

Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



S. Haijang RELIEF CENTRE

S. Haijang Community Hall, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

Total Inmates Registered: 244*

Male: 100

Female: 144

*As on 4th August, 2023



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25.11.2023



153
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425
DISPLACED
PERSONS

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

KUKI GROUPS REFUTE FINDINGS OF SC - APPOINTED COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON MANIPUR

Kuki Civil Society Organisations on Wednesday expressed displeasure over the Supreme Court-appointed Justice (Retd) Gita Mittal committee's report submitted in the apex court. This has raised concerns about the effectiveness of the government's efforts to restore peace and stability in the region. In a letter to Justice Gita Mittal (Retd.), Chairperson of the Committee appointed by the Supreme Court on rehabilitation, the tribal body alleged that 'No email, no phone call, no meeting, no discussion' were made to the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) or Joint Philanthropic Organisation (JPO) or the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) with regards to the findings of the committee.

The top organizations have informed that the committee had no contact or discussion with them at all.

The committee, set up to oversee the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of ethnic clashes in Manipur, said in its report that there have been at least 175 deaths in the state. Of the total number of confirmed deaths reported, 169 bodies have been identified. Eighty-one bodies have been claimed by the next of kin, and 88 have been identified by the administration but have not been claimed yet. Six bodies remain unidentified (five in the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences and one in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences).

They expressed disappointment with the committee's report, stating that the committee only met with a few tribal leaders in the hill areas but ignored the leading civil society organisations of the Kuki community.

Education

Some tribal leaders who met with the committee brought up the issue of tribal students who had lost their education-related documents during the violence. They also discussed the relocation and continuation of classes for students enrolled in medical studies, engineering, nursing etc. Union home minister Amit Shah had said that he would ensure online education in Manipur but nothing on that front has panned out. Many students from the



Kuki community took their semester examinations. After months of waiting for any action to be taken on Shah's promise to formulate an online education plan, Kuki students from Manipur's hill areas opted for admission to Kerala's Kannur University.

Dead bodies

Tribal leaders also denied the committee's report regarding the acceptance of dead bodies, questioning the committee for not meeting them and addressing their issues. According to COTU, "Being taken on a tour by the state authorities who, according to the tribals, have assisted the assailants, has its own problems regarding who the committee is introduced to by state officials for interaction. We would recommend that after completing the tour organised by the state, the above mentioned tribal organisations be consulted for a tour of the victim's areas so that the committee may get accurate information from the tribal and victim's point of view."

In the press note, ITLF and COTU said, "We are concerned about the bodies of our community people since May 3, we have raised this issue multiple times, including to Amit Shah when he was here in Manipur." The tribal leader also added that the state has all the facilities and if

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they have the intention to return the bodies, then they should have returned them by helicopter. A leader of the Kuki Students Organisation (KSO), in a telephonic conversation with The Wire, also questioned the Manipur government on not letting tribal Leaders enter Imphal to verify and claim the bodies lying in the capital's hospitals.

Compensation

On the compensation plan announced by the Union home minister in June, the committee stated in court that there were a few families who had refused to accept the compensation offered by the government.

"It would be an insult to the dead to accept money at this stage from the very state that engineered the ethnic cleansing. Hence the overall feeling is that after the dead bodies are buried with dignity according to tribal customs, then a decision can and will be taken as quickly as possible regarding compensation," the tribal organisations said in response.

Reconstruction

The Kuki community also questioned the committee's report on not initiating the construction of tribal houses and churches.

They said they were unable to comprehend how the committee's counsel could have said in court that the state was fully cooperating in the rehabilitation of the displaced people.

The Supreme Court has been apprised that more than 7,750 tribal houses in 197 villages were destroyed in the violence over the last six months. The work to rebuild them has not begun. On the contrary, without discussing with the tribal organisations, a contractor from Delhi has begun setting up plastic Porta cabins in some places. These cabins are unsuitable for the climate conditions in the hills where heavy winds, rain and landslides are common. Similarly, the top court was told about the 359 churches that were destroyed. However, construction work to rebuild them has not started.

MANIPUR TO SUBMIT REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN FOR DE-ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE: NHRC CHAIRMAN

The Manipur government will in a new weeks submit to the National Human Rights Commission a report on efforts taken by the administration to "de-escalate the violent situation (in the state) and return to normalcy," the body's chairperson Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra said on Wednesday.

The report will include details of compensation disbursed to people affected , management of blockades on national highways, and an update on the well-being of those in relief camps," he added, pointing out both the decades-long issue behind ethnic violence in the state, and the fact that the current situation, "is not normal".

"We have asked Manipur government to make an endeavour and to make peace. Large number of people including the ones in the government are residing in the relief camp so we have issued direction that there



should be regular health facilities provided, good educational facilities, employment and livelihood opportunities to the incumbent besides nutritious food," Mishra added.

REAL NARCO-TERRORISTS REVEALED; SIX INCLUDING TWO MEITEIS ARRESTED

Amidst N. Biren Singh and his cohorts' unrealistic claims of Kukis being narco-terrorists, the real narco-terrorists have been revealed with the arrest of two Meitei narco-terrorists by Delhi Police on Wednesday.

As per reports, an international racket supplying organic cannabis, California weed, original gangster (OG) marijuana and MDMA crystals to school and college students in Delhi-NCR has been busted by Delhi Police's Crime Branch. Six alleged traffickers including "two Meitei narco-terrorists" have been arrested. The syndicate was bringing in the contraband from Thailand via Manipur.

According to RS Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), the syndicate was supplying drugs to clients in Delhi, Gurgaon and Noida through delivery services. "The suppliers were in touch with their clients in the various institutions on Instagram, WhatsApp and Facebook," he disclosed.

The accused, arrested in two operations, have been identified as Nongmaitham Jashobanta Singh (36), Thiyam Rabikanta Singh (32)- both Meiteis, Rudransh Gupta (33), Lakshay Bhatia (24), Girik Aggarwal (21) and Khalid Zafar (23). Since Aggarwal was still in college, he had direct contact with the students he shared drugs with and then began supplying the drugs to them

The police, based on a secret input, arrested the two natives of Manipur with 45 kg of ganja during a raid at a house in the DLF Capital Greens in Moti Nagar.

During interrogation, the accused told the cops that Rabikanta used to smuggle Shillong weed from Manipur to Dimapur via road and then by train to Delhi. Jashobanta, on his part, brought weed from Thailand to Delhi by air. Officials said both would come and hand over the narcotics to Gupta, who had created a network of buyers on WhatsApp, Telegram and social media channels.

Mention may be made that in February this year, the Special Cell, Delhi Police had arrested two persons, namely Ranbir Singh alias Tinku, 43, son of Swaroop



Singh and Loyangamba Itocha, 33, both from Laipham Khunou under Heingang Police Station in Imphal East alongwith 50kg of Opium from Sarita Vihar, Delhi at 3.30 pm on February 17. The accused, Ranveer Singh alias Tinku and Loyangamba, both residents of Manipur, are members of the Itocha international drug cartel.

Loyangamba Itocha was said to be a close relative of a well-known person in the present BJP circle.

It is to be noted that as per estimate of the UN Office of Drugs and Crimes, the estimated size of the drug business in Manipur is more than 70 thousand crore rupees which is more than double the total of Manipur's GDP. Such a huge scale of drug business cannot be operated prosperously in the state without the knowledge, involvement and abetment of powerful political figures. Former police officer, Th. Brinda had accused N. Biren Singh as being one of the kingpins of the drugs syndicate in Manipur.

During the ongoing ethnic conflict, there were widespread allegations on a particular community of being drug peddlers. Scores of people have been killed due to this fake narrative whereas the figures reveal a different story altogether.

ALLEGED UNLAWFUL CONSTRUCTION BY COLONEL OINAM AKASH RAISES CONCERNS OVER TRIBAL RIGHTS PROTECTION

In recent developments, concerns have been raised over the actions of Colonel Oinam Akash, commanding officer of the 18 Assam Rifles, currently stationed at UNACCO School in Imphal East District. Allegedly, in collaboration with the proprietor of UNACCO School, Chanung, Colonel Akash has undertaken construction activities within the Scheduled Hill area of C. Zoulen (Chingmang) Village. What adds a layer of complexity to this situation is the apparent lack of consent and approval from the Village Chief, in direct violation of the tribal rights protected under Article 371 C of the Indian Constitution.

Article 371 C of the Indian Constitution is a special provision designed to safeguard the autonomy and rights of the tribal communities in the Hill areas. It mandates that administrators, like Colonel Oinam Akash, must adhere to the local administration of the Hills while performing their duties. Any deviation from this guideline is not only a breach of protocol but also a violation of the fundamental rights of the tribal communities.

The alleged actions of Colonel Oinam Akash, including the excavation of land, construction of roads, and the establishment of camps and bunkers, have taken place without the necessary consent from the Village Chief of C. Zoulen (Chingmang) Village. This unilateral approach not only undermines the traditional authority structures within the tribal communities but also reflects a total disregard for the land rights of the tribal landowners.

Land rights are crucial for the preservation of tribal identity and culture. The arbitrary actions undertaken by Colonel Akash directly infringe upon the land rights of the local landowners in C. Zoulen (Chingmang) Village. This raises questions about the protection of tribal rights in the face of modern development projects, highlighting the importance of balancing progress with the preservation of indigenous cultures.

One of the primary concerns in this case is the absence of consent and approval from the Village Chief, who serves as a representative of the local community. In compliance with Article 371 C, any developmental activity within the Hill areas should be carried out



with the active involvement and endorsement of the local authorities. The failure to obtain such approval not only questions the legality of the construction but also raises ethical concerns about respecting the autonomy of tribal communities.

The alleged actions of Colonel Oinam Akash, in collaboration with the proprietor of UNACCO School, have brought to light a potential violation of tribal rights and a breach of the safeguards provided by Article 371 C of the Indian Constitution. It is imperative that such matters are thoroughly investigated, and if found true, corrective actions are taken to ensure the protection of tribal rights while promoting responsible development. Balancing progress with the preservation of indigenous cultures is crucial for fostering a harmonious coexistence between modernity and tradition in the diverse landscape of India's Hill areas.

RUNNING OUT OF COFFERS, N. BIREN SINGH LEGALISES SALE OF LIQUOR

As the State's exchequer is running dry due to its waging a war against the minority Kukis and seeing the ongoing crisis as an opportune time to go ahead, the State government has issued a notification legalising the sale of liquor in the dry-state of Manipur.

The notification shall come into force with effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette of Manipur.

In exercise of the powers conferred under proviso to sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Manipur Liquor Prohibition Act, 1991 (Manipur Act. No. 4 of 1991), the BJP-led government under N. Biren Singh on Wednesday has withdrawn the prohibitory law from the areas of the state of Manipur in Greater Imphal areas, District Headquarters, Tourist locations in the State and registered hotel establishments with not less than 20 lodging rooms.

The legalisation of the sale of liquor came in the midst of the ongoing escalating violence between the majority Meitei and minority Kuki-Zo communities, overriding strong opposition from the valley-based antagonists' civil bodies.

The Coalition Against Drugs and Alcohol (CADA) and All Manipur Women's Social Reformation and Development Samaj (Nupi Samaj) stoutly opposed the state cabinet's resolution for legalising liquor.

Nupi Samaj President Th. Ramani said that while the people of Manipur are mourning the loss of their near and dear ones due to the prevailing unrest in Manipur, the state government is concerned about the production of liquor.

Since the unrest has hugely impacted the economy of Manipur, the legalisation of liquor is seen as an option by the government to earn revenue for repaying its borrowings. Experts have observed that Manipur would face a catastrophic situation if state government did not take up immediate measures to address the worrying economic status of Manipur.



Notably, the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing which unfolded on the minority Kuki-Zo community since May 3 has greatly affected all the State's economic sectors leading to deterioration of labour situation throughout the state and loss of job has become one of the prominent issues. Many people who are living under the poverty line are striving hard to make ends meet.

The present crisis has led to the loss of many precious lives and properties. In addition, the unrest is taking the economic condition of Manipur to its death-bed which will be needing tremendous effort to upturn it. Even though the violent ethnic clashes are yet to stop in Manipur, another major crisis is looming large over the state.

The adverse effects of N. Biren Singh's engineered violence are now trickling down to even those areas that were not severely affected by the ethnic cleansing pogrom.

KANGPOKPI CELEBRATES LALDUHOMA'S MIZORAM VICTORY

Ahead of Zoram People's Movement leader Lalduhoma taking oath as the next Chief Minister of Mizoram, the Kuki-Zo bodies of Manipur's Kangpokpi celebrated his jubilant victory in the recently concluded Mizoram election.

Congratulating the ZPM leader and his party on clinching a historic victory, the Kangpokpi Town Committee, the Kangpokpi Women Welfare Organization, and the Kangpokpi Youth Union organized a simple celebration party at the office of the town committee office today.

A sumptuous dinner was also served at Vengthah Ward No.3 at Chairman Chonkam Kipgen's residence after the formal celebration party at the KTC office.

The Kuki-Zo bodies of Kangpokpi also congratulated the people of Mizoram for their efforts in forming a people's Government in Mizoram.

Speaking on behalf of the Kangpokpi Kuki-Zo bodies, Malsawm, an executive member of the KWWO conveyed their heartiest congratulations to the people of Mizoram and also the ZPM leader Lalduhoma and his party for their historic victory.

Speaking in the Mizo dialect, she continued that the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes in Kangpokpi are so happy that the Zoram People's Movement party clinched a historic victory in Mizoram to form a new Government under the visionary leadership of Lalduhoma.

"We the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes in Manipur are glad to our brothers and sisters of Mizoram for their continuous support, love, and concern, especially during such challenging times", she added.

While congratulating Lalduhoma, the Kuki-Zo bodies of Kangpokpi wish the ZPM leader good health and wisdom to form and lead a new government that can be a good shepherd of the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes.



The Kuki-Zo bodies of Kangpokpi also blessed the ZPM leader and his colleagues and prayed that the new Mizoram Government under the leadership of Lalduhoma be a blessing for all the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes.

"Let the wisdom of God guide you in your new endeavor and we pray for you and all your colleagues to be blessed with good health and wisdom", wished the Kuki-Zo bodies of Kangpokpi.

The Kuki-Zo bodies of Kangpokpi also conveyed to the ZPM leader that they would always support and stand with him wherever they were and that their prayer would always be with him.

METEI MEDIA CAUGHT REPORTING FAKE NEWS; MANIPUR POLICE CORRECTS THEM

The Imphal valley based Meitei media houses, as per their usual old self, on December 7 published and telecasted fabricated or fake news to appease the grieving Meitei community.

On December 7, Elite TV, an Imphal based news channel telecasted a news item stating that two Kuki militants had been killed in a shootout at Khoibu village in Chandel district. However, the same was immediately debunked by the Manipur Police.

The Manipur Police on their social media handle stated that the news report was fake and further clarified that there was no incident of firing/encounter happening at Khoibu village under Tengnoupal district.

The chain of fake news being published or telecasted by the Meitei media has led to a steady decline of trust and confidence in the Imphal valley based media houses. The mainstream Meitei media houses in this current crisis have given tough competition to social media in originating and circulating fake news.

This also exposes the Meitei media of their sinister variety of agenda-driven fake stories circulated by their publications or channels.

Nowadays, due to the unsettled ethnic crisis in the state of Manipur, mass media is often used as a tool to gain power over public's consciousness by the Meiteis.

The Meitei media chooses only a few of them, separating 'important' from 'secondary', and publishes or telecasts only those news that can paint the Kukis in a bad limelight. Their reporting is far from objective; each Meitei media outlet creates a unique picture of the



Manipur Police
@manipur_police

This is a fake news. No incident of firing/encounter happened at Khoibu under Tengnoupal District.
youtu.be/4bo-hMfWVlw?si...



5:47 PM · Dec 7, 2023 · 4,182 Views

day, presenting its own interpretation of political reality.

The media persons are supposed to be the whistleblowers in a democracy; they are not here to appease only a certain community or sections. The media is to ensure that there is no biased reporting or alienation towards a particular community. Though a big number of the media houses including the blabbering class on TV have sold their souls to the highest bidders, there are many who still believe in media as the fourth pillar of democracy.



Fake News is cheap to produce. Genuine Journalism is expensive.

— Toomas Hendrik Ilves

LAMKA REGION GIVE WARMTH THIS WINTER TO SOMEONE IN NEED

WARM HEARTS

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

Unleash the Santa Claus in you!

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

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

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

UPI ID: mangpimas365@okbi

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

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

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

For more, please contact:
9366588474 (Mangpi)
7085604509 (Mimin)
8787894835 (Lunboi)
6009406153 (Henry)

An Initiative of
Kuki Students' Organisation

DONATE TODAY

WARM HEARTS

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

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

What You Can Contribute:

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

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

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

Donation Centre:

Warm Hearts Charity
Opposite Nute Kailhang
Tuibong Bazar, Lamka

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Arijit nobody
@phoenixpaul2023

7 months ago, when Manipur was used as a model to implement their unholy agenda in India, I repeatedly told that Kukis r just the beginning, india is under danger. Now Rajasthan is burning. RSS and BJP r the cancer of this nation

#Rajasthan
#Manipur
#BJPfailedIndia

**ANALYSIS**

Unanswered Questions and Blame in Kuki-Zo Hills

In a sombre turn of events on December 4, 2023, the Tengenoupal district witnessed the untimely demise of 13 Meiteis, sparking a flurry of questions on social media platforms. The Meitei media, quick to respond, raised concerns about the circumstances surrounding their deaths, speculating on whether it was a gunfight or a deliberate act of violence. The involvement of SoO groups and the origin of the weapons used were also questioned, leaving the community in a state of confusion and grief, and at the same time leading them to hate the Kuki community more than before.

As always, the blame was swiftly cast upon the Kukis, prompting the community to question the government's role in protecting Meiteis and demanding accountability for the alleged attacks. Even political parties expressed their condolences, further intensifying the public outcry.

Upon closer examination of photographs of the deceased, the identities of the 13 Meiteis became apparent. A viral screenshot of a Facebook post suggested their involvement in a mission to attack Moreh, while another claimed they were leaving Arambai Tenggol to join the banned terror outfit PLA. Social media users identified them as participants in a staged surrender ceremony following a peace talk deal between UNLF (Pambei) and the Government of India.

The location of their demise in Kuki-Zo hills raises significant questions. Why were they in an area where Meiteis had no presence after their genocidal campaign against the Kuki-Zo since May 3? Why were the newly surrendered cadres allowed to venture into the hills despite ongoing campaigns of allegations against Kuki-Zo SoO groups not adhering to their designated camps? The rapidity with which the Meiteis ventured into Kuki-Zo territory, merely a week after the peace deal, added another layer of complexity to the unfolding tragedy.

Critics argue that the responsibility for the unfortunate fate of these 13 Meiteis lies solely with the Biren Singh led Meitei government. They assert that encouraging these individuals to participate in a staged surrender ceremony, seemingly for political gain, was a misguided move. While the assurances given to these cadres remain unknown, their eagerness to embark on a perilous mission to attack Moreh cannot be ignored.

In this unfolding narrative, blame is not to be placed on the inhabitants of the Kuki-Zo hills, but rather on those who influenced and allowed these cadres to undertake a mission that ultimately proved fatal. The blood of the 13 Meitei armed cadres stains the hands of those who, in pursuit of political objectives, steered them towards a perilous and tragic end.



ANALYSIS

How Meiteis Youth Are Radicalized for Targeting Kukis

While the Meitei media and politicians have long harped on the supposed dangers of the alleged Narco-Terrorism activity of the Kukis in Manipur, we are now witnessing the turbocharged expression of a reality the state has never confronted: the radicalisation of Meitei youth.

It is an everyday radicalisation of young men and women who appear very normal, until they decide to target minority Kukis.

They are part of public, over-ground groups like the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, the unofficial armed militia of the state Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Rajya Sabha and Titular King Leishemba Sanajaoba. All of them enjoyed the patronage of the current dispensation, giving them political clout and a veneer of respectability. Members of these groups have been involved in numerous cases of physical violence against the Kukis during the initial stage of violence, and now even to their own kindred men.

The recent incident at Tengnoupal district also highlights how the vulnerable Meitei youths are lured to join a militant outfit on the pretext of serving their motherland. The bodies of 13 men recovered after a gunfight in Manipur's Tengnoupal district on December 4 morning were found more than 100 kilometres from their homes, with their families disclosing that they were not aware under what circumstances they had reached the location.

According to a report in The Indian Express, security forces had found the bullet-riddled bodies of the 13 Meitei men in Leithu – a forested area not far from

the Myanmar border – on Monday after receiving inputs of a gunfight in the area around 10.30 am. The bodies were taken to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal East, and on Tuesday, their identities were established. According to officials, the men are aged between 17 and 47, and come from valley districts of Bishnupur, Imphal West, Imphal East and Kakching.

The younger sister of one of the victims said their family had been displaced from Torbung – at the border of Meitei-dominated Bishnupur and Kuki dominated Churachandpur district, one of the first places where violence had erupted on May 3, and had moved to a relief camp in Thangmeiband in Imphal West district. She said that he left soon after they shifted to the relief camp, and the family has not seen him since.

“He sought blessings from my mother to be victorious and fight for our motherland before leaving. We spoke over the phone several days back; he said that he wanted to meet me and mother,” she said, adding that she was not aware of his whereabouts. The families of some of the other men said they had left home a few days before the incident.

Another woman, sister of one of the 13 victims said that since the start of the violence, her brother would often be away from their home in Imphal East, saying that he was volunteering to help those in need, which is why she did not suspect anything when he left home two days before the incident.

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She said that she came to know about the incident after seeing a report on social media about the death of 13 Meiteis.

“After we came to know that one of the victims was from Khurai area, our family tried calling my brother, but his phone was switched off. We contacted some of his friends to ask about his whereabouts. They said he and some volunteers move around frequently helping people affected by the conflict. I prayed that my brother wasn’t part of the group. Unfortunately, our worst nightmare came true after we visited the morgue. I was speechless and shocked after seeing his body,” she said.

The elder brother of one of the victims shared a similar account, saying his brother often did odd jobs and participated in “community activities”. “He left home a week ago and as usual we thought he was out doing voluntary work or looking for work,” he said.

There were many reports of missing cases among the valley community, many of their whereabouts are not known by their family members. Their families were consoled with the pretext of waging war against the Kukis and that they were posted at the buffer zone areas.

These young Meiteis see that violence against Kukis is often celebrated or at least tolerated at the moment, sometimes approvingly, by their families and society. They observe that people who provoke and lead violence gain social and political respectability, as practiced at the moment by some of their Social Workers. They see that far from suffering consequences for hate speech and hate crimes, anti-Kuki acts help those who carry them out. Unfortunately, the radicalisation of Meitei youth often goes unnoticed as it is approved by their families, whom they see indulging in a range of aggressions against Kukis; and it is absurd that Meitei mothers who sent their sons away to kill other sons cry when Karma hits them back. It’s a painful travesty.

Yet while their politicians might benefit politically, the long-term consequences of this project will be borne by Meiteis too. The radicalized group is now acting as a Moral Police – intimidating, thrashing, and silencing the voice of truth speakers. The Meitei intelligentsias are now maintaining a stoic silence over the evils of their society fearing reprimandation from them. This in the long run will surely ruin the fabric of the Meitei society. Once hatred or radicalization is normalised, violence follows naturally.



zadrivaw

**SHORT-LIVED
HAPPINESS**



TAHCHAPAS

*In the depths of the freezing jungle's embrace,
Stands a warrior, strong and full of grace.
Withstanding the cold, without a single frown,
They protect our land, our ancestral ground.*

*A standing Kuki Tahchapa, fierce and bold,
Guarding our village, a story yet untold.
With no adequate nutrients to sustain,
They eat what is given, without a single complain.*

*Through the darkest nights and coldest days,
They stand tall, unwavering in their ways.
A guardian angel, with a heart so pure,
Shielding our women and children, that's for sure.*

*Against our cruel enemies, they defend,
With bravery and strength, they will not bend.
Their spirit unyielding, their purpose clear,
Protecting our people, without any fear.*

*In the face of adversity, they remain strong,
Their loyalty to our land,
forever lifelong.
Oh, standing Kuki Tahchapa, warrior so true,
We owe our safety and freedom to you.*

*May the heavens bless you, with every step you take,
And may your spirit never waver or break.
For you are the guardian, our guiding light,
Protecting our village, day and night.*

-Nemthenhing Chongloi