

Thingkho Le Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



KAMMINLUN KHONGSAI (38 YEARS)

S/O KAIKHOKAM LUPHENG

ADDRESS: T. MONGLHAM, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: MOIRANG, BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

CAUSE OF DEATH: DRAGGED AND LYNCHED FROM



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.06.2024



186
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 BODIES CALL 24-HOUR TOTAL SHUTDOWN ALONG NH-37 FROM MIDNIGHT OF JUNE 10

The Kuki Inpi South West Sadar Hills, the Kuki Students' Organisation South West Sadar Hills, and the Kuki Women Union Moltam Region have jointly called for a 24-hour total shutdown from midnight on June 10 in Kuki-dominated areas along National Highway 37 (Imphal-Jiribam Road) in protest against the unwarranted breach of peace and tranquility along NH-37.

The unanimous decision was taken during a joint meeting of the Kuki Inpi South West Sadar Hills, KSO South West Sadar Hills, and Kuki Women Union Moltam Lhang held today.

“In our bid to maintain peace and tranquility along National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam Road) and in order to avoid any violent activities, CSOs of the areas had repeatedly appealed to the state government, including police and district administration, not to deploy any Meitei drivers and police personnel along NH-37,” stated the Kuki bodies.

It also recalled that the CSOs had briefed every stakeholder, including the state police and central security forces, regarding the possible outcome and vulnerability of the situation if Meitei security personnel/police and drivers are deployed along the said national highway.

While vehemently condemning the state Government for the alleged “utter disrespect and arrogance” shown towards the repeated appeals of the Kuki civil bodies, the South West Sadar Hills Kuki bodies blamed the state Government for the unfortunate incident that occurred on June 10, 2024, at around 10:30 am along NH-37 near Sinam Jonhol village of Kangpokpi district.

“The Government of Manipur must fully accept its responsibility for breaching peace and tranquility in the area, thereby creating fear psychosis among the general public”, the Kuki bodies stated.

During the 24-hour total shutdown in all Kuki-dominated



JOINT CONDEMNATION 10/06/2024 (Monday)

As an outcome of the joint meeting held today, the Kuki Inpi South West Sadar Hills, Kuki Students' Organisation South West Sadar Hills and Kuki Women Union Moltam Block jointly announce 24-hour total shutdown from midnight of June 10 till midnight of June 11 along in Kuki-dominated areas along NH-37(Imphal- Jiribam Road)in protest against unwarranted breach of peace and tranquility along NH-37.

In our bid to maintain peace and tranquility along National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam Road) and in order to avoid any violent activities, CSOs of the areas had repeatedly appealed the state government, including police and district administration not to deploy any Meitei drivers and police personnel along NH-37. The CSOs of the area have been tirelessly working to maintain peace between the warring communities. It may also be noted that the CSOs of the area had briefed every stakeholder including the state police and central security forces regarding the possible outcome and vulnerability of the situation if Meitei security personnel/police and drivers are deployed along the said national highway.

The joint body strongly condemns the state government for the utter disrespect and arrogance shown at the appeal of the Kuki CSOs of the areas. It also blames the state government for unfortunate that occurred on 10th June, 2024 at around 10:30 am along NH-37 near Sinam Jonhol village of Kangpokpi district. Government of Manipur must fully accept its responsibility in breaching peace and tranquility in the area, thereby creating fear-psychosis amongst the general public of the area. Taking advantage of the escalation the State Police looted the houses and took away two mobile phones & 2 lakhs cash from the house and vandalised Church properties and several houses.

In condemnation against the blatant breach of peace by the state government, the Kuki Inpi South West Sadar Hills, Kuki Students' Organisation South West Sadar Hills and Kuki Women Union Moltam Block hereby announce **24-hour total shutdown** along Kuki-dominated areas of National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam Road). All vehicular movements will be restricted during the shutdown. If any attempt is made to violate the said shutdown, the perpetrators shall be responsible for any consequences that can arise.

President KI-SWSH, Gen. Secretary KI-SWSH, Gen. Secretary KSO-SWSH, President KSO-SWSH, Chairperson KWU-ML, Secretary KWU-ML

areas of National Highway-37 (Imphal-Jiribam Road) in protest against the alleged blatant breach of peace by the state government, all vehicular movements will be restricted.

“If any attempt is made to violate the said shutdown, the perpetrators shall be held responsible for any consequences that could arise,” warns the Kuki bodies.

Meanwhile, locals alleged that during the search operation in the aftermath of today's incident at Sinam Jonhol, the state forces looted cash and valuable items in many houses while destroying several properties.

KUKI APEX BODY SLAMS NIA'S SELECTIVE ARREST

The Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex Kuki body, has lashed out at the National Investigative Agency (NIA) over selective arrest and high-handedness against Kuki tribals in Manipur while overlooking Meitei separatist groups responsible for killings, looting and burning Kuki inhabited areas.

The ongoing spree of arrests targeting Kuki civilians, orchestrated by the Meitei-centric government under CM Mr. Biren Singh, reflects a clear bias by the MHA in favor of the false narratives propagated by the Chief Minister from the valley.

Deeply concerned over NIA's failure to initiate legal or appropriate action against various Meitei-based insurgent groups despite numerous gruesome video footages and clips, being circulated by such groups on social media as a visual of victory while openly brandishing looted weapons and calling for genocide against Kuki-Zo tribals in the state, the Kuki Inpi lamented that the partiality exhibited by investigative agencies in their conduct only exacerbates the ongoing violence instead of restoring peace and normalcy in the region. The continued deprivation of liberty of minorities represents a blatant attempt to intimidate and silence the community, preventing them from voicing their legitimate demand for autonomy and separation under Article 3 of the Constitution, from the chauvinist and separatist Meitei community.

The Kuki tribals have long been victims of large-scale state-sponsored violence. Therefore, it is imperative for central agencies to conduct a thorough investigation and establish a Separate Administration for the Kuki people to ensure justice for the oppressed and marginalized victims in the state.

Selective justice only breeds injustice, undermining the principle of equality before the law and weakening the criminal justice system, allowing the powerful and influential to evade accountability for their crimes. This exacerbates the lack of confidence and trust the public has in the criminal justice system and central investigative agencies. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to ensure that all citizens are



PRESS RELEASE ON NIA'S HIGHHANDEDNESS AGAINST KUKI-ZO TRIBALS IN MANIPUR

Kanggui, the 10th June, 2024

04/KIM/PR./22-57: Kuki Inpi Manipur strongly condemns the NIA's 'selective arrests' and 'high-handedness' against Kuki-Zo tribals in Manipur while overlooking Meitei separatist groups responsible for killings, looting, and burning Kuki-Zo inhabited areas. The ongoing spree of arrests targeting Kuki-Zo civilians, orchestrated by the Meitei-centric government under CM Mr. Biren Singh, reflects a clear bias by the MHA in favor of the false narratives propagated by the Chief Minister from the valley.

Kuki Inpi Manipur is deeply concerned over NIA's failure to initiate legal or appropriate action against various Meitei-based insurgent groups despite numerous gruesome video footages and clips being circulated by such groups in social media as a visual of victory while openly brandishing looted weapons and calling for genocide against Kuki-Zo tribals in the state. The partiality exhibited by investigative agencies in their conduct only exacerbates the ongoing violence instead of restoring peace and normalcy in the region. The continued deprivation of liberty of minorities represents a blatant attempt to intimidate and silence the community, preventing them from voicing their legitimate demand for autonomy and separation under Article 3 of the Constitution, from the chauvinist and separatist Meitei community.

Kuki-Zo tribals have long been victims of large-scale state-sponsored violence. Therefore, it is imperative for central agencies to conduct a thorough investigation and establish a Separate Administration for the Kuki-Zo people to ensure justice for the oppressed and marginalized victims in the state. Selective justice only breeds injustice, undermining the principle of equality before the law and weakening the criminal justice system, allowing the powerful and influential to evade accountability for their crimes. This exacerbates the lack of confidence and trust the public has in the criminal justice system and central investigative agencies. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to ensure that all citizens are protected and treated equally under the law, without preferential treatment for any group.

Kuki Inpi Manipur earnestly urges investigative agencies and the Government of India to promptly take effective actions against Meitei separatist groups responsible for instigating violence and fear in the state in their efforts to secede from India. The investigative agencies must uphold the principle of integrity by conducting fair and impartial investigations and not succumb to the false narratives propagated by the Meitei community from the valley. The Kuki-Zo community will no longer tolerate arbitrary arrests of its civilians and refuses to remain silent spectators.

Issued by:
Department of Information & Publicity
Kuki Inpi Manipur



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ITLF QUESTIONS NIA'S SELECTIVE PICKING OF CASES RELATED TO MANIPUR VIOLENCE

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) on Monday questioned the selective picking of cases related to Manipur violence and warned that continued perceived bias by central investigating agency such as the NIA may erode their trust in the central authorities.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had issued a statement on June 6, 2024, regarding the arrest of Mr. Thongminthang Haokip, also known as Thangboi. The NIA alleged that Haokip was involved in the ethnic conflicts in Manipur and Myanmar. According to the NIA, these conflicts have resulted in the deaths of over 170 Kuki-Zo people at the hands of the Meitei militia and armed radicals since May 3, 2023. The violence has also led to the destruction of more than 8,000 homes, 360 churches, and the displacement of over 20,000 people.

Despite government efforts to protect villages by establishing buffer zones, many Kuki-Zo people have been killed even under the watch of Indian security forces, raising concerns about the effectiveness and impartiality of these protections. The Kuki-Zo community has resorted to organizing village volunteers for their defense, one of whom was Thongminthang Haokip, ITLF maintained.

Instances of brutality, such as the decapitation of David



Thiek, highlight the severity of the violence. There is a sentiment among the Kuki-Zo that the NIA's actions are biased, the ITLF questioned why more Meitei perpetrators have not been arrested despite the high number of Kuki-Zo casualties. The Kuki-Zo community maintains a respectful stance towards Indian security forces, noting that they have not engaged in violence against them, in contrast to the Meitei, who have allegedly caused significant trouble for the security personnel.

The Kuki-Zo community calls for impartiality from the government, warning that continued perceived bias may erode their trust in the central authorities.



Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MANIPUR POLICE VANDALIZED HOUSES, CHURCH IN SINAM VILLAGE, LOOTS RS. 2 LACS, MOBILE PHONES

In a despicable act, the Manipur State Police today looted the houses of K. Sinam (Sinam Jonhol) villagers and took away 2 Mobile Phones, Rs. 2 Lakhs in cash and vandalized Church properties including several houses.

It may be noted here that the CM “advance security team” who were heading for Jiribam were ambushed by unknown armed assailants near Sinam Jonhol village, leaving two security personnel injured.

In the aftermath of the ambush incident, the state police entered Sinam Jonhol village and ransacked many houses including the village church. Notably, the villagers fled to nearby jungle during the whole melee, fearing persecution from the police. The police team, taking advantage of the escalating situation looted houses and took away two mobile handset and Rs. 2 Lakhs from the houses. The police team also vandalized Church properties and several houses.



The state police department’s record during this violent period has been blackmarked, they have resorted looting of Kuki properties including cash and kind in various several places where there is violent activities. They have also resorted looting of properties in Moreh, Imphal and various other places too.

MEITEI RADICAL GROUPS ATTACK NEW KEITHELMANBI KUKI VILLAGE

Continuing their vicious attack on Kuki settlements, the Meitei armed radical groups today continue their attack at New Keithelmanbi area at around 12:00 AM.

As per reports, incessant Gunfire from Moidangpok (under Patsoi PS) by radicalised Meitei militia has been reported. It may be noted here that New Keithelmanbi is the first Kuki village bordering Imphal West district along National Highway – 37, where a buffer zone is created between the two warring community. The buffer zone is manned by 129bn CRPF, 33 Assam Rifles and New Keithelmanbi PS.

Gun fire has been a common feature in this part of the state, but no concrete search operation has been conducted so far against this armed militia group. The



Meitei militia groups comprising of the Arambai Tenggol, VBIGs and the Meitei Leepun have been constantly attacking Kuki settlement in foothill areas that shares border with the valley district. Thus, giving free hand to the radicalised group.

SECURITY BEEFED UP IN LAKHIPUR FOLLOWING VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR'S JIRIBAM

In response to violence in Jiribam district of Manipur, which shares a border with Lakhipur in Cachar district of Assam, security measures have been heightened in the area.

Approximately 600 individuals from Manipur sought refuge in the homes of their relatives at Lakhipur in Cachar district of Assam following the outbreak of violence on June 6.

SP of Cachar district in Assam Numal Mahatta stated that adequate security measures have been put in place, with special commando forces deployed along the border with Manipur for regular patrolling.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and ensuring a peaceful environment in Lakhipur," stated SP of Cachar district in Manipur Numal Mahatta.

"A peace committee has been convened, and security

personnel are on standby 24/7," he said.

He further warned against any attempts to disrupt the tranquil atmosphere.

He also mentioned the instructions from the Assam chief minister to provide shelter to those fleeing violence in Manipur while ensuring proper documentation.

Meanwhile, Lakhipur MLA Kaushik Rai assured the public that no incidents have been reported in the Cachar district of Assam.

"Security has been intensified in the wake of the violence in Manipur," Rai stated.

He announced plans for a peace meeting with various communities to reassure them of their safety and prevent any violence in Lakhipur.

RSS CHIEF'S BIG STATEMENT ON MANIPUR, DEMOCRACY IN FIRST COMMENTS ON POLL RESULTS

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Monday that the Manipur conflict should be resolved on priority.

Addressing an event in Nagpur in Maharashtra, he said, "It's been a year since Manipur has been waiting for peace. The state remained peaceful for the last 10 years, but suddenly, gun culture has increased in the state again. It is important to resolve the conflict on priority," he said.

In his first statement after the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections were announced, he said, "Election is a process of building consensus. Parliament has two sides so that both aspects of any question can be presented."

"All over the world, society has changed, which has resulted in systemic change. That's the essence of



democracy," he said.

"The way in which people abuse each other, misuse technology, spread fake news, during election campaigns is not right," the RSS chief said.

"We will have to get rid of the election frenzy and think about the issues faced by the country," he added. (Source: India Today)

N. BIREN SINGH'S GREAT FALL FROM HIS CHAIR IS IN THE OFFING AMID ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

Even though the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has formed the government at the Centre, the Northeastern state of Manipur, currently ruled by the same party (Bharatiya Janata Party), is facing imminent drastic changes in the government.

Insider sources said that change of the fascist regime of N. Biren Singh is in the offing, and one of his cabinet ministers - Govindas Konthoujam or Th. Biswajit or Khemchand may replace N. Biren Singh for the Chief Ministerial post.

However, N. Biren Singh is adamant on clinging to his chair. As a result of it, he instigated fresh violence in Jiribam against the Kukis by deploying a large number of his private militia groups including the Meitei Police Commandos, Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and the valley-based Meitei militants. The politics of drama he often plays for saving his position will unfold within a few days.

Presently, most of his Cabinet Ministers and Members of Legislative Assembly from the ruling party are reportedly camping in Delhi, pressuring the Central leadership for change of guard since the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections results. In both the two parliamentary seats of Manipur, the ruling BJP under the leadership of CM N. Biren Singh witnessed a miserable performance, losing both the seats to the main Opposition party, the Indian National Congress (INC).

As the ongoing civil war between the majority Meitei community and the minority ethnic groups of Kukis escalates even after more than one year, the position of the narcissist CM N. Biren Singh has been shattered with each passing day. It is to be noted here that the ongoing violence is instigated, patronised and sponsored by N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts



including the Meitei titular king and also Rajya Sabha MP, Leisemba Sanajaoba.

Since May last year the remote state bordering Myanmar has been roiled by fighting between the majority Meitei and tribal Kuki-Zo people that has killed at least 227 people and displaced 70,000 to relief camps. It is a state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kukis. The civil war has led to an unofficial partition along ethnic lines, all on the watch of Bharatiya Janata Party governments at both state and the Centre.

The state of 3.2 million people continues to be divided into two enclaves - a valley controlled by Meiteis and Kuki-dominated hills, separated by a stretch of "no man's land" in the form of "buffer zones or Line of Control", monitored by the Central paramilitary forces.

In the lead-up to the election, victims on both sides of the sectarian divide expressed their displeasure with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party for not being able to bring peace to the state. The state government was

accused of patronising the violence against the Kukis.

India's main opposition Congress party bagged both parliamentary seats in strife-torn Manipur in the general election as the north-eastern state voted out Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party and its ally after a year-long ethnic clash. It was a tight slap on the face of N. Biren Singh, the incumbent chief minister.

The results also showed it was the "right time to introspect and review" and for the Centre government to "take action".

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh of the BJP has been criticised not just for his failure to contain the violence but also for stoking Meitei majoritarian sentiments.

The verdict is being seen as a rebuff to Biren Singh, who has been criticised for ignoring his constitutional duties as the chief minister and taking on the role of an ethnic strongman to placate the Meiteis.

Meanwhile, minutes after the allocation of portfolios, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, in a stern message reminded the Modi-led NDA dispensation that the law and order problem plaguing the eastern state of Manipur must be addressed in a time-bound manner.

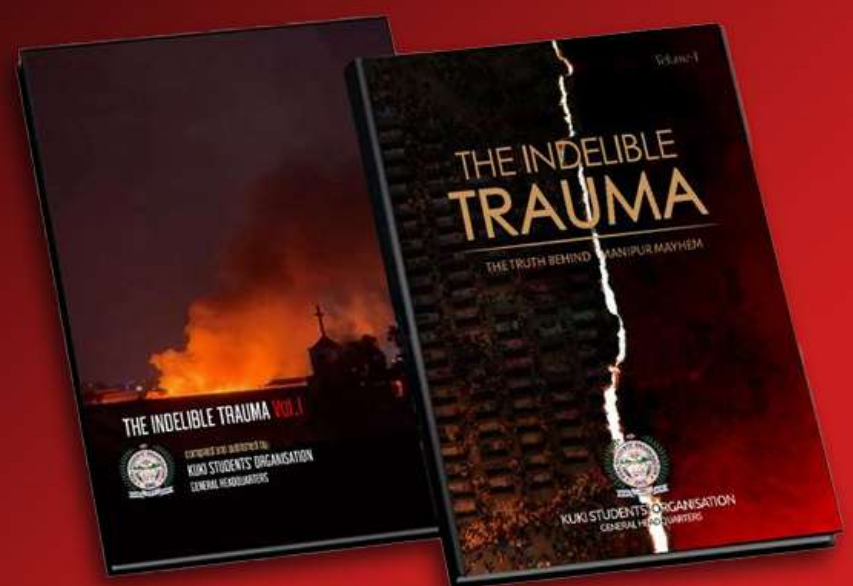
On Saturday, Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey met chief minister Biren at the Manipur Bhawan in Delhi and took stock of the prevailing situation in Jiribam district, asking him to take all possible steps to control the situation there.

The Centre had been drawing flak from social groups and civil society organisations for not finding a lasting solution to the Manipur issue. The activists also demanded the setting up of a buffer zone between areas dominated by the two communities and said the same force should be deployed on both sides.

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MODI 3.0 PORTFOLIOS ANNOUNCED: NO CHANGES IN BIG FOUR, HERE'S THE FULL LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS

The cabinet portfolios of the ministers in the Narendra Modi-led NDA government have been announced.

As expected, the top four ministries were retained by Amit Shah (Home), Rajnath Singh (Defence), Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance) and S Jaishankar (External Affairs).

BJP president J P Nadda, who is a new entrant to the Cabinet, will head the Health and Family Welfare ministry as well as the Chemicals and Fertilizers ministry.

Other ministers to retain their portfolios include Hardeep Singh Puri (Petroleum), Nitin Gadkari (Road Transport and Highways) and Piyush Goyal (Commerce).

Ashwini Vaishnaw has retained the Railways ministry and has been given the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in addition.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the former Madhya Pradesh CM, will handle the key ministry of Agriculture, while Kiren Rijiju has been put in charge of Parliamentary Affairs.

Former Haryana CM ML Khattar gets the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry as well as the Power Ministry.

Of the NDA allies, the TDP's Ram Mohan Naidu, the youngest minister in the cabinet, has got the Civil Aviation Ministry, while JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy gets Steel and Heavy Industries.

The Civil Aviation Ministry has changed hands from Jyotiraditya Scindia who has been put in charge of the Telecom ministry.



PM Modi is also in charge of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister.

There are 71 ministers in all besides the Prime Minister.

This includes 30 cabinet ministers, five ministers of state (independent charge) and 36 ministers of state.

Uttar Pradesh has the most number of ministers - 11 - in the cabinet, while Bihar has eight, Maharashtra and Gujarat has six and Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh five each.

[Click the link below to see the full list of ministers](#)

Source: [TNIE](#)

ARMED MISCREANTS FIRE GUNSHOTS ON TOTOMSANA'S VEHICLE

Armed miscreants fired gunshots to the vehicle of Inner Manipur parliamentary candidate of 18th Lok Sabha Moirangthem Totomsana alias Nongsaba on Saturday around 11 pm at Wangbal part II Thongjao, Thoubal district. No casualties were reported in the incident.

Notably, Totomsana has been vocal about Biren's misgovernance in state. He even threatened the sitting chief minister in a public platform that the first and foremost thing to do in Manipur, in order to achieve peace, is to kill CM N. Biren. He was stifled, threatened and intimidated on several occasions even during his election campaign. Totomsana and MP elect Prof. Bimol Akoijam has been on the receiving end of Biren's private militia group during the election campaign.

As per sources, Totomsana was trailed by the armed miscreants in a Gypsy while he returned from Wangbal to his residence located at Heirok, accompanied by his escort. The miscreants intercepted Totomsana's car at Wangbal part II Thongjao and engaged in a



conversation with him. They fired three-four gunshots at Totomsana's unregistered Alto car and fled from the scene.

However, the details of the conversation between Totomsana and the unknown miscreants have not yet been disclosed. Totomsana also reportedly instructed his escort not to retaliate against the attackers. Following the incident, police retrieved the Alto car after Totomsana left it at the scene.



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin



This is his understanding of the issue of Manipur. Imagine. And whose priority should it have been? What weak passive voice formulation is this?

No courage to name Modi who has to be held accountable for not doing anything on Manipur in more than 400 days of violence.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on June 10 highlighted the pressing need to address the ongoing conflict in Manipur, stressing that the state has been yearning for peace for the past year. Speaking at an event in Nagpur, Maharashtra, Bhagwat stated that the Manipur issue should be a top priority for resolution.

"It's been a year since Manipur has been waiting for peace. The state remained peaceful for the last 10 years, but suddenly the gun culture increased again. It is important to resolve the conflict on priority," Bhagwat stated. This marks his first public comment on

9:05 pm · 10 Jun 24 · 1,229 Views



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert

Follow

There has not been a single arrest made so far for the "gruesome killings" of Kuki civilians, even when there are clear evidences of the perpetrators. The world is watching. Public memory may be short but scholars do keep digging out the past even after 100 years.



NIA India @NIA_India · 1d

NIA Makes 1st Arrest in January 2024 Manipur Killing of 4 Civilians Case

NIA Press Release

NIA MAKES 1ST ARREST IN JANUARY 2024 MANIPUR KILLING OF 4 CIVILIANS CASE

New Delhi 9th June 2024

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested one person, currently in Guwahati jail in another case, in connection with the killing of four civilians in Manipur's Bishnupur district.

Lunminsei Kipgen @ Langinmang @ Mang @ Levi, a resident of Manipur, has been formally arrested by NIA from Central Jail, Lokhra, Guwahati, Assam, under relevant sections of UA(P) Act and Arms Act.

He is the first accused to be arrested for the gruesome killings that had taken place on 18th January 2024, when armed miscreants had brutally murdered four civilians near the water treatment plant located Ningthoukhong Kha Khunou, Bishnupur. The assailants had opened indiscriminate fire from sophisticated weapons, leading to the tragic death of the civilians on the fateful afternoon.

NIA, which had registered the case RC-01/2024/NIA/IMP on 9th February 2024, found during investigation that Lunminsei Kipgen was actively involved in the fatal attack, which was part of the ongoing ethnic unrest and violence in the north-eastern state of Manipur. Previously a cadre of the Kuki militant outfit KNF (F), he had joined another Kuki militant organisation, United Kuki National Army (UKNA), during the current spate of violence and had participated in the ghastly killings.

Further investigations in the case are continuing.

6:16 am · 10 Jun 24 · 1,886 Views

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**OPINION**

Mr Biren Seems to be Desperate to Save His Chair. But Who Cares?

Anthony Shongthu

The Meitei chief minister Mr. N. Biren Singh told the press today that his government has been trying to bring peace by looking for a middle path, but from now onward, they [the Kukis?] will be shown that there is a state government. Anybody who understands Manipuri (Meitei language) must be asking themselves what the hell is he talking about!

Since day one of the current ethnic cleansing pogrom, Mr. Biren and some of his cabinet colleagues including the lone Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba have been leading the radicalised Meitei sections and its armed militias such as Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, and others, in attacking the Kuki villages in the periphery areas. On more than one occasion, including Phailengmol Area (Khamenlok), Mr. Biren even visited the site physically and witnessed the burning and destruction of houses and churches belonging to the Kukis in more than ten villages.

It may also be noted that Mr. Biren had repeatedly appealed to his [Meitei] people to let his government handle the situation. He has also been saying time and again that whatever he does is for the future of their motherland [read Meitei community] and not for his personal gain.

Now that more than 13 months have passed without any sign of peace returning to the state, this Little

Demon once again seems to be haunted by the fear of losing his chair in the face of mounting pressures. Regarding this, there are two points worth noting: first, there are several rebel MLAs from his own community who want a change of guard; and second, he is under pressure for the poor performance of the BJP candidate in the Lok Sabha elections despite giving free hands to his private militias including the Arambai Tenggols.

For years, Mr. Biren has been portraying himself as the champion of the cause of the Meitei community but slowly the tide has begun to turn against him. The poor show in the election shows that he is neither accepted by his own people nor by the majority of the Meitei MLAs.

It also appears to be that the silent majority within the Meitei community who have been death-scared to speak out have now spoken loud enough by giving a negative vote to the BJP candidate. In fact, the percentage of votes polled for the BJP and its allies in the Outer Manipur clearly says that Biren had failed not just the Kukis but also the Meiteis for whom he projected himself as a Hero. The hatred towards Mr. Biren extended to the Outer Manipur constituency as the NPF candidate, an alliance

Contd.

Contd.

partner of BJP, was voted for only by a very small percentage of the voters in the eight valley Assembly Constituencies that are part of Outer Manipur.

Any critical minds who could analyse the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections wouldn't find it difficult to comprehend that the majority voters from the Valley did not vote for the Congress but against the BJP and its allies. If it were not, the Meitei voters from the 8 ACs would never have voted for the same candidate whom the Kuki-Zo voters voted for, en masse!

The voting pattern also shows that the less communal Meiteis still care for their beloved state which has been torn apart by Mr Biren and his cohorts. In fact, the social fabric of a state where every ethnic community had lived together for centuries has been destroyed by Mr Biren and his Nazi-like militias.

Now, looking at the chain of events that have unfolded in the last few weeks, it is pretty clear that Mr. Biren is desperate to save his chair as he is under pressure not only from his own Meitei community and rebel MLAs but also from the BJP Central leadership. The timing and the manner in which he made a plan to visit Jiribam, how his advance escorts were sent through the Imphal-Jiri road where even the IRB personnel for election duty dare not travel, and how he reacted to the alleged ambush on his advance security party by unknown miscreants, all point towards the said goal: seeking public sympathy to retain his chair!.

While saying this, let us not forget the resignation drama in which a paper was torn into pieces by a mysterious old lady! At the moment, the Kuki-Zo people are no longer concerned whether Mr. Biren continues as the chief minister or not because they have taken a firm stand that they will fight against such injustice meted out to them by the present communal government till their last man stands. Replacing Mr. Biren may do some good to the right thinking Meiteis, but it will make no difference to the Kuki-Zo who have suffered enough from the year-long state-sponsored ethnic pogrom under his chief-ministership.



XENOPHOBIA OF THE DICTATOR



Lament of the Silenced

- Diana Phiamphu

From ghettos of despair, where dreams are left to die,
To camps of dark oppression, beneath an indifferent sky,
Their cries for recognition, for dignity, and peace,
Are met with cold indifference, their suffering won't cease.

Their stories often silenced, their voices drown in pain,
By those who hold the power, who revel in their reign.
The color of their skin, their faith, or who they love,
Becomes a twisted reason to push, to hate, to shove.

In cities full of promise, they walk on streets of fear,
Their heritage a target, their future never clear.
Their cultures rich and vibrant, now shadows of the past,
As hate's consuming fire ensures their pain will last.

But through the darkest hours, their spirits fiercely glow,
In art, in song, in whispers, their strength begins to show.
For though they're often broken, and though the night is long,
The dawn of justice beckons, and love's enduring song.

So let us not be silent, let us rise and take a stand,
For every soul mistreated, in every troubled land.
May empathy and kindness, in every heart take root,
Till the world respects all voices, and prejudice is mute.

For in the heart of sorrow, lies the seed of change so true,
A world where all are equal, where love can shine on through.
To the minorities enduring, your struggles aren't in vain,
For through the veil of darkness, we'll see the end of pain.