that the CRPF may also have been involved.

The armed assault on G. Songgel Village with state-supplied mortar bombs is a clarion call for the Government of India to take decisive action against state-sponsored persecution. The escalation of the armed aggressions against the Kuki-Zo people and the indiscriminate suffering among innocent civilians is a gross violation of our rights and privilege as equal citizens of the country. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government of India must act immediately to ensure the safety and security of the Kuki-Zo people. It is grossly regrettable that the Government of India must belie the faith and hope of its citizens -the Kuki-Zo people -allowing them to become helpless victims of the tyranny of the Manipur state government and the State-sponsored genocide for more than 15 long Months now.

The ambush and murder of the four Kuki-Zo village volunteers further exacerbate the armed aggression against the Kuki-Zo people. The brave volunteers were reportedly shot; taunted and mocked, and were killed in a particularly inhumane manner. Such acts of brutality only reflects the intensity of the Genocide Campaign against the Kuki-Zo people and the urgency for the Government of India to "act".

While we extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and stand in solidarity with the Kuki-Zo community during this dark time. It is our most earnest appeal to the Government of India and to all concerned citizens to **end the ongoing Genocide Campaign against our people and to work towards a permanent political solution for the Kuki-Zo people.** Kuki Inpi has substantial evidence of the Complicity of the Manipur State Government; the role of VBIGs, organisations as Arambai Tenggol and Meetei Leepun and the radicalised Meitei population in the Genocide Campaign against our people.

Justice is our constitutional right as equal citizens of the country!


(JANGHAOLUN HAOKIP)
Secretary, Information & Publicity
Kuki Inpi Manipur



ongoing genocide and to seek a lasting political solution for the Kuki-Zo people. The organization claims to have substantial evidence implicating the state government, VBIGs, and radical groups such as Arambai Tenggol and Meetei Leepun in the campaign against the Kuki-Zo community.

"Justice is our constitutional right as equal citizens of the country," the Kuki Inpi asserted, urging for immediate and effective measures to end the violence and restore peace.

MEITEI MILITANTS INTENSIFY ATTACKS ON KUKI-ZO AREAS AMID POLITICAL TURMOIL IN MANIPUR

In the past two days, Meitei militants have launched a series of aggressive assaults on Kuki-Zo regions in Manipur, coinciding with the fallout from leaked audio tapes implicating Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in the ethnic cleansing of Kuki-Zo tribals.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) in a statement issued today stated that the coordinated attacks appear to be an attempt to divert attention from the political scandal surrounding Singh, who faces mounting speculation about his potential removal from office.

The violence began on September 6, when intense gunfights broke out near Muolsang and Laika villages in the Kangvai frontline area of Churachandpur at approximately 4:30 AM. Security forces responded by dismantling Kuki-Zo bunkers at Muolsang, which were subsequently occupied by Meitei forces. The conflict escalated with Meitei militants launching bombs at Khausabung and Muolngat villages.

In a disturbing development, an elderly man was brutally killed in Moirang, a Meitei town outside the frontline areas. Graphic images circulating on social media show the man with a knife wound, though initial reports misrepresented his death as being caused by a bomb.

The ITLF also highlighted sequence of events from the past two days:

Jiribam, September 7, 2024:

On September 7, UNLF (United National Liberation Front) cadres released a harrowing video showing the torture of a Kuki-Zo village volunteer. Another viral photo depicted a UNLF fighter posing with the bodies of three Kuki-Zo village volunteers, who were killed in Nungsekpi, Jiribam.



This incident underscores the escalating violence and human rights abuses affecting the region.

Sugnu, September 7, 2024:

In Sugnu, Meitei militants utilized government-issued mortars to target Kuki-Zo villages, including Langching and G. Songgel. Notably, Langching, a Kuki-Zo village, was previously destroyed by Meitei forces last year. The use of drone bombs in this area, first reported on December 16, 2023, was confirmed by evidence submitted to the Churachandpur Police. The attacks are part of an ongoing pattern of violence and destruction.

The recent attacks and their timing suggest a strategic effort by the Meitei militants to shift focus from the serious allegations against Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY PROTESTS REMOVAL OF ASSAM RIFLES; MASS AGITATIONS PLANNED

Protests erupted today in Motbung Model Village, Kangpokpi, as the Kuki-Zo community, under the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) Sadar Hills, began agitations against the removal of the 9th and 22nd Assam Rifles from Kuki-Zo-dominated areas. The committee argues that the removal of these battalions, which have played a crucial role in protecting the Kuki-Zo community, was arbitrary and appeases the demands of the Meitei community.

The protest, held as a peaceful sit-in, saw hundreds of Kuki-Zo demonstrators, primarily women, raising their voices against the government's decision. Protesters chanted powerful slogans including "Don't Remove Assam Rifles," "Removing Assam Rifles is Removing Peace," "Audio Leak Should be Investigated," "Birenji... Bomb Marta Hai Kya?," and "We Demand Union Territory." These slogans reflect the community's deep concern and their belief that the safety and peace of their region are directly tied to the presence of the Assam Rifles.

Ng. Lun Kipgen, spokesperson for CoTU, emphasized that the recent violence in fringe areas like Churachandpur, Bishnupur, Kangpokpi, and Imphal West is a direct result of the Ministry of Home Affairs' appeasement of Meitei groups who demanded the removal of the Assam Rifles from conflict zones. He pointed out that this decision coincided with the release of an audio recording allegedly featuring Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh admitting to violence against the Kuki-Zo community.

The Committee also criticized the Coordination Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), which it claims played a key role in the battalions' removal by alleging partiality towards the Kuki-Zo. The Kuki-Zo leadership stressed that the Assam Rifles have been instrumental in neutralizing violent separatist groups and militias attacking Kuki-Zo volunteers defending their hill regions.

The Kuki-Zo community has called for mass fasting prayers on Sunday in their respective churches across



Sadar Hills, which will be followed by a massive rally on Monday. The rally aims to intensify the agitation if the central government does not reverse the order to remove the Assam Rifles.

A Kuki-Zo women's leader, speaking at the protest, pleaded with the Union Home Minister to reconsider the decision, underscoring that the lives and safety of the Kuki-Zo people rest in the hands of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Committee urged the Government of India to acknowledge the complex governance dynamics in Manipur, which include the state government, armed groups like Arambai Tenggol, and COCOMI, all of which wield significant influence and have created a parallel system of governance. Given these challenges, the Kuki-Zo community argues that Union Territory status under Article 239A is the only path to lasting peace and stability.

The Committee also demanded the immediate reinstatement of the 9th and 22nd Assam Rifles in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi and called for the establishment of buffer zones between Kuki-Zo and Meitei areas. They stressed the need for swift negotiations between the Government of India and Suspension of Operations (SoO) groups to restore peace.

The Committee warned that failure to address their demands, including an investigation into the leaked audio involving N. Biren Singh, would force them to escalate their protests. They hold the Ministry of Home Affairs accountable for any further unrest resulting from the current situation.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL HELD IN HONOUR OF KUKI-ZO MARTYRS IN LAMKA AMID RISING TENSIONS

A somber candlelight vigil was held this evening at the Wall of Remembrance Site in Tuibong, Churachandpur district, to honor the sacrifice of five Kuki-Zo village guards brutally killed by the Meitei extremist group. The event, organized by the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) Churachandpur, drew hundreds of attendees who gathered to pay tribute to the fallen heroes and show solidarity with their families.

The vigil, marked by the lighting of candles and a moment of silence, served as a poignant reminder of the escalating violence in the region. Attendees from all walks of life came together to express their condolences and support.

The tragic incident follows the recent murder of four village volunteers in Jiribam district by the Meitei UNLF terror group. The victims were identified as Lhunkhohao Haokip (34) from Sejang Village, Haogoulen DOUNGEL (27) from Yangnomphai Village, Seiminlen Khongsai (16) from Sijang Village, and Nehboithang (26) from Maojang Village.

Additionally, a separate attack in Moreh yesterday resulted in the death of Tongkhohao Lupho (24)



from Yangngoupokpi Village, who was killed by Meitei militants in a paddy field in H. Mongjang.

The rising violence and the recent deaths have heightened tensions in the region, underscoring the urgent need for peace and reconciliation efforts. The candlelight vigil stands as a testament to the community's resolve to honor their martyrs and advocate for an end to the conflict.

“

Patriotism is the principle that will justify the training of wholesale murderers.

— *Leo Tolstoy*



FEATURED ARTICLE

'Hardest Decision': As Manipur Remains on Boil, Several Kuki-Zo Students Quit Studies

Drishti Choudhary

Lian*, a 30-year-old PhD scholar from Churachandpur, was among 284 Manipur University students from the Kuki-Zo communities who had approached the Supreme Court in November last year. It was to ensure he could continue his studies from other central universities after being displaced by ethnic violence. But he is “in a blind spot right now”.

The court had asked to process the transfer of these students to two central universities – the Assam University and the North Eastern Hill University – through a nodal officer of the Manipur University. Lian was contacted by the officer in February. “But after those initial calls”, he has got “no other information”.

He is now in Tripura to be with his brother amid the conflict. And he isn't the only student from the university who is struggling to carry on with studies. Of the 284 students who had approached the top court, most are staring at an uncertain future, according to the Manipur University Eimi Welfare Society, a Kuki-Zo students' outfit.

The violence has displaced both Kukis and Meiteis, but in Manipur University it was largely members of the Kuki-Zo communities who were impacted.

Months after violence, a notification

The Manipur University had put out a notification in July

this year saying that it was decided that all students will complete their courses from the same varsity due to the “vast difference” in curriculum and the unavailability of certain courses at other institutes. This came six months after the court had cleared the petition by 284 students. As many as 25 of these students subsequently filed another petition in the top court, which asked them to approach a panel led by Justice Gita Mittal, tasked to look into their grievances and present suggestions. The court will hear the matter again this week.

Meanwhile, according to the MUEWS, most of those 284 students have either enrolled themselves in fresh programmes on their own or discontinued their studies. It said 93 have moved to Delhi, 159 to other northeastern states, three to West Bengal, and many of the rest are in southern states. NewsLaundry spoke to a section of these 284 students to understand their struggles, nearly 16 months after an incident triggered a cycle of violence that continues unabated, with thousands displaced so far.

NewsLaundry had earlier detailed how violence on the Manipur University campus had displaced Kuki-Zo students. Many of them had received help

Contd.



Contd.

from their Meitei friends but alleged an insider hand in the incident. Some of them recalled their ordeal later in Delhi.

Struggle for migration certificate to loss of academic year

A migration certificate is often required for new admissions.

Haukhup Naulak, a 23-year-old from Churachandpur, had to seek the help of his friend from the Naga community to source it from the Manipur University in order to apply afresh for a masters in anthropology programme at the North Eastern Hill University in Shillong. He was in the first year of this programme at the Manipur University after graduating from the varsity. "I was able to begin this new chapter in Shillong and move closer to my goals."

He managed to save an academic year unlike several others.

Lamneihing Kipgen, a 25-year-old from Sadar Hills district, whose parents are daily-wage labourers, had to change her course because the Kannur University doesn't offer a programme on ancient history and archaeology.

"I was enrolled in ancient history and archaeology as a postgraduate student at Manipur University in 2022 but didn't finish the course due to the conflict... After the transfer, I had to pursue a course in social entrepreneurship and development as a fresher at Kannur university."

Peter Paoginpu, the youngest of eight siblings in a family from Chandel, had to start his PhD afresh at Mizoram University last month despite putting in three years into his research on the rise of BJP in the northeast at Manipur university.

"I did approach the head body of Mizoram political science department and some of the professors there. So they were really concerned about me and for all other

displaced students, but since the Supreme Court did not direct Mizoram University to admit any displaced students, they asked us to sit for entrance and for the interview just like other students."

His parents are daily wagers and he is trying to support his family through a teaching gig at the Dimapur University.

Meanwhile, Maso*, a 34-year-old PhD scholar at Manipur university's life sciences department, has "resigned" from his course. Had he managed to complete the course, he would've been the first from his family to do so. "The prestige, pride and esteem I could bring to my tribe as a whole and to my family in particular is self-explanatory."

He is now unemployed and dependent on his parent's pensions in Churachandpur.

While the Manipur University maintains that it had conducted online classes, as instructed by the Supreme Court, Kimneihoi Kipgen from Kanggui, who was enrolled in the masters of biochemistry programme at the varsity, claimed that she dropped out in the absence of online classes. "It was very difficult to continue my studies with just self-study without the help of the professors. So I just dropped out of the course."

Kimneihoi said she couldn't go to Imphal due to financial difficulties after her father's death, who was a court clerk, due to illness last year and the impact of the conflict on her mother's farm activities. "It was the hardest decision to let go of my studies but what choice did I have?"

While an online exam helped 26-year-old Letjapao Haokip to finish his masters in history, he can't proceed with further studies at the moment because all his documents, according to him, were damaged during violence on the university premises last year. "All my documents are nearly

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Contd.

gone. It is difficult to continue my studies,” he claimed, adding that he is now preparing for recruitment exams.

Financial hardship

“I never wanted to leave Manipur, especially my education,” said Jessica, who dropped out of her masters in English programme at Manipur university as she did not want to depend on her family to pursue her career. “I have finally made a decision to go for a competitive exam. But even today, I’m still on the fence and can’t let go of my real interest which is to pursue my higher education and be an educator.”

She is now in Delhi, preparing for recruitment exams, living with her elder sister and her brother-in-law. Her mother and another sister are in Churachandpur.

Maso* claimed the Supreme Court order was “not very conducive” as the Manipur University processed applications at a “snail’s pace”. He dropped out of his PhD as it was not convenient to leave behind his two children, wife, and an ailing mother in Churachandpur, where he is now dependent on his parents’ pension. His junior research fellowship stipend is stuck because of zero attendance and little progress on his research. “Despite multiple collective grievance letters regarding fellowship, addressed to authorities at MU, requesting them to convey our situation to our fellowship providers (CSIR, UGC), nothing seems to be done about that.”

Several other PhD scholars claimed that their JRF stipends have taken a hit.

Biak Thang, who has started his PhD afresh at the Delhi University, claimed that it’s getting difficult to depend on his sister’s family and his savings to continue his studies, and that his JRF funding is going to stop since he hasn’t resumed the course from where he left off at Manipur university. His father’s small business too has suffered because of the violence.

“This is very troublesome...once I apply fresh from the Delhi University, they would know that I had already availed it (the scholarship) in Manipur for two years.

So I will face the precondition of refunding the previous money that I had availed...and then they might perhaps allow me to take on fresh JRF.”

Leaving Manipur was difficult. “I had completed my course...had collected a lot of material during the duration of two years. There was no time for us to pick our things up. My laptop, books, everything was left behind...two years of hard work disappeared just like that.”

There are at least a 100 other students from other colleges who have been displaced, according to MUEWS.

Among them is Goulungmon Haokip, 26, who was enrolled in the fifth semester of the LLB programme at LMS College under Dhanamanjuri University in Manipur but is now in the fourth semester of the course at the Kannur University in Kerala where he relocated amid the violence. He lost an academic year but claimed that he was not facing financial problems as the Kerala government and Kannur University were providing him with financial aid on humanitarian grounds.

Some of these students have been unable to find jobs. “Completing a PhD is the bare minimum to land a teaching job in colleges. On paper, UGC states that NET-JRF is the minimum qualification but out in the real world, PhD and paper publications matter heavily,” claimed Thailoi*, a PhD scholar of botanical sciences currently in Delhi. His family has temporarily moved to a friend’s house in Kanggui from Churachandpur.

NewsLaundry reached out to the Manipur University for comment. This report will be updated if a response is received.

*Names of some students have been changed.

Published by: [NewsLaundry](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Rohini Anand
@mrs_roh08

Only throwing BJP from the entire North-East including Manipur can stop #ManipurViolence now

Who all agree?



22:05 · 07 Sept 24 · 2,746 Views



Kham Khan Suan Hausing
@kksuanh

Follow

Instead of relentlessly engaging in whataboutery, lets accept that the state govt completely failed in its constitutional duty of establishing 'law and order'. Impose President's rule immediately to fix responsibility and accountability in #ManipurViolence!

14:39 · 07 Sept 24 · 2,075 Views



Vijaita Singh
@vijaita

Follow

Why are you keen to hear from me? I am neither the Home Minister nor the Prime Minister. Seek accountability from those accountable to the people. Don't waste your outrage on me.

Reborn after 50 Years @Rebornafter50yr · 7h

#Jiribam goes eerie again! Bordering area with #Assam's Barak Valley and far from #Imphal, this is a stronghold of #Kukis at #Manipur. Surprised to not hear from @vijaita!

17:18 · 07 Sept 24 · 5,692 Views

MEITEIS



KUKIS



Post MORTEM

THE PAID MEDIA & NARRATIVE



DARKNESS

~ *henrydsummer*

The 7th of Sept, the Nation wakes up with an agonising revelation.
The lost of souls in defence of our 'Ancestral Land'.
A day of despair, desolation and lamentation.
Pathen-Chapa Kuki-Chapa Tah-Chapa have lost their lives.

Oh Jeribam, why have you forsaken us with adversity,
The affliction and catastrophe you have inflicted,
How shall we repay you but like a treacherous mate,
You have astounded us, yes it is war...

A day of vengeance anticipate us,
The retribution God will inflict on his childrens' nemesis.
Seek ye first God's Kingdom.
Pray for the departed souls, Pray for the Nation.

The Kuki Nation salute and pays you homage Dear Departed Brothers,
You sacrifice shall not be in vain.
You invoke and inspire thousand more in our protracted conflict.
Till death do part the livings Seperate Administration our only conviction.