

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LETHOI HAOKIP (55 YEARS)

W/O (L) THANGHOLET HAOKIP
ADDRESS: LANGCHING, CHANDEL
DATE OF DEATH: 29TH MAY, 2023
PLACE OF DEATH: LANGCHING, CHANDEL
CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

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

KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION QUESTIONS REPLACEMENT OF ASSAM RIFLES IN MANIPUR BUFFER ZONES

The Kuki Students' Organisation Delhi & NCR (KSOD) has voiced strong concerns over the recent directive to replace the 9th and 22nd Battalions of the Assam Rifles with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in buffer zones in Manipur. While KSOD acknowledges the government's intention to restore peace, they argue that this move could undermine current stabilization efforts.

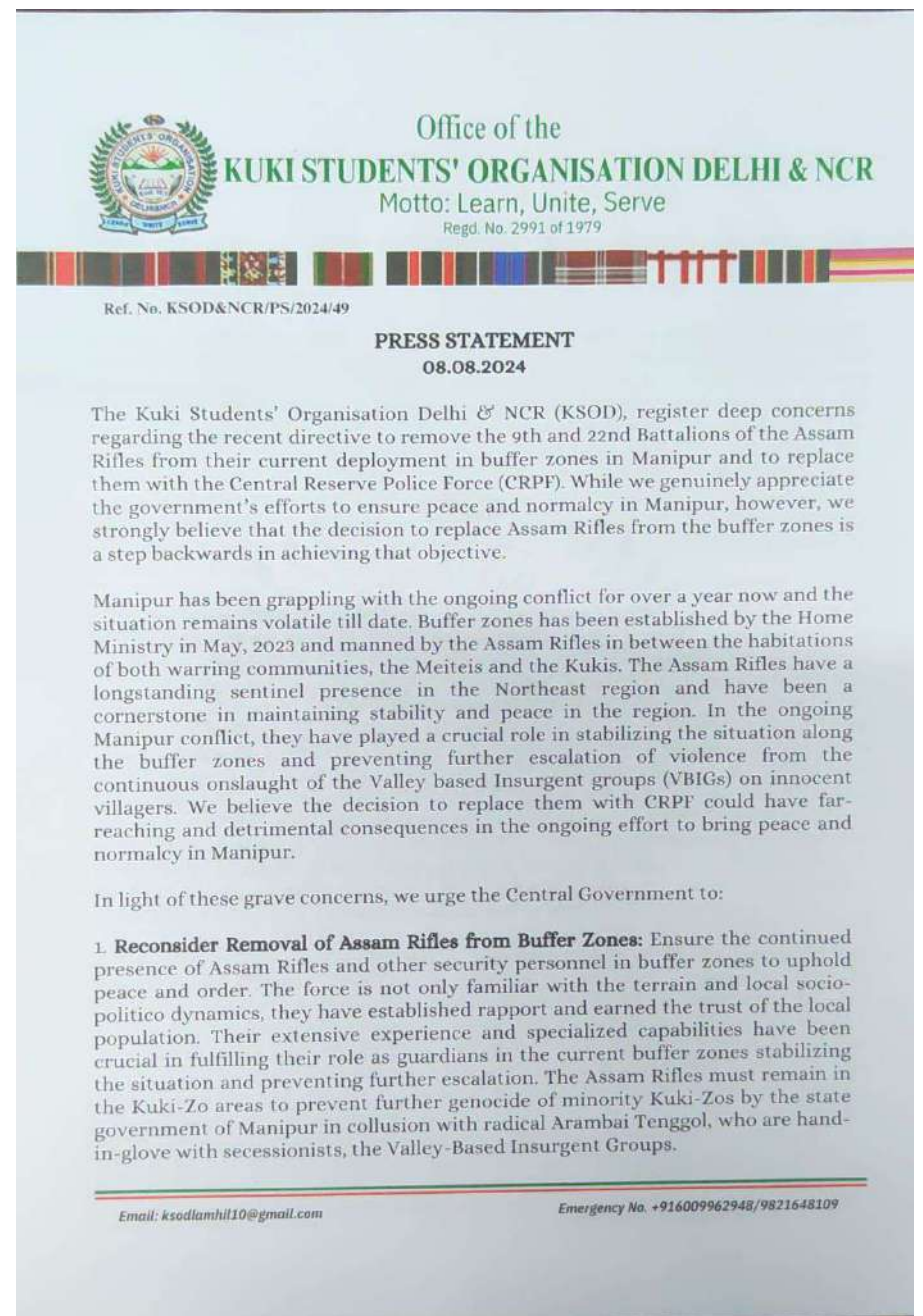
Since May 2023, buffer zones in Manipur, established to separate the Meitei and Kuki communities, have been managed by the Assam Rifles. The organization contends that the Assam Rifles' extensive experience and local rapport have been crucial in maintaining stability amid ongoing conflict. They fear that replacing them with the CRPF could lead to further unrest and destabilize the region.

KSOD has urged the central government to reconsider the decision, highlighting concerns over the CRPF's potential lack of impartiality under the command of DIG Premjit, a Meitei officer. Allegations of bias have intensified following reports of DIG Premjit's involvement in the arrest of Kuki individuals.

Additionally, KSOD criticizes the government's perceived bias in addressing appeals from both the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, suggesting a majoritarian agenda may be influencing the decision. They call for a transparent and fair approach to ensure the protection of all communities, particularly the vulnerable Kuki-Zos, and urge the government to maintain the Assam Rifles' presence in the buffer zones to support peacekeeping efforts.

In light of these grave concerns, the KSO Delhi & NCR urged the Central Government to:

1. **Reconsider Removal of Assam Rifles from Buffer Zones:** Ensure the continued presence of Assam Rifles and other security personnel in buffer zones to uphold peace and order. The force is not only familiar with the terrain and local socio politico dynamics, they



have established rapport and earned the trust of the local population. Their extensive experience and specialized capabilities have been crucial in fulfilling their role as guardians in the current buffer zones stabilizing the situation and preventing further escalation. The Assam Rifles must remain in the Kuki Zo areas to prevent further genocide of minority Kuki-Zos by the state government of Manipur in collusion with radical Arambai Tenggol, who are hand in-glove with secessionists, the Valley Based Insurgent groups.

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2. Concerns Over Security Transition and Impartiality in Buffer Zones Amidst Peacekeeping Efforts: There are genuine concerns that changes in security apparatus along the buffer zones would erode the progress made thus far and disrupt the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts. While we do not doubt the operational capabilities of the CRPF, we cannot help but be apprehensive of the rationale behind such a decision to make a transition at a volatile time as this. The current command of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) under DIG Premjit, who is a Meitei, has raised questions about impartiality. It has been reported that DIG Premjit was involved in the arrest of four individuals from the Kuki community at Jiribam, which underscores the need for a neutral and unbiased approach in security leadership

3. Concerns Over Government Biasness in Response to Kuki-Zo and Meitei Appeals Raise Questions of Fairness and Transparency: The lack of response to Kuki-Zo appeals to remove biased forces, contrasted with the acceptance of Meitei's allegations against the Assam Rifles, raises questions about the consistency and fairness of the government's approach. There is an active lobby at the Centre by the Meitei civil society organisations to replace the Assam Rifles with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), allegedly to be led by officers from the valley. There is a perceived sense of discrimination among the Kuki-Zos that

the government is seen to be succumbing to the pressure of the majority Meiteis. For the sake of achieving a just and peaceful resolution, it is imperative that the government address these concerns with transparency and fairness. We urge the government to resist the pressures to support a majoritarian Meitei agenda that seeks to ethnically cleanse the Kuki-Zo communities. Instead, advocate for policies that ensure the protection and rights of all groups, particularly those most vulnerable.

4. Concerns Over Security Transition and Impartiality in Buffer Zones Amidst Peacekeeping Efforts: There are genuine concerns that changes in security apparatus along the buffer zones would erode the progress made thus far and disrupt the effectiveness of peacekeeping efforts. While we do not doubt the operational capabilities of the CRPF, we cannot help but be apprehensive of the rationale behind such a decision to make a transition at a volatile time as this. The current command of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) under DIG Premjit, who is a Meitei, has raised questions about impartiality. It has been reported that DIG Premjit was involved in the arrest of four individuals from the Kuki community at Jiribam, which underscores the need for a neutral and unbiased approach in security leadership.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 08, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 08 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

At approximately 5:00 AM, combined Meitei forces launched an attack on Pangjang, resulting in the burning of three houses. Reports also suggest that they looted a church, with the sound system and other church properties missing. The full extent of the missing items could not be confirmed at the time of filing this report.

where they set fire to one house. Fortunately, their advance was halted when village volunteers retaliated, and as of the latest information, no casualties have been reported. These events underscore the ongoing challenges and tensions in the region.

The group continued their aggression to Chingphei,

SUPREME COURT DIRECTS JUSTICE GITA MITTAL COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE GRIEVANCES OF STUDENTS SEEKING TRANSFER TO CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES

The Supreme Court today (August 9) directed the Committee headed by Justice Gita Mittal to look into the individual grievances raised by 25 displaced students from Manipur University who seek a permanent transfer to other central universities. The students were displaced due to the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur.

The 25 students belonging to the Manipur University have sought for being completely transferred to other Central Universities like JNU etc.

It may be noted that in November 2023, the top court had heard the plea of 284 students of Manipur University who sought relocation in wake of the Manipur Violence. The Court had provided three options for the students – a) attend classes at Manipur University online; b) attend the Assam University, Silchar or; c) attend North East Hill University, Shillong.

Senior Advocate Meenakshi Arora appearing for the 25 students stressed that neither Assam University nor NEHU, Shillong were providing the students with the facility to undertake practicals. The students are majorly pursuing sciences.

On the contrary, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati explained that the online classes were being conducted and that both Assam University and NEHU, Shillong have offered practicals, but the students want the practicals to take place in universities where they are presently residing - Delhi etc.

The bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra directed the committee head by Justice Gita Mittal to personally look into the grievances raised by the 25 students within a week's time.



“We permit the counsel for petitioners to submit a common note on behalf of all the 25 students to the committee chaired by Justice Gita Mittal. We request the committee to look into each of the grievances filed by the students and where possible to address their grievances by issuing necessary directions to the nodal officers. The exercise is to be completed within 1 week.”

Bench also clarified that the committee required any support of directions issued by this Court, that may be indicated.

It may be noted that last year, the Court had directed the Committee to explore better administrative decisions to aid the situation of the students. The Committee is presently seeing several humanitarian aspects of the ethnic violence in Manipur.

Case Details : MANIPUR UNIVERSITY EIMI WELFARE SOCIETY AND ANR. Versus UNION OF INDIA AND ORS. MA 762/2024 in W.P.(C) No. 1307/2023

Source: [Live Law](#)

SOO AGREEMENT WITH KUKI MILITANTS REMAINS ACTIVE: MANIPUR CM

Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh stated that the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with Kuki militants remains effective, despite the state government's decision to withdraw from the pact.

The Manipur CM's remarks came in response to questions raised by opposition MLA K Ranjit Singh in the state's assembly.

Manipur chief minister Biren Singh clarified that the SoO agreement, a tripartite accord involving the Manipur government, the central government, and Kuki militant groups, is still considered active as the central government has not formally withdrawn from it.

"The central government has not taken any steps to officially abrogate the pact," the Manipur CM informed the assembly.

However, Singh also pointed out that the central government has not extended the SoO agreement with the Kuki groups since February 29, 2024.

This follows the Manipur Assembly's resolution to terminate the state's involvement in the pact.

The resolution was passed in response to ongoing tensions and violence involving militant groups covered under the SoO.

Opposition MLA K Ranjit Singh expressed concerns over the Chief Minister's statement, arguing that it undermines the Assembly's authority.

"The Assembly had resolved to withdraw from the SoO agreement, and the state cabinet supported



this decision. Yet, the Chief Minister's statement suggests that the agreement is still active, raising questions about the state's position," the MLA remarked.

Ranjit Singh further questioned the implications if the Central Government were to retroactively renew the SoO, despite the state's withdrawal. The legality of continuing a tripartite agreement when one party has opted out remains uncertain.

The controversy surrounding the SoO agreement dates back to March last year when the Manipur Cabinet passed a resolution to withdraw from the accord following a violent clash in Kangpokpi district over a government eviction drive.

Although the Union Home Ministry dismissed this decision, the state government renewed its demand for withdrawal in February 2024.

Source: [NE Now News](#)

KUKI MLA RECUSES HIMSELF FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE ABOUT “INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS”

Recusing himself from members of the House Committee, Manipur Legislative Assembly, formed to inquire about the purported influx of “illegal immigrants” in the state of Manipur, the Minister of Tribal Affairs & Hills, Letpao Haokip has clarified that he had neither any knowledge about his appointment nor did given his consent.

“Apropos to the constitution of an enquiry committee to enquire about the ‘influx of illegal immigrants and unnatural growth of new villages in Manipur’ by the Secretary of Manipur Legislative Assembly vide Bulletin Part-II, No 33 dated 7th August, 2024 mentioning my name as one of the members of the Committee, it is hereby clarified that I have neither any knowledge about my appointment nor given my consent,” he said in a statement issued on Friday.

The Kuki MLA, representing Tengnoupal Assembly Constituency, also reiterated that he, along with 9 other MLAs from the Kuki-Zo community, did not attend the ongoing Manipur Legislative Assembly session. As such, the question of being a part of the said committee therefore did not arise, he said.

On Wednesday, the Manipur Legislative Assembly resolved to constitute a 12-member House Committee for the detection of “illegal immigrants” in Manipur including Tribal Affairs & Hills Minister Letpao Haokip despite objections from Congress MLA and former Speaker Th. Lokeshwar.

Members of the committee to be headed by Water Resources Minister Awangbow Newmai include Tribal Affairs and Hills Minister Letpao Haokip, CAFPD Minister Sushildro, Education Minister Th Basanta Kumar, MLA Dinganglung Gangmei, MLA K Meghachandra, MLA Th Lokeshwar, MLA Abdul Nasir, MLA Leishiyo Keishing, MLA Surjakumar Okram, MLA K Ibomcha and MLA Th Shanti.



Assembly Speaker Th. Satyabrata announced the names of the committee members on the assembly floor. However, the Opposition MLA Th. Lokeshwar objected to the inclusion of Minister Letpao Haokip in the committee as he was not present in the House and by convention a member’s consent is taken before being made a member of the committee.

The Congress MLA said that as the report has to be submitted in a short period of time and Letpao Haokip, a Kuki MLA, might have some difficulties being involved in the activities of the committee due to the ongoing mayhem.

Despite his objections, Speaker Th. Satyabarta called for a decision of the house on the composition of the committee and it was passed by voice vote.

The Speaker further informed that the committee should submit its report to the House within three months.

Letpao Haokip is one of the signatories among the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs who are demanding ‘Separate Administration’ from Manipur state. Moreover, he has abstained from three consecutive assembly sittings after the May 3 last year’s violence.

CONGRESS MLAS WALK OUT OF MANIPUR ASSEMBLY, TO BOYCOTT REMAINING SESSIONS

Irrked over the Speaker's alleged refusal to move a motion to adopt a unanimous resolution to seek an appointment with the Prime Minister to seek a solution to the ethnic conflict in Manipur, five Congress MLAs staged a walkout on Friday.

Led by former chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh, the Congress MLAs said they will boycott the remaining sessions of the assembly as a mark of protest.

During the zero hour, Okram Ibobi Singh slammed the Speaker and the ruling bench for allegedly ignoring repeated appeals of the opposition bench to adopt a resolution to seek an appointment with PM Narendra Modi. The Opposition bench also submitted a private member resolution notice on August 2.

"Since the commencement of the session. We have been drawing the attention of the House. We raise the demand in the public interest, who are reeling under untold misery on all fronts. We are not trying to gain political mileage by doing so," said Okram Ibobi Singh.

The former Chief Minister's move was prompted by the non-admittance of a private member resolution notice on Friday's agenda for discussion. Singh said, "Our continued participation in the session appears unnecessary."

The notice seeks to "resolve a unanimous decision of all the members of the Manipur Legislative Assembly that the Prime Minister of India should have a thorough discussion with the Members of the Manipur Legislative



Assembly on the matter of the endless and perpetual crisis in the state of Manipur, to bring peace, normalcy, harmony, and safety for the people of Manipur, who are citizens of the country."

On Thursday, opposition MLA Th Lokeswar also raised the same demand, and urged Chief Minister N Biren Singh to adopt a motion.

Since violence erupted in the northeastern state on May 3 last year, a section has raised the demand that Prime Minister Narendra Modi be approached to help solve the 15-month-old crisis. The conflict has claimed many lives and rendered thousands homeless and sporadic violence continues to take place. Heavy firing was reported in Pallel area of the Tengnoupal district (Kuki-Zo dominated district) on Friday.

Source: [Indian Express](#)



**Injustice in the end produces
independence.**

— George Carlin

MIZO STUDENT BODY ACCUSES BSF OF TORTURING INDIAN CITIZEN AT INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER

The Mizo Zirlai Pawl (students' body) has alleged that a man named Zirsangliana was beaten up by the Border Security Force (BSF) at the Indo-Bangladesh border.

According to their press release, Inspector Harish Sankar Rai and his men from the 20 Bn. BSF, B.O.P Crocodile, physically tortured Zirsangliana on August 5, 2024, after he crossed over to Bangladesh to visit his relatives.

The student body also criticised the Mizoram police for allegedly refusing to file a complaint against the BSF.

Lawngtlai SP Lokeshwaran stated that Zirsangliana was handed over to Vasai Police Station by the BSF, and no FIR was filed as he is an Indian citizen.

An anonymous BSF official claimed that Zirsangliana was injured from falling down a cliff while returning



from Bangladesh and that he had been used as a scout to bring members of the Bawm community into Mizoram illegally.

The official added that Zirsangliana fled upon seeing BSF personnel, fell again, and sustained more injuries. He was given medical treatment at BOP Crocodile Nursing Station before being taken to Vasai Police Station. (India Today NE)



Atban
@AtbanHanif



UN slams India over Manipur crisis. Grave concerns raised about ethnic cleansing, religious persecution & human rights violations. Global body demands immediate action to stop the bloodshed & protect innocent lives. #ManipurViolence #India #UNReport #HumanRights



17:14 · 09 Aug 24 · 46 Views



Paolienlal Haokip
@paoliental

Follow

This seems to be the standard of journalism in Imphal valley. Paominlen Haokip and Paolienlal Haokip mixed up 😊 Editors sleeping over their work?

Villages in Kangpokpi District file Police complaints against MLA Paolienlal Haokip

IT News
Imphal, Aug 8:

Three village authorities in Kangpokpi district have lodged complaints with various police stations against MLA Paolienlal Haokip, accusing him of incorrectly endorsing their villages as Kuki villages within the Scheduled boundary of Kuki Hills as outlined in Manipur Government land records.

In a complaint filed with Yaingangpokpi Police Station, the Kharam Pallen Village Authority stated that their village has been recognized since the time of the Manipur Kings, identified by their specific tribe

name, not as a Kuki village. The complaint alleges that Paominlen Haokip's appeal to the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes included their village within the Kuki Hills boundary and labeled it as a Kuki village. The village authority expressed strong regret and stated that this misrepresentation hurts their identity, asserting that they have no association with Kuki Hills.

Similarly, the Laikot Phaijoi Village Authority of Kangpokpi district has also filed a complaint against MLA Paolienlal Haokip, raising the same concerns about the misidentification of their village.

13:50 · 09 Aug 24 · 2,992 Views

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FEATURED ARTICLE

Waiting for Peace in Indian State Divided by Violence

Mayuresh Konnur

More than a year has passed since a deadly ethnic conflict devastated homes and claimed over 220 lives in India's north-eastern Manipur state. But its more than three million residents are still waiting for peace. Clashes erupted in May last year between the majority Meitei and indigenous minority Kuki groups - they were sparked by Kuki protests against demands from Meiteis to be given official tribal status, which would make them eligible for affirmative action and other benefits.

The violence displaced tens of thousands - some 59,000 people are still living in government relief camps. It has split up neighbourhoods and torn apart bonds between communities.

Today, Manipur is divided into two camps, with Meiteis inhabiting the Imphal Valley and Kukis living in the surrounding hill areas. Borders and buffer zones guarded by security forces separate the two regions. Many locals have voluntarily taken up arms - some stolen from armed forces, some country-made - to protect their villages from intruders.

Federal and state officials have made some attempts to end the conflict by holding peace talks between the

communities, but locals say it hasn't been enough - a recent peace deal signed in a district collapsed within a day. Distrust between the two groups persists and incidents of violence, including killings of security personnel, are regularly reported.

"The situation in Manipur is still tense and full of mistrust because people have to be confident about moving forward - and to move forward, there has to be some resolution of the past. There hasn't been one," says Sanjoy Hazarika, a commentator and author who specialises in India's north-eastern states.

Both communities blame the other for stoking violence.

The state government and the Meitei community have frequently blamed illegal immigration - especially from neighbouring Myanmar - for the conflict. The Kuki community, which shares ethnic ties with the Chins in Myanmar, say this narrative has been used to target them within their own state.

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“The state needs a full-fledged intervention: militarily to stop the violence and psychologically to start negotiations. The establishment of trust [between Kukis and Meiteis] is crucial. Trust cannot be built in a day,” says Shreema Ningombam, a political analyst in Imphal, the state capital.

In Sugnu village, about 60km (37 miles) from Imphal, the divide is stark.

It was once home to both Meiteis and Kukis, but the latter fled to the surrounding hills after the conflict began, leaving behind burnt and ransacked houses. Despite heavy security, locals fear retaliatory attacks from “outsiders”. Meitei women groups, known as Meira Paibis, guard village entry points.

Yumlebam Manitombi, one of the guards, said she lost her 29-year-old son in last year’s violence. He was the eldest of her three children and the sole provider for the family.

They have installed a bust of him in the courtyard of their house. An engraving below the bust marks the reason for his death - it says Kuki Meitei War 2023.

“I want peace. Ending this war is my sole wish and I seek nothing more,” Ms Manitombi says.

United in sadness

In Churachandpur, the Kuki-dominated epicentre of the conflict, similar security measures exist. The entrance to the city features a “Wall of Remembrance” commemorating Kukis who died in the conflict.

Boinu Haokip and her family fled from Sugnu to Churachandpur last year to escape violence and now survive on odd jobs.

Ms Haokip, who is doing research on ethnic violence in Manipur, says her future looks bleak.

“I have to study and look after my family. Our society was in poverty for generations. We had begun coming out of it, but this violence has pushed us back at least a decade,” she says.

Questions about the future haunt others too as schools become makeshift camps. People have lost businesses, land and jobs and exhausted their savings.

The conflict has also forced some to flee to camps in the neighbouring state of Mizoram. With shortages of food, water, and medicine, people rely on odd jobs to survive.

Nengnei Chong, 52, fled with her two sons and has been living in a relief camp outside Mizoram’s capital Aizawl. But she says she regrets her decision to leave.

“It would have been better had we too died back home,” she says.

Mizoram lawmaker TBC Lalvenchhunga says the state government has limited resources.

“The government is financially struggling. If the federal government heeds our repeated requests [for more funds], we can help the refugees better,” he says.

Political blame game

Locals accuse the Bharatiya Janata Party-run Manipur and federal governments of not doing enough to quell the violence.

Kuki groups have accused state authorities of ignoring violence by Meiteis for political benefit,

Contd.

Contd.

which the government denies. Opposition parties say federal government let the conflict rage on for too long. The Congress party has repeatedly criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not visiting Manipur.

“Our government is making serious efforts to bring back normalcy in Manipur. Schools, colleges and offices in most places have opened up and are functioning. The hope for peace is visible,” Mr Modi said in parliament recently.

But experts say mistrust between the two communities has only hardened and the divide has deepened with the Kukis steadfastly demanding a “separate administration”, something the Meiteis vehemently oppose.

“Peace-building is a very painful and slow process. It is easier to indulge in violence than to build peace. If the centre [federal government] is able to bring both sides to the table, it will be a step in the right direction,” Mr Hazarika says.

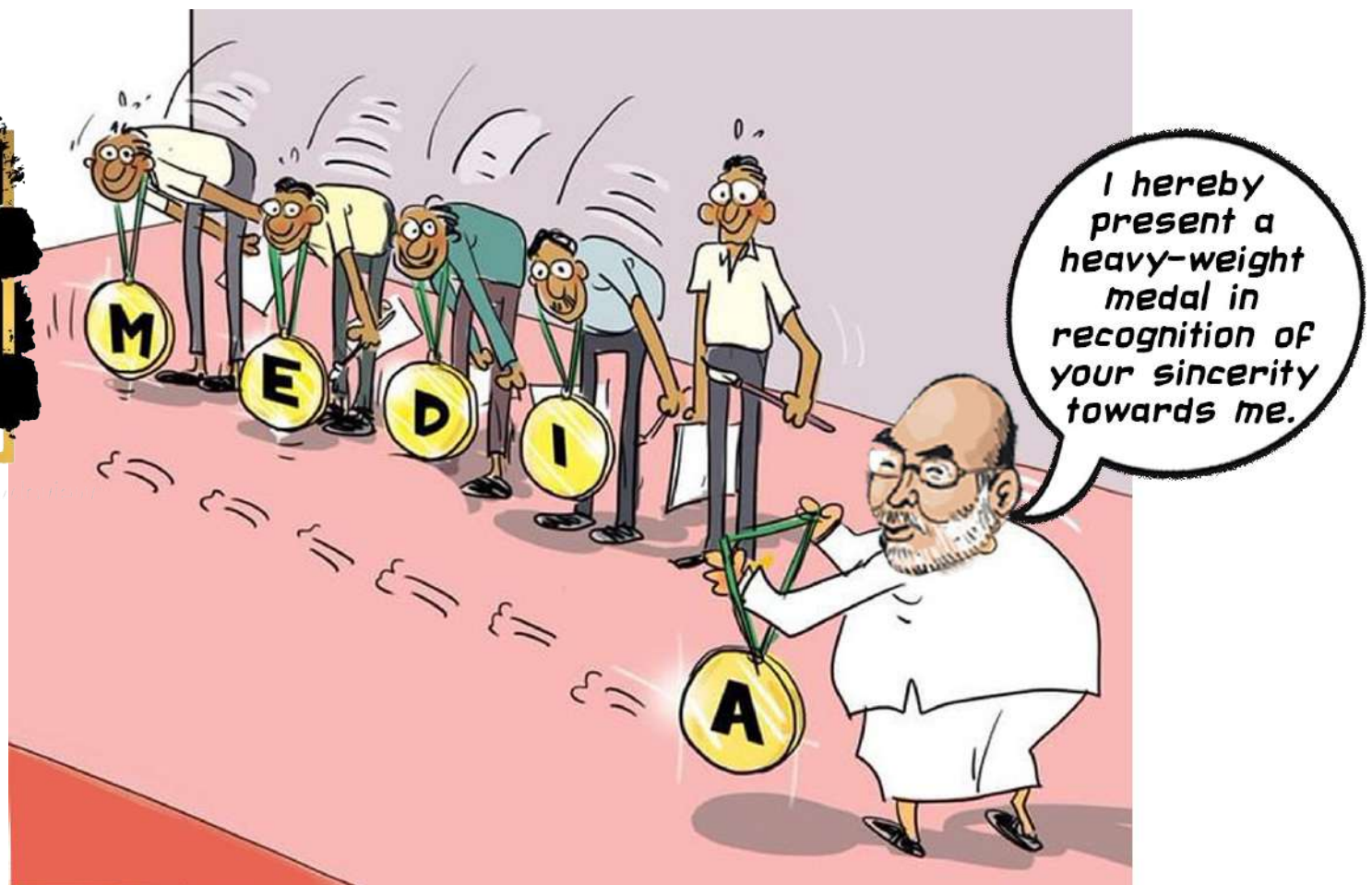
But he cautions that this won’t be a quick process. “Healing needs time and patience before you can really move forward.”

Published by [BBC](#)

With inputs from Dilip Kumar Sharma in Mizoram



**DEDICATED
MANIPUR
MEDIA**





ONE NIGHT OF SORROW

Lucien K. Lengen

That one night of sorrow
Suddenly like a mighty wind
That each of us endured
Holding our hearts in bondage
Maybe will last for ages
That One night of sorrow
Those screaming out of fear
Hunting my mind still today
Feels like no escaping
Hopelessness burst deep within

That one night of sorrow
Suddenly everything has changed
Fantasized those burning flame in the city
The fire is still burning inside
But so helpless, there's nothing I could do
Leaving behind everything I have
Separated with love & dear ones
Nobody knows when will we meet again
Feels like there's nothing left for me
God's miracle would I need

There is one night of sorrow
I knelt down & cried out to the Lord
And the word came to me
My Son do not be terrified
For the time has drawn near
Look up & lift up your heads
Your Redemption has drawn near
Come Oh Lord Jesus Amen!