THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 08, 2024





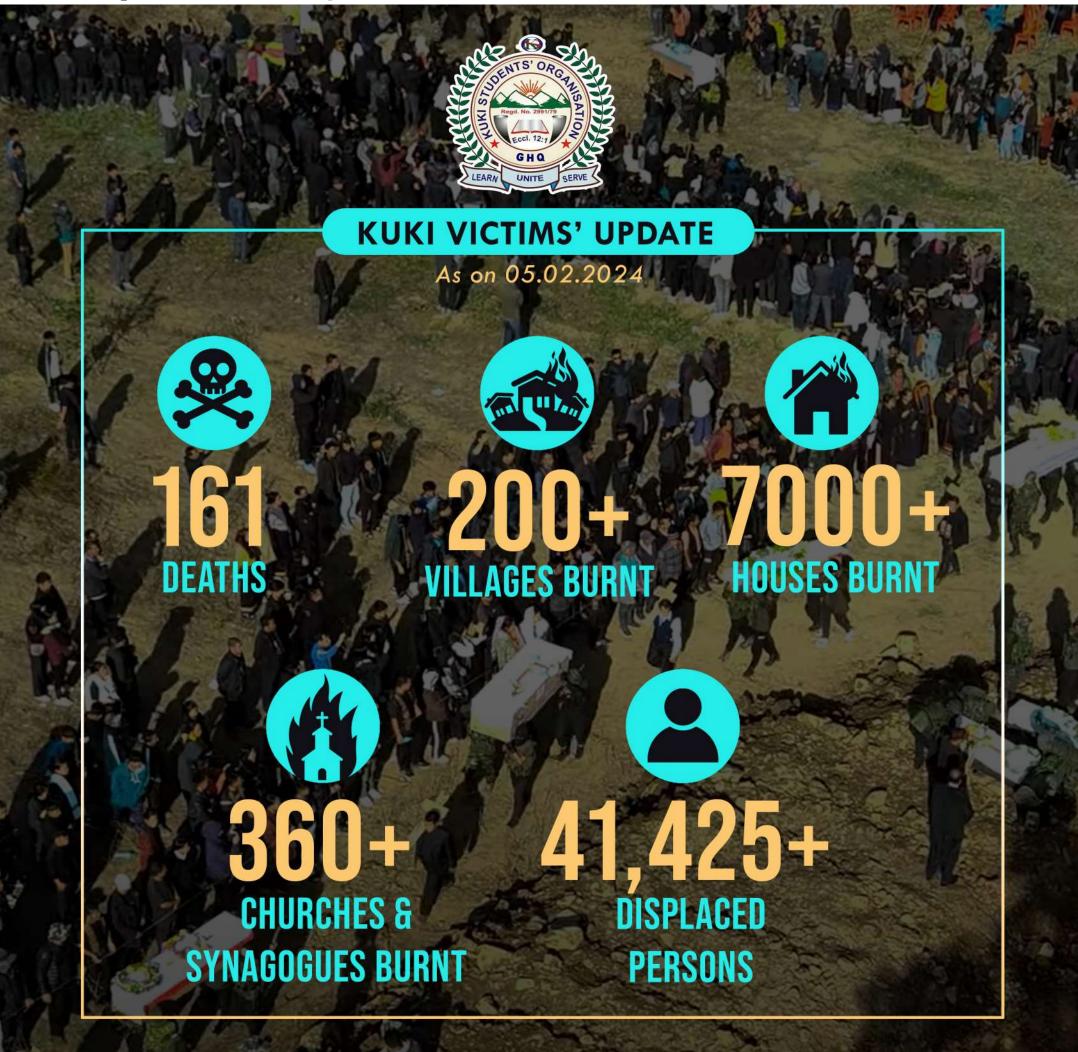
Kholjang RELIEF CENTRE

Kholjang Community Hall, Sadar Hills (Camp Code: KPI-2-06)

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 84





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.











ZO UNITED DELEGATION URGES CENTRE FOR TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION; HIGHLIGHTS DETERIORATING SITUATION

A delegation of Manipur tribals from the "Zo United" group convened a meeting in New Delhi with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials, led by AK Mishra, the MHA's Adviser on northeast affairs. During the Wednesday meeting, tribal leaders reiterated their call for establishing a distinct administration for tribals and the implementation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the remaining areas of Manipur.

The tribal leaders, while talking to the media on Thursday said that the delegation also urged the Centre not to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar. They told the media on Thursday that the situation in Manipur, instead of getting better, was getting worse each day.

"The mistrust between the two communities involved in the conflict has deepened because of the continuing false propaganda and the continued attacks and counterattacks," they said.

"It may be mentioned that since the central government had not deemed Manipur to be 'disturbed', the authorities had refused migration of our displaced students to other colleges. There has been a flurry of government job recruitment notices advertised recently despite the current atmosphere. Notably, there are no exam centres in the Kuki-Zo areas. This shows the mindset of the government and the people running the state," he said. The leader said that too much blood had been shed and there was too much enmity and mistrust for the tribals to consider being under the Manipur government again. "The situation is very dire for the Kuki-Zo tribals, who will be openly discriminated against if we return to being ruled by the majority Meitei community. We have no option but to ask for a separate administration (Union Territory with legislature). Once that happens, we prefer to go."

"Arambai Tenggol" is so secure in its ties with the government that "it openly flaunts automatic guns including AKS, SLRs and LMGs on the streets of the capital and posts them on social media without any fear of getting in trouble with the law." Claiming that because of the ethnic conflict, tribal students were now at the mercy of Meitei officials, the "Zo United" leader said that

the state education board, medical directorate, and head offices of all technical institutes were based in Imphal and were controlled by the Meitei community.

For any office-related work, tribals can no longer go to Imphal. The careers of thousands and thousands of students now depend on the whims of officials in Imphal, he stated. Vualzong said that on November 27, displaced MBBS students from the tribal community were not allowed to take their exams despite filling out their examination forms and depositing their examination fees, while on the other hand, displaced Meitei MBBS students who fled to Imphal, were allowed to give their exams and continue their studies. "The state government's anti-minority policies and its support of radical groups from the Meitei community led to a build-up of tension and mistrust in the past few years, which eventually culminated in the ethnic violence," he alleged.

Vualzong highlighted that Moreh, situated along the Myanmar border, holds strategic and commercial significance for the state and the nation. Due to population exchanges resulting from the violence, Kuki-Zo tribals stayed in Moreh while Meiteis fled. He noted that in other parts of the state, tribal policemen are stationed in tribal-majority areas, and vice versa, besides the deployment of central security forces throughout. However, in Moreh, the state government allegedly deployed Meitei commandos, foreseeing tensions despite the awareness of potential issues. "The state government is no longer a government of the people of Manipur but a 'Taliban government' run by 'Arambai Tenggol,' a radical group which works for the Meiteis and whose stated purpose is to conduct genocide on tribals. We cannot continue to be under an administration which is controlled by a community which declared war on us and openly says that it will kill all of us. There is no other option but for the central government to arrange a separate administration (Union Territory with legislature) for tribals so that they can live a dignified life under the constitution of India," said Vualzong, who is also one of the key leaders of the ITLF.



TENSIONS GRIP KANGPOKPI AFTER TWO ATTACKS BY MEITEI ARMED RADICALS

Tensions have run high in Kangpokpi district, since vesterday evening, after reports of the movement of huge numbers of Meitei armed radicals from the valley towards Phailengmol hills with sophisticated weapons were first heard.

Later, at around 11:30 p.m., in a complete opposite location, L. Tangnuam Kuki-Zo village in Kangchup-Leimakhong area under Kangpokpi district was reportedly attacked by Meitei armed radicals from Senjam Chirang and Koutruk, two peripheral valleyvillages bordering Kangchup-Leimakhong area.

Sporadic gunfights continued till this morning while a heavy attack was reported at around 8:00 a.m. toward L. Tangnuam village once again though there was no report of any casualties on both sides.

Two hours later, another heavy attack was reported from Monglham Kuki-Zo village in Phailengmol area near Maphou Dam at around 10:00 a.m.



While the general public of Phailengmol area were already gripped with apprehensions as they reportedly saw huge numbers of armed miscreants moving toward the Phailengmol hills yesterday afternoon, the area Village Volunteers have been on high alert, mobilising in huge numbers, ready to ward off any Meitei attempt to strike the hills and send them back to the valley, dead or alive.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING IN TENGNOUPAL DISTRICT DECLARES A FIRM STANCE ON THE REMOVAL OF MEITEI STATE FORCES FROM THE SOIL OF KUKI-ZO ANCESTRAL LAND

The Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal District organised a Public Consultation Meeting with the theme "Way Forward" of the Kuki-Zo people of Tengnoupal district on Thursday.

As per declaration issued by the Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal, the meeting unanimously agreed that the Kuki-Zo people of Tengnoupal district will continue to fight tooth and nail in defending Kuki-Zo ancestral land and declared that the Kuki-Zo people of Tengnoupal District stand firmly for the removal of Meitei State Forces (CDOs) from the soil of Kuki-Zo ancestral land. As per the declaration, the meeting declared that

Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal stated that the meeting also objected to the construction of border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border and declared that the abrogation of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) by the government of India is highly unacceptable to the Kuki-Zo people.

The meeting also declared strong support for the demand of Separate Administration in the form of Union Territory with Legislature for the Kuki-Zo people.

The public meeting also declared that they respect the buffer zones created by the government of India between Meitei inhabited valley areas and Kuki-Zo ancestral land.

all Kuki-Zo elected representatives should resign if and when the need arises.

The meeting was attended by leaders of various civil society organizations, tribes leaders, church leaders, ex-servicemen and intellectuals.





ACTIVITIES OF ARAMBAI TENGGOL ARE ROAD SHOWS AND WAVING SALAI TARET FLAG WITHOUT KNOWING ITS SIGNIFICANCE, SAYS FOCS PRESIDENT

Following the reported assault on the vice president of Federation of Civil Society Organisations (FOCS) by the Arambai Tenggol, the president of FOCS Th Manihar has said that the activities of Arambai Tenggol is only a road show and waving the Salai Taret flag without knowing its significance.

The president of FOCS made the statement while briefing the media persons at Imphal on Thursday. Condemning the assault on its vice president by the Arambai Tenggol, Th Manihar said such an act which is in response over a silly matter shows that AT do not have respect for elderly persons and such acts are against the interest of the State. The President of FOCS said that people of Manipur should strictly look into or monitor the activities of AT and see how much they have contributed in fighting the enemies.

Th Manihar also warned the AT that such action or behaviour should not be repeated. FOCS have told the AT members to seek apology from Yaima but instead the Arambai Tenggol have ordered the FOCS team to visit AT office, he added.

FOCS president said that there is no way that FOCS members will agree to the order imposed by AT since they(AT) are a newly formed organisation. But FOCs and its Vice President Yaima have been working for the welfare of the society for the past 30 years, he added.

People in the state should not believe that an organisation like Arambai Tenggol which does not value and recognise the works taken up by the elders or seniors will protect the State. Backed by some individuals, Arambai Tenggol is trying to disintegrate the state, the Meitei community and other indigenous communities, said Th Manihar.

If AT fails to tender an apology to FOCS before Friday,



FOCs and its supporters will agitate in front of AT units and also boycott them. No ordinary member but their leader should tender an apology or else the apology will not be accepted, he added.

Th Manihar further said that FOCS is not an organisation that will succumb to the threats of Arambai Tenggol.

In response to FOCS' allegations, the leader of AT, Korounganba Khuman released a video and clarified that the incident leading to the physical assault on Yaima occurred as a result of AT confronting a soil mafia operating in the Heibok Hills area. The AT leader said that the gang attacked AT when they went there to confront them over the matter and a fight erupted in the commotion. Yaima was also present in the incident spot but he did not identify himself as a vice president of FOCS.

Regarding FOCS' call for a boycott of AT, Khuman said that such a measure would be ineffective since people are already aware of AT's activities and that the boycott would not succeed.



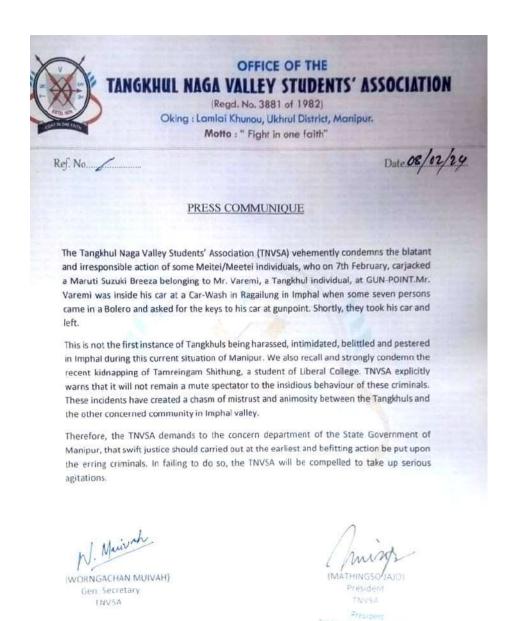
DESPITE REPEATED WARNING, MEITEIS' AGGRESSION ON NAGAS CONTINUES

Despite numerous pleas and warnings not to involve the Naga communities in the ongoing conflict, the Nagas have consistently borne the brunt of Meitei aggression, disregarding the strong statements issued by various Naga CSOs.

Since the outbreak of violence in Manipur, the Nagas, despite maintaining a stance of neutrality, have faced a series of violent incidents, threats, intimidation, and looting from the Meitei community in the Imphal valley. Subsequently, these incidents are often resolved through customary laws. This casual approach by the Nagas towards resolving issue has led the Meiteis to underestimate the seriousness of their actions against the Nagas, viewing the situation as easily remedied with monetary compensation and traditional apologies.

In a latest case of Meitei's aggression upon the Nagas, the Tangkhul Naga Valley Students Association (TNVSA) has accused a Meitei individual of forcibly taking a Maruti Suzuki Breeza car from a Tangkhul person at gunpoint in Imphal on February 7. In response to this incident, TNVSA issued a press release on Thursday, strongly condemning the reckless actions of certain Meitei individuals. They expressed their outrage at the carjacking incident involving a Maruti Suzuki Breeza owned by Varemi, a Tangkhul individual, demanding swift justice from the relevant department of the state government. TNVSA warned that if the government failed to take appropriate action against the culprits, they would be compelled to launch serious protests.

Describing the incident, TNVSA explained that Varemi was inside his car at a car wash in Ragailong, Imphal, when seven individuals arrived in a Bolero and forcibly demanded the car keys at gunpoint before driving away with his vehicle. They emphasized that this is not the first



case of harassment faced by Tangkhuls in Imphal during the ongoing situation in Manipur, citing the recent kidnapping of Tamreingam Shithung, a student of Liberal College, as another example.

TNVSA issued a stern warning that they will not tolerate such criminal behavior and will actively oppose it. They highlighted that the incident has widened the gap of mistrust and hostility between the Tangkhul community and others in the Imphal valley.



CONGRESS DEMANDS MANIPUR CM N BIREN SINGH'S RESIGNATION OVER STATE CRISIS

The Congress party on Thursday demanded the resignation of N Biren Singh as chief minister of Manipur, taking moral responsibility for the protracted crisis in the state.

AICC national spokesperson Dr Shama Mohamed said this while addressing a press conference in Congress Bhavan here in connection with Rahul Gandhi's "Jay Jawan: Anyay ke Virudh Nyay Ka Yudh", which was launched from Bihar on January 31.

She said that tendering resignation by the chief minister would pave the way for restoration of peace and normalcy in the state.

She alleged that the Centre is yet to take up a concrete step to resolve the more than nine months violence in the state.

Even as the leaders of the government at the Centre are claiming that Manipur is returning to normalcy, incidents of violence involving loss of lives continue to happen, the AICC leader said.

The first and foremost step to be taken up for restoration of peace and normalcy in the state should be the resignation of N Biren Singh as chief minister of the state, she demanded.



Talking on Rahul Gandhi's Jay Jawan: Anyay ke Virudh Nyay Ka Yudh, Dr Shama Mohamed said that the campaign was launched against the Modi government's recent cancellation of recruitment of youths in the three armed services – Army, Navy and Airforce under the Agnipath Scheme.

She said that under the Agnipath Scheme, the Modi government had selected 1,50,000 youths to recruit in the Army. But the names of the selected youths were cancelled, the AICC leader also said.

The campaign has two important components, she said, and added the number one component is to keep these selected 1.5 lakh youths to their jobs and the other one is to remove or stop the Agnipath Scheme.



Those who incite violence have no business lecturing others about unity.

– DaShanne Stokes





Since the current ethnic cleansing pogrom began on May 3, 2023, the Meiteis keep changing their narratives as one changes clothes. Initially, the narrative pushed forward by Meitei intelligentsia was to portray the ethnic violence as a clash between the Hindus and Christians to drag the mainland Indians in their favour. To make it appear communal, hundreds of churches were either burnt, or destroyed, in Imphal, including those belonging to the Meiteis. Meitei flags were raised on the top of those churches as often seen in mainland India.

Later, as more academics like Prof. A. Bimol Akoijam joined the narrative war, the Hindu-Christian storyline was disbanded and was shifted towards illegal immigrants, poppy cultivators and forest encroachers. The once victimised Meitei Christians, such as Philem Rohan Singh, were drawn into the fold of the Meiteis to shift the goalpost. Though the efforts gained some momentum, it did not yield much fruits as too many acts of savagery on the Christians and their churches were already recorded and circulated worldwide. As recently as on January 28, 2024, the armed Meitei hooligans desecrated Khopibung Catholic Church, demolished Aigejang CBCA church using JCB, and used Govajang Church as bunker while attacking the Kuki-Zo in Khamenlok area. Anyway, Mr. Philem is now busy asking donations to buy thermal drones for Meitei Terrorists like the Arambai Tenggols and UNLF.

The attempt to debunk Hindu-Christian narrative and blame it on other issues was somehow not adequate. So, the narrative was changed into a fight against "Chin-Kuki narco-terrorists." This was the dominant narrative in the sense that COCOMI, the apex body of the Meiteis, 2023. The same was reciprocated by the Meitei chief minister N. Biren Singh on more than one occasion. This declaration was made after thousands of arms and lakhs of ammunitions including explosives were looted from the police armouries. Now, with thousands more sophisticated weapons in the hands of the Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), the Meiteis probably thought that they could do whatever they wanted!

Another narrative, but relatively insignificant one, was that the current violence was a planned by the Kukis to push forward their long cherished dream of establishing an exclusive ethnic homeland. This is not only factually wrong but also illogical as the Kuki insurgent groups, KNO and UPF, had been negotiating for a Territorial Council till violence broke out on May 3, 2023, derailing the talks. And to assume that a minority community started a fight against the majority community is simply out of the box.

Again, the Meitei think-tanks also pushed the narrative that the current violence is the result of the state government's attempt to drive out "illegal immigrants," forest encroachers, and end poppy cultivation. This too did not hold much water as it is too cheap a propaganda invented by the Meitei think-tanks in their desperate attempt to cover up this state-sponsored terrorism. There are many more such narratives invoked, and later abandoned or continued, by, as a Meitei Professor once said, this "confused community."

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formally declared the "Manipuri National War" on June 7,



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Among many such narratives, the demand for abrogation of Suspension of Operation (SOO) is one that stands out tall as it somehow remains popular within a section of the Meitei community, including the Arambai Tenggols and Meira Paibis. Interestingly, the attempt was already made even before the current violence broke out. Back in March 2023, the state government had backed out from the SOO agreement presumably as part of the plan to launch a campaign for annihilation of the Kuki-Zo. However, Biren's attempt to terminate SOO agreement was unequivocally ignored by the Home Ministry who scolded him for this terrible decision.

Later, as the violence began, the Home Ministry made it clear that since the state government unilaterally withdrew from the tripartite talk, the political dialogue now became bipartite, i.e., between Kuki insurgent groups (KNO and UPF) and the Centre. So, the failure of Biren's government to convince the Home Ministry to terminate SOO agreement before the ethnic cleansing campaign began, and the failure of the Meitei think-tanks to offer a narrative worthy of convincing world public opinion, made Kuki insurgent groups under SOO the main target.

This explains why the Meiteis are hell-bent on abrogating the SOO agreement by offering n-number of unfounded reasons. In doing so, the Meitei think-tanks behind the current ethnic cleansing pogrom not only wanted to coverup the crime against humanity but also further vilify the whole community by blaming the Kuki-Zo armed groups. Unfortunately, neither people in the Home Ministry nor Defence are foolish enough to trust the Meiteis whose appellation is now synonymous with fake news and lies.

Now that the 15-day deadline given by Arambai Tenggol to all the 39 Meitei legislators (37 MLAs and 2 MPs) on January 24 ends, the Meitei think-tanks must be at their wits-end to prevent any untoward incident in their society. May I suggest that they can blame ZO United's Delhi visit as an escape route as they always blame the "Kukis" for anything that happens under the sky?

Anyway, the Meitei community and its government have nothing to do with the bipartite political talk between the Kuki armed groups and Govt. of India as they have already unilaterally withdrawn from the SOO agreement. Even if SOO is to be abrogated, it should be purely in the court of the two entities who are parties to it.

Moreover, unlike the peace agreement signed with

UNLF (Pambei faction) which intensified violence, the signing of SOO agreement with Kuki insurgent groups has drastically improved law and order in the Kuki-Zo dominated areas. And hence, the demand for its abrogation only exposes the intellectual bankruptcy of the Meitei community whose major national character, if it ever exists, is to silence any dissenting voice, or criticism.

As noted human rights activist, Mr. Babloo Loitongbam, once said, it is a widely accepted fact among scholars and intellectuals around the world that ethnic violence like the present one occurs only in a seriously regressive society. In other words, an ethnic cleansing pogrom, or genocide as in Hitler's Germany, is invoked only when the state and its dominant community fail to perform their constitutional and moral obligations to sail the boat through tides. All these chain of events show that the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign perpetrated by the majority community against the minority Kuki-Zo community is partly to hide their failure to carry the Manipuri society forward.

In the meantime, the abrogation of the SOO agreement will not, in any way, conceal the severity of the crimes committed by the majority community since the beginning of the current ethnic violence. Of course, it wouldn't alter the course of the violence as separation between the two warring communities is already completed. The Union Government just needs to formally begin the steps for Separate Administration – be it in the form of a State or Union Territory with Legislature – as demanded by the Kuki-Zo community.

Last, but not the least, it is to be made crystal clear that the Meiteis have absolutely no reason to demand the abrogation of SOO, or interfere in the affairs of another community where they have no stake. The Meiteis' attempt to divert the attention of the Centre and the general public from the humanitarian crisis they have created, or to push whatever narratives they have been manufacturing, can never be a reason to terminate the SOO agreement. Anyway, the Meiteis are probably not aware of what the general populace among the Kukis think about this [un]popular agreement. Maybe they wanted it to be abrogated more than anyone else!







On Saturday, in the obscure town of Kangpokpi in Manipur, Kuki-Zo MLAs, including from the ruling BJP, again reiterated a demand for a "separate administration" of the hill areas of the Northeastern state, an euphemism for a separate state or union territory status.

These politicians were responding to what they termed as fresh attacks on their villages in an ongoing ninemonth-old ethnic strife between Kuki tribals and plainsdwelling Meiteis in the state and the rise of a shadowy Meitei "cultural" organisation called Arambai Tenggol.

A peculiar situation arose a day after Republic Day this year, when Congress party chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote a letter to Home Minister Amit Shah, alleging that the Manipur Congress party chief was brutally assaulted and tortured at a meeting attended by all Meitei MLAs and MPs of the state which was "called" by the Arambai Tenggol.

The meeting, held in the heavily fortified Kangla fort, a symbol of resistance to British rule for Manipuris, itself was an unprecedented one. Over three dozen MLAs and MPs, all from the majority Meitei community owing allegiance to all parties including the ruling BJP, were reportedly "summoned" and asked to swear an oath to raise "people's concerns" as well as sign a document

chartering the demand of the Arambai at the fort, which is guarded by central and state forces.

The demands included: the removal of Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with Kuki militants which had seen the former rebels turning in their arms and being confined to camps supervised by the Assam Rifles; implementation of the National Register of Citizens; fencing of the border with Myanmar, ostensibly to stop movement of Kuki-Chin people across the border; replacement of the highly decorated peace-keepers of the Northeast—the Assam Rifles—from the state; and the removal of Kuki "illegal immigrants" from the Scheduled Tribes list.

Kharge's letter claims that "many members present in the meeting (on January 24) were compelled and coerced to attend". If factually true, this is an alarming and unprecedented event in India's history where a so-called cultural group from one particular ethnic community has managed to get the majority of lawmakers in a state to not only join its meeting but sign on to its demands.

The Meitei outfit — Arambai Tenggol — which surfaced four years earlier as a cultural body, has

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allegedly been in the forefront of the ethnic conflict which has been plaguing the state of Manipur for the last nine months.

Eyewitnesses claim gun-toting Tenggol volunteers move around in Imphal valley in vehicles openly, wearing black shirts akin to Benito Mussolini's Squadre d'Azione. These volunteers who are believed to be nearly 50,000 strong are an organised force to reckon with.

The Arambai Tenggol would take the Metei community, which is largely Vaishnavite Hindus, back to a clanbased form of worship called Sanamahism and is reportedly led by a descendant of the Manipur royalty.

That the Arambai Tenggol — which means 'spearwielding cavalry' — managed to hold a meeting at Kangla Fort, which teems with security and intelligence personnel at all times, is a feat by itself. That MPs and MLAs have had to join its meeting is a sign of the immense power that the outfit enjoys in the state.

The meeting and the open display of arms by the Arambai Tenggol also underlines both the erosion of the authority of the formal state and its ability to withstand the pressures exerted by the fringe on it functioning.

The rise in narrow-minded parochialism has affected others too. From all accounts, demands made by Kuki-Zo tribal bodies in the hills on political parties in the state can similarly not be ignored.

In effect all these legislators, whether Meitei or Kuki-Zo, have accepted the demands of parallel centres of power — which may in times to come set the agenda for a constituent state of the Indian Union, one which is vital and sensitively placed on India's border with a neighbouring country and not elected representatives of the people.

The strife in the hitherto relatively peaceful state has already led to a complete separation of ethnic communities, leaving the Meiteis in command over the Imphal Valley and Kuki tribals confined to the hill districts. Attempts by either side to cross the invisible border between the fertile plains and forested hills can lead to being shot at or worse.

The emergence of powerful parallel power centres created on narrow ethnic grounds seems to indicate that the chances of bridging the chasm between the warring communities are becoming slimmer with time.

Under the circumstances, the state needs to step back into the ring, assert its authority and rise above mere parochial politics. Otherwise, the wounds that afflict Manipur, may well become a cancer which could spread to other parts of the region.

The Kuki-Zo people live in other states including Mizoram, where they are in a majority and in Meghalaya where they are a substantive part of the populace as well as in Assam and Tripura. It is well known that these areas have been restive ever sine violence started in Manipur in May last year.

It will do well to remember that the then Union government had been slow to respond to the food crisis which broke out in the Mizo hills in the 1950s and that led to a rebellion which lasted several decades and could be controlled only with great difficulty after the Indian air force carried out sorties within our own territories.

A similar mistake in handling the crisis which continues in Manipur, could well see the state, which has been a hotbed for militancy in the past, slipping out of control and into the hands of hotheads who may end up being puppets of foreign powers seeking to take advantage of the strife that has beset the 'Jewel of the Northeast'.

First published by **The Free Press Journal**







To Nagas, Kukis and Mizos the border between India and Myanmar is drawn arbitrary, and despite their separation in 1937 the age-old practice of border crossing is still a quotidian experience. The cost of border fencing will be much more than its utility.



youtube.com

India scraps Free Movement Regime along the India-Myanm The Government of India has scrapped the Free Movement Regime alongside the India-Myanmar border. Ending the ...

8:14 PM · Feb 8, 2024 · 935 Views



From destroying our churches to mocking Christianity, you guys absolutely disgraced yourselves!

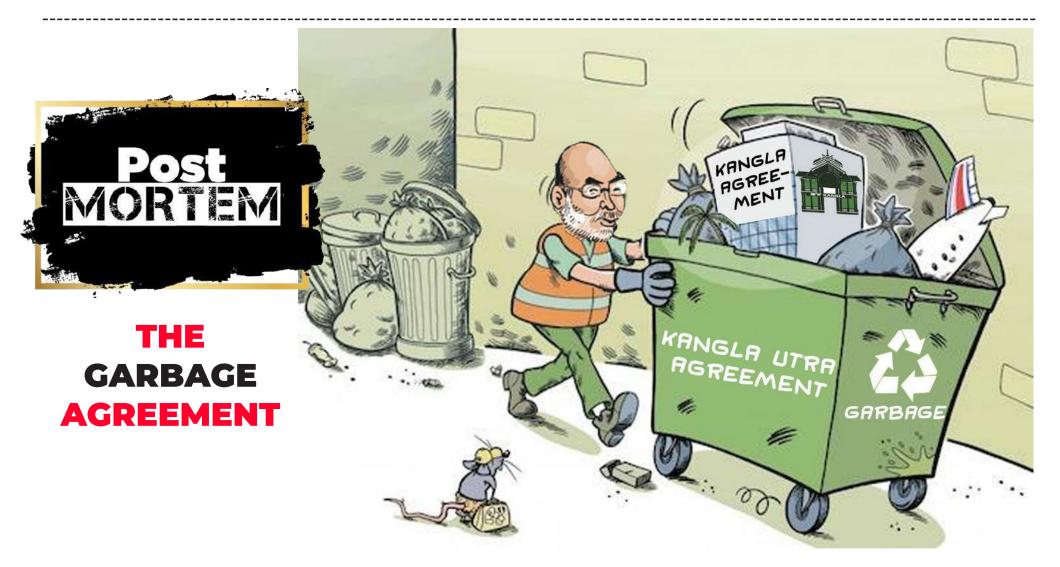
By sinking to such depths to mock us, you commit blasphemy, a matter between you and God. I worry about your future!

#meiteiwarcrimes



& Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and 4 others

1:45 PM · Feb 8, 2024 · 5.142 View















LET US LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF OUR MARTYRS

Imagine us not,
Merely as dead, blown away by easterly winds,
For we still hovered in the skies like eagles,
O'er the hills and the valleys.
Vigilantly watching over every happening beneath us.

We are sad, very sad indeed,
More sad than when we were alive,
Not for what our enemies have done to us thus far,
But for the lack of love and unity among our people,
And the useless debates over our name and true identity.

It seems we had been forgotten by y'all so soon.
We'd been raped, mutilated, beheaded, burned alive.
Killed in broad daylight without any mercy.
Like a chicken being chased to be killed for supper.

For my part, I was dragged out of my Quarters,
Stoned, punched, hit, and shoved to the ground.
Petrol was poured all over my body while I still breathed,
Then burnt alive, turning me to ashes.
They continued to mock and ridicule over my remains.

But we had a soul that couldn't be killed or destroyed.

And that very soul of ours has now risen to speak to you all.

In the Morgue, Florence, and Olivia once said
"Min, let's tell our people neither to surrender nor to retreat,
Until the sun rises above the hills of our fatherland for freedom."

(With the highest salutations to all our martyrs; in focus on Salpha Letminthang St. Haokip)

~Hillsman J. Tearsworth