

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

AWAITING JUSTICE



SEIMINTHANG LUPHENG (29 yrs)

S/O (L) SEHLAL LUPHENG

ADDRESS: KANAN VENG MOREH WARD NO.7 TENGNOUPAL DISTRICT

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED AND DISPOSED IN IMPHAL RIVER



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



185
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.

MANIPUR COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ETHNIC VIOLENCE RECEIVES 11,000 AFFIDAVITS

Locals gather near Kuki-Zo community's houses which were burnt down by miscreants in violence-hit Manipur in Imphal on Aug 1, 2023. The fire also engulfed more than a dozen houses of migrants from Bihar, Haryana, and Naga people. Locals gather near Kuki-Zo community's houses which were burnt down by miscreants in violence-hit Manipur in Imphal on Aug 1, 2023.

The three-member Commission of Inquiry (Col) notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to probe the ethnic violence in Manipur has received around 11,000 affidavits, a senior government official told The Hindu.

The Col had in November 2023 asked members of the public to submit "statement, allegation or complaint" in the form of an affidavit. The majority of the affidavits have been filed by individuals who were affected by the violence, and a few of them have been filed by civil society groups from hill and valley areas.

The Commission set up help desks at relief camps to encourage people to file the affidavits. "The Commission made all the arrangements, from notaries to oath commissioners. People had to narrate their complaint and it was typed by the staff at the help desks; they did not have to pay a single penny," the official said.

On June 4, 2023 the MHA appointed the Col, headed by Ajai Lamba, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and two other members, Himanshu Shekhar Das, retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, and Alok Prabhakar, retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer.

The official said that the Col has examined all the affidavits received so far, and soon response would be sought from the Manipur Government and the Union government to questions pertaining to the violence and other related issues.

The Col is also expected to examine witnesses, including private persons and government officials, before finalising the report.

"The Commission is also likely to take care of the expenses of an individual who is called to appear as a witness. This will include making arrangements for their stay and travel," the official said.

The Col is headquartered in Delhi with a camp office in Imphal.

The Col is expected to probe the causes, the extent of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, the sequence of events, and whether there had been any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities and individuals.

It is also probing if adequate administrative measures were taken to prevent the violence and riots.

"Not only the immediate trigger of the violence but historical aspects are also being examined. The report will be finalised after submissions by the government and examination of witnesses," the official said.

At least 221 people were killed and more than 50,000 people were displaced after ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo and the majority Meitei people erupted in the State on May 3, 2023. The violence that first started in Churachandpur during a tribal solidarity march to protest the Manipur High Court's order to consider including the majority Meitei people in the Scheduled Tribes list soon spread to other areas of the State.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

MEITEI ARMED MILITIAS LET LOOSE: RELIEF CAMP INMATE SHOT, CRITICALLY INJURED

In a clear sign of complete breakdown of law and order in the Meiteis' Imphal Valley, suspected members of Arambai Tenggol shot and injured a 28-year-old inmate of a relief camp in Thanga under Moirang Police Station on Wednesday morning.

According to a Police report, the injured inmate has been identified as Sawaijam Dhanabir, 28 yrs, son of Sawaijam Rajen of Yaiphakon village, Churachandpur. He was taking shelter at the Thanga Wangma Junior High School Relief Camp.

The suspected private militia, who came on a two wheeler Activa, blue in color, shot him four bullets at around 7:55 am and managed to escape from the scene.

The injured inmate was rushed to the Raj Medicity Hospital, Imphal, where he is undergoing treatment. His condition is critical.

Sawaijam Dhanabir has been taking shelter at the Thanga Relief camp after the ongoing ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

A case has been registered at Moirang Police Station



and investigations are on to arrest the culprits, the police added.

Such incidents of crimes have been taking place in the Meiteis' Kangleipak as a result of the Meiteis' armed radicals being let loose by their political patrons led by their Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and Leisemba Sanajaoba, Rajya Sabha MP.

Notably, more than 4000 arms and ammunition looted from Police armouries are still in the hands of the Meitei militia groups. Unless the central armed forces are given special power in the form of AFSPA in the Imphal valley, maintaining law and order would be far-fetched.



If you're not ready to die for it, put the word 'freedom' out of your vocabulary.

- Malcolm X

BIREN'S HYPOCRISY EXPOSED: CONDEMNING SAM PITRODA'S RACIST REMARK AMIDST CRITICISM OF HIS OWN PAST COMMENTS

Congress leader Sam Pitroda has stirred controversy by categorizing Indian residents based on their facial features. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has condemned this remark and is considering legal actions against Pitroda.

It is ironic that the same CM (Biren); one of the most racist chief ministers in India, known for making racist comments on his social media handles, at times labelling the people of his own state as 'Junglee', 'illegal immigrant', and what not, is plotting a legal action against someone who speaks in the same tone. It is rather amusing that the CM seemed to forget his racist attitude to point fingers at others which only exposed his hypocrisy.

Biren criticised Pitroda's statement, describing it as racist and irresponsible. He expressed his disapproval to ANI, stating his intention to consult legal experts for potential legal recourse.

It is rather baffling as to how this man, Biren Singh, acquire the guts to talk about racism while calling Kukis as monkeys, labeling the entire Kuki people as illegal immigrants, and calling their villages' illegal settlements.

Okay, now let us teach shameless Biren what racism is all about.

Racism is when Manipur Police handed over two Kuki women; whose only crime was that they were born a Kuki, to be paraded naked and raped multiple times by a savage Meitei mob. As per the the chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the two women and their kin, prior to the parade and



assault on the 4th of May 2023, had sought refuge inside a police Gypsy parked beside the road. However, when they begged the police driver to start the vehicle and take them to safety, the dreaded answer from the policeman came in the form of "NO KEY".

Racism is Manipur Police handing over Hanglalmoun Vaiphei, held in a Police custody in Imphal, to the Meitei mob to be lynched, only because he was a Kuki while the same Manipur Police refused to arrest the Meitei criminals accused in the gang-rape and murder of two Kuki women, Florence and Olivia in Imphal.

Manipur Government refusing to sanction "Promotion of Enmity" against those Meiteis who paraded and gang-raped Kuki women is also another form of racism perpetrated against the minority Kuki community.

Manipur Police commando personnel targeting Kuki homes and burning schools run by Kukis in Moreh, CM Biren Singh sanctioning war against Kuki tribal community simply because they are not Meiteis or Nagas are also a few examples amongst many such racist acts.

VBIGS ARRESTED IN EXTORTION CASE

Security Forces on Wednesday arrested one active cadre of NRFM (National Revolutionary Front of Manipur) involved in money extortion from various places in Imphal area. The arrested cadre has been identified as Heisnam James Singh @Kumar (33 Years). He was arrested from Lamphel RIMS road near RIMS Gate. Further, from his possession 1(one) two-wheeler vehicle and 1(one) mobile phone were seized.

In another case, two individuals were arrested from Viewland Zone III, Ukhrul, in a joint operation conducted by the troops of 35 Assam Rifles and Ukhrul Police on Wednesday.

The 35 Assam Rifles, under the supervision of Colonel Manoj Shinde, Commanding Officer of 35 Assam Rifles, apprehended two persons suspected to be Meitei underground operatives. The seized items from the two individuals included Rs 1,71,500 in cash, ammunition, a gold chain, four mobile phones, two wireless sets, and other documents.

“Based on credible intelligence, the troops of 35 Assam Rifles conducted swift search operations in a joint effort



with Ukhrul Police personnel at Viewland Zone III around 01:00 PM and apprehended two persons,” said sources.

The apprehended individuals have been identified as Huidrom Jitanjit Singh and Tomba Luwang, suspected to be cadres of proscribed group, UNLF.

The arrested persons and the recovered items have been handed over to the concerned police station for further proceedings, the police added.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: MAY 8, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON MAY 8, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

On the 8th of May 2003 at around 11:00 AM; Bongbalkholen, a Kuki village located in Kangpokpi District, came under attack by the Arambai Tenggol and state forces, who were armed with sophisticated weapons. During this assault, the attackers not only inflicted violence but also looted and vandalized the properties of the villagers.

Bongbalkholen was home to approximately 900 residents living in around 155 houses. The brutal and Inhumane attack has left deep trauma and shock

among the village’s children, women, persons with disabilities, sick individuals, and senior citizens. Tragically, this village has been subjected to burning and vandalism for the second time.

Adding to the distress, all domesticated animals in the village were slaughtered and taken away by the miscreants. The situation in Manipur remains highly volatile and calls for immediate attention, security, and support to protect the lives and properties of the affected communities.

CRPF JAWAN RESCUED FROM THE CLAWS OF DEATH IN MANIPUR

In a concerning turn of events, a Central Reserve Police Force personnel, stationed at the Tactical Training Hub (TTH) in Chil Chil, Kangpokpi District, was reportedly waylaid and abducted by suspected armed radicalized members of the Arambai Tenggol this morning.

The distressing event unfolded along the National Highway 2 when the CRPF jawan belonging to the Kuki community was en route to his village, Keithelmanbi Military Colony, in Champhai Subdivision at around 10:30 AM on his scooty raising potential safety issues even to the central forces in the strife-torn state.

The victim has been identified as Lensat Sitlhou, son of Ngulkhomang Sitlhou of Keithelmanbi Military Colony.

The CRPF jawan was waylaid along the National Highway 2 at Shantipur, a Nepali-dominated area, just a stone's throw away from Gamgiphai.

In a swift response to the incident, Imphal West Police,

working in tandem with SP Kangpokpi and allied security units such as the Assam Rifles and CRPF, launched a coordinated rescue operation. The efforts culminated in the successful rescue of the abducted CRPF jawan from the claws of death in the afternoon at around 3:00 PM.

However, the abducted jawan was reportedly brutally assaulted by the abductors suspected to be armed radicalised cadres belonging to the Arambai Tenggol.

He is yet to be handed over to the family till the filing of this report.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Kuki women congregated at Gamgiphai following the incident, intensifying the checking and frisking of vehicles along the highway.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Former UN Special Rapporteur on Mino... · 2d

Contributing today to the congressional briefing on the human rights crisis in Manipur affecting Kuki and other non Hindu minorities and peoples in India, including burning of churches and synagogues (325) and explosion of hate speech and attacks against Christians.



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert

Follow

The Constitutional Proposals of the Sapru Committee, commonly known as the Sapru Committee Report of 1945, acknowledged the need of aboriginal tribes in India for the "protection of their lands and customary life from exploitation and disturbances".

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all sections of the Scheduled Castes, I shall accept any proposals which the majority of the representatives of the Scheduled Castes in the Constituent Assembly approve for that purpose."

Backward Classes and Aboriginal Tribes

330. The Scheduled Castes Sub-Committee deals also with the question of Aboriginal Tribes but we shall in the next few paragraphs, deal not only with questions relating to Aboriginal Tribes but also with what are known as Backward Classes. Sir Reginald Coupland (Vol. III, p. 164) describes them as scattered over five Provinces in areas mostly tracts of forest and hill country covering some 120,000 square miles. Their population numbers about 12 million. They are mostly at a premature stage of civilization, animists in religion and living under a traditional tribal system..... Their primary needs are: (1) protection for their lands and customary life from exploitation and disturbances (2) extension of social services, especially health and education, for which they cannot provide from their own exiguous resources and (3) sympathetic administration Under the existing constitution these areas are grades as "wholly" or "partially" excluded areas.

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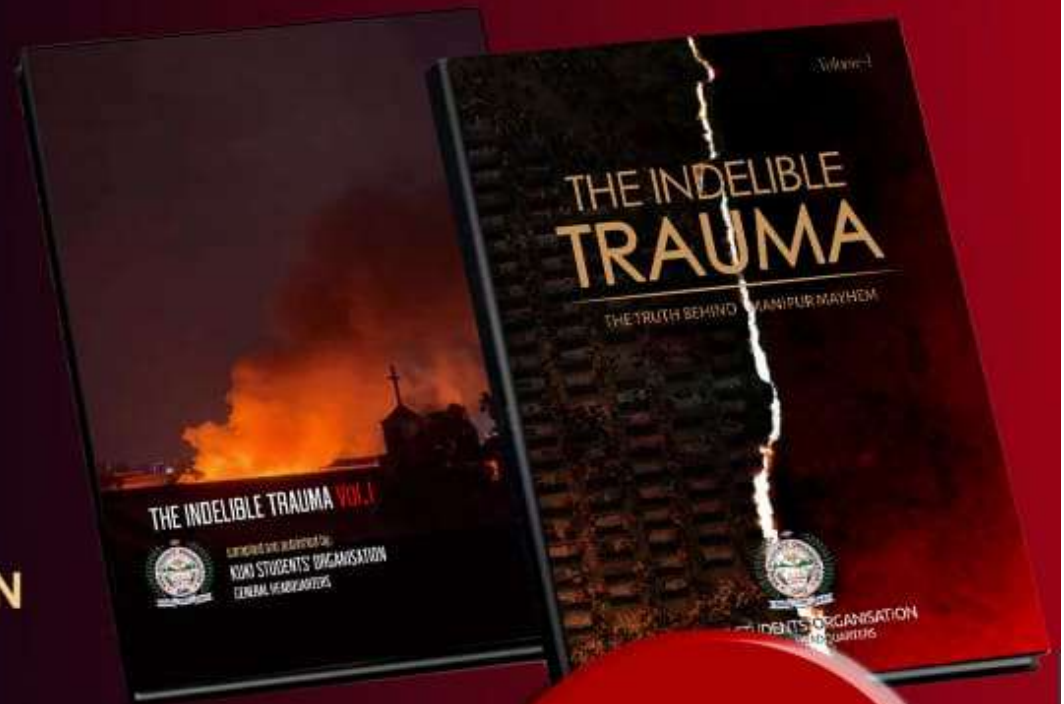
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THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA

THE TRUTH BEHIND MANIPUR MAYHEM VOL. I

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS



PAPERBACK COVER &
HARD COVER PRINT

**AVAILABLE
NOW**

ABOUT THE BOOK

This treatise is being prepared and published to unravel the lies and perfidy of our adversaries and put in perspective the authentic truth so that it stands as a testimony of the genocide that is being perpetrated on us and our people

With the hope and expectation that the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes are brought to justice; and ignite a glimmer of solace and consolation to our indignant souls

The treatise also seeks to debunk the patently false canards, innuendoes and narratives that are being peddled as the gospel truth, and the aspersions that are being casted without any substance

And to put in perspective the historical misdeeds meted out to the tribal society by the extremely self-centered Meitei society with the clarion call to stand united and the urgent need for the convergence of our political position so as to collectively extricate ourselves from this oppressive dispensation

If we are to march forward like our tribal counterparts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh- SEPARATION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

Issued and published by
Kuki Students' Organization- General Headquarters



**OPINION**

One Year of Manipur Violence

Even as the entire nation is busy with the Lok Sabha election 2024, far away in a corner in India (Manipur), the conflict has reached one year. The war that broke out between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo on May 3, 2023, is still raging with no end in sight. The high decibels of Lok Sabha campaigning have muted the noise of guns that are fired in Manipur- guns that kill fellow Indians. The star campaigners from both the ruling and opposition parties have also largely forgotten the tragic human disaster in Manipur. As we mourn this one year of apocalyptic war, few hard questions must be asked: Firstly, what is so different about Manipur that the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has decided not to visit even once? Since Biren Singh could not stop the conflict, why wasn't he asked to step down even now? Since elections were held in Manipur even when the situation was not conducive, and since Armed Forces were pulled out from buffer zones for election duty elsewhere in India, is election more important than human lives?

When the results are out on June 4, election results of Manipur would also be shown and the world would be told that peace has returned. The question is, would a situation like Manipur be allowed to continue even for a month if it had happened in mainland India? There is a gradual feeling in Manipur that, there is even a racial bias in this neglect and the sounds of silence is loud enough on whose lives matter more in India.

Meanwhile, Biren Singh still sits in his high chair stained with blood. In his usual self, he is still active in social media posts. Many accuse him for spreading the flames of hatred that started this war which has killed precious Meitei and Kuki lives. According to his latest post, the war has not even started. It seems like this whole year would be the same stories of last year with only a different narrative to shoot.

While people from both the Meitei and Kuki communities look forward for the conflict to end, Manipur state government has bought many bullet proof vehicles which were hitherto used only by the Indian Army. The fact that the Manipur Police is already polarised is an open secret. The script seems ready for the show for this year. Can't a rising power like India stop this?

The fact that the Prime Minister of India has not even visited once even after the violence has raged for one year speaks a lot about today's India. One expected that the same passion he showed about women welfare in Sandeshkhali be also shown to women in Manipur. Somewhere deep down, the soul of India has died and even the torrential rains in Northeast cannot wash away this air of pain and abandonment.



**EXCLUSIVE STORY**

The Great Escape from the Valley of Death: How Thousands of Kuki-Zo Were Evacuated From Imphal

Anthony Shongthu

If the 3rd of May marks the first anniversary of the beginning of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kuki-Zo, the 8th of May completes one year of the evacuation of 13,000 Kuki-Zo to Kangpokpi from the “Valley of Death”. In fact, out of the more than 20,000 Kuki-Zo stranded in Imphal, about 18,000 were evacuated to Kangpokpi, and the rest to Churachandpur, Chandel, and Tengnoupal districts. Some others also had their escape route through flights.

From day one in the relief centres in Imphal, the longing for our hills was incomparable. The fear of possible mob attack and lack of food and medical facilities for thousands of inmates in the absence of state, or rather the communal Meitei government turning its back, was too painful to bear.

The Indian Army and Paramilitary Forces, who had been flown in since 4th May 2023 to assist the state in maintaining law and order did not provide much relief. The unverified news about the imposition of Article 355 and the appointment of a senior IPS officer as security advisor too did not help ease the situation either. Meanwhile, the hope for imposition of President’s Rule (under Article 356) or the removal of the Meitei Chief Minister died a slow death each passing day. In short, all the hype about normalcy and justice to the innocent victims vanished within a few days from the day on which the current ethnic violence broke out.

On the other hand, the attack on Kuki villages by the Meitei militants such as the Arambai Tenggols, Meitei Militants and VBIGs with the help of the Manipur Police Commandos continued unabated. News about an increase in the number of casualties and burning of villages kept pouring in. Though there were also reports of casualties on the side of the Meitei Militants and mobs attacking Kuki villages, the official number was much smaller compared to that of the Kukis.

It was under such circumstances that the community leaders and Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) belonging to various Kuki-Zo tribes began putting their heads together to evacuate those stranded in the relief centres in Imphal. In contrast, the communal state government tried all its resources to evacuate the 5000 Meiteis kept in the mini secretariat of Churachandpur, and did everything it took to obstruct the evacuation of the Kuki-Zo from Imphal.

For those few people who could afford to get airplane tickets with the help of their near and dear ones outside the state, the price of which had already skyrocketed, the Army helped them reach the airport. Early in the morning, probably before the Meitei mobs could gather on the streets of Imphal, an Army convoy would pick them up in

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their bullet-proof Casspirs and trucks, and drop them at the airport. But, for those who can't afford to buy air tickets, our only hope was to wait for the vehicles arranged by our community leaders.

However, evacuating the 20,000 strong Kuki-Zo from Imphal was not an easy touch. First, there was concern for security as the unruly Meitei mobs could waylay or obstruct the convoy anywhere. Second, the communal state government was adamant, and kept obstructing the evacuation of Kuki-Zo from Imphal. Third, it was also a huge burden for the Kuki leaders to arrange enough vehicles to evacuate such a large number of people since other communities wouldn't easily take the risk of giving away their vehicles for hire under such circumstances.

While the inmates of relief centres were eagerly waiting for a miracle to happen, a tragic incident happened on 5th May 2023. On that day, there was information that the Meiteis stranded in Lamka would be evacuated with the Indian Army assigned with the task of escorting them to Imphal. But the Kuki-Zo leaders decided that they wouldn't allow them to leave till their kinsmen in Imphal were evacuated. However, the Army officers in-charge of the evacuation said that it was an order from the chief minister, and hence they ought to perform their duty.

The Kukis were not against the evacuation of those Meiteis from Lamka but they had the apprehension that once the Meitei people were allowed to leave, the lives of 20,000 Kuki-Zo in Imphal would be at risk. So, it was the only bargaining chip the minority Kuki-Zo community had at that point of time.

Ultimately, a stand-off broke out between the Army and the womenfolk of Lamka which resulted in an unfortunate incident in which at least three women were killed and about 50 sustained bullet injury. On that night, the air was filled with grief as the Kuki-Zo community never expected such a drastic action against women protestors who are simply trying to prevent the evacuation. However, it shouldn't be forgotten that these brave women have sacrificed their lives to save their brothers and sisters in Imphal.

Around the same time, the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles had initiated a plan to evacuate the Kuki-Zo in batches. In one such evacuation mission on 6th May 2023, a convoy ferrying a few thousands in about 20 vehicles including buses and army trucks encountered a huge mob near Sekmai, about 10 km. from Kangpokpi district boundary.

In that unfortunate incident, a number of vehicles were partially destroyed and many injured as the mob attacked the convoy with stones and other materials. To shorten the narration, it was due to the experience and able leadership of the Indian Army leading the convoy that they could reach Kangpokpi with minimum destruction and injury. However, the Indian Army personnel had to resort to firing multiple rounds in the air to disperse the unruly mobs.

The scariest part in that incident was the two private cars that broke down following the mob's heavy attack on the vehicles. The occupants of these two cars had a narrow escape as they somehow managed to get into the Army trucks but the two vehicles were immediately burnt down as soon as they left the place. The victims of the mob attack near Sekmai narrated that it was only because of the Army's exemplary call for duty, and blank fire in the air to scare them that a huge calamity was avoided. Otherwise, there could have been heavy casualty since the intention of the mob was to incur maximum casualty on the Kuki-Zo for trying to escape from the "Valley of Death."

Everyone knew how dangerous it was for them to travel even with the Army personnel escorting them, but the Kuki-Zo people stranded in Imphal had no other option. For them, it was better to face any eventuality on the way to the land of freedom than remain in Imphal where their days were being numbered every day.

On 8th May 2023, the day most of the Kuki-Zo were to be evacuated, security was tightened, and the journey planned for during the day, unlike

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the previous evacuation which was usually in the late evening. There was also a plan for exchange of the Meiteis in Lamka with the Kuki-Zo of Imphal on that day. Therefore, though the journey was going to be as scary as it was two days ago, no untoward incident happened on this day. And about 13,000 strong Kuki-Zo from almost all the districts of Manipur were safely escorted to Kangpokpi.

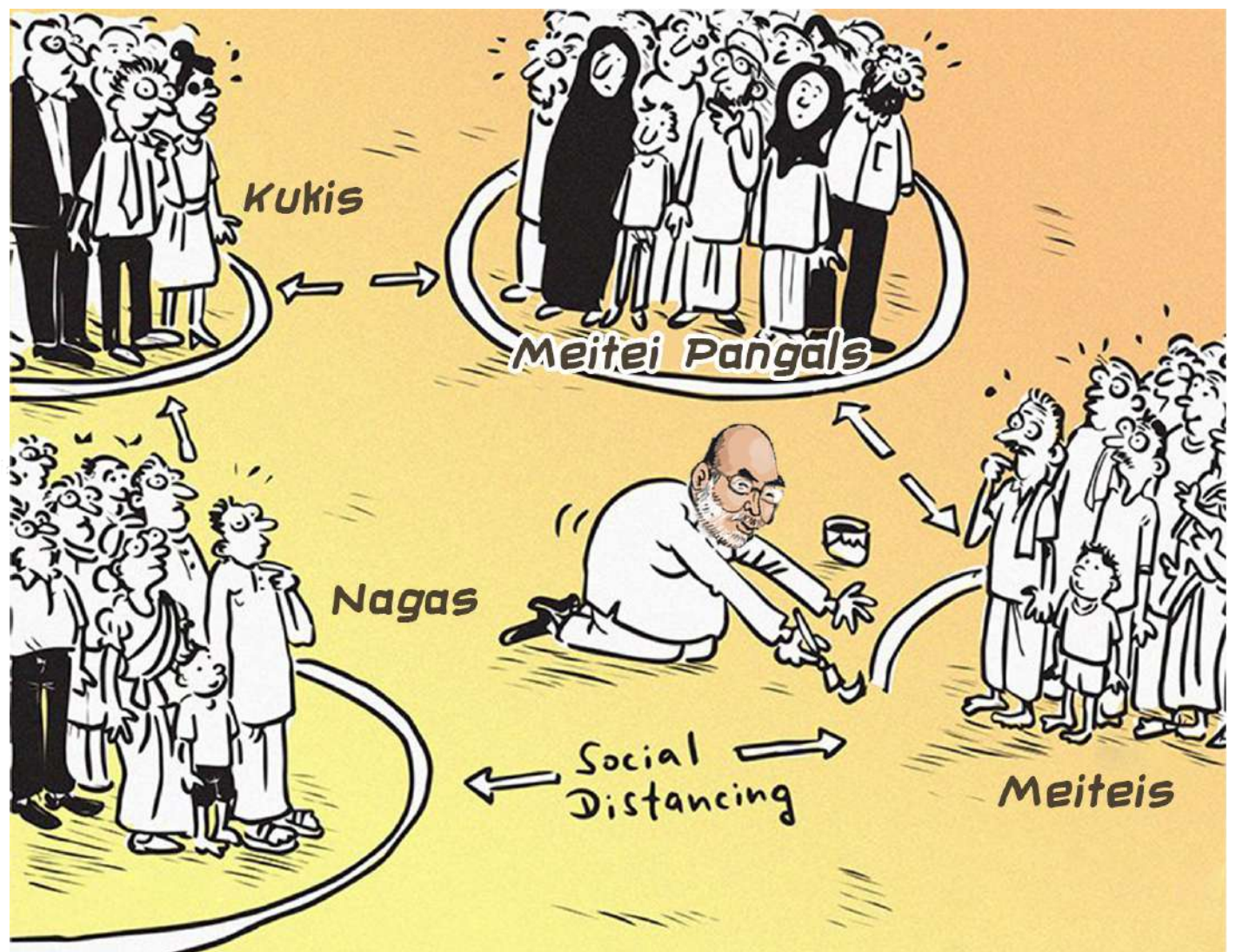
Now, while the story of this massive evacuation is being told, the Kuki-Zo community can't forget the role of the Indian Army/Assam Rifles for taking such huge risks to save the lives of thousands of innocent Kuki-Zo people from Imphal. We are all indebted to them for rescuing us when the communal state government in Imphal had turned its back and abandoned us.

The same credit also goes to all the Kuki leaders, intellectuals and CSOs who mobilised hundreds of

vehicles including buses, trucks, and other medium size vehicles, and coordinated the evacuation mission with the Indian Army/Assam Rifles and other agencies. In the case of Kangpokpi district, it will be worth mentioning the crucial role played by Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills (KISH), Kuki Students' Organisation Sadar Hills (KSO-SH), Thadou Inpi Kangpokpi (TIK), Thadou Students' Association Sadar Hills (TSA-SH) and others including officers, military personnel, MLAs/Ministers, for extending all possible help for the success of the evacuation mission. If it were not for the yeoman service rendered by them, the fate of the Kuki-Zo people could have been decided by the communally charged Meitei mobs. Last, but not the least, we are also highly indebted to all the prayer warriors for the constant moral support and prayers to save the Kuki-Zo people from Imphal – the "Valley of Death."



THE COMPLETED DIVISION





LET'S RIGHT OUR WRONGS!

Hillsman J. Tearsworth

(These simple lines are written for our self-reflection to right our wrongs; for our more unity, understanding and collective consciousness!)

Everyone knows what's right and wrong!
We all knew when we were wrong.
And who we had wronged at!
And who had wronged us,
But, who among us will make right that wrong?

We have often wronged each other!
That wrong must be made right timely!
Or, it'll wrong us further and further!
But, we often used to ignore our wrongs!
Forget not, there's no right at all in wronging others.

What more wrong can our wrongs bring us?
It can weigh us down, very down!
It can also drown us in the pool of our egos!
It can thus cripple our wings,
To unable us to fly high in the skies!

Unlike, Minus plus Minus equal to Plus
Two wrongs can't bring one right!
You have only seen your right.
But, I have seen only your wrong!
As you've seen mine, I've seen yours!

Let's stop seeing ourselves as only right!
And others as only wrong!
For, that will not bring us Love and Unity!
Though it may bring us food on our table,
It can rot our flesh as we stand before man & God!

Let's stop seeing each other's wrongs!
We must see our own wrongs.
Righting one's own wrong requires strength!
May we have the strength to right ourselves!
So that we shall all live rightly
in all our walks of life!

Credit: Satish Acharya

