


Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**NGAMPAO LHUNGDIM
KUM 67**

AWAITING JUSTICE



NGAMPAO LHUNGDIM (67 YEARS)

S/O SOTHONG LHUNGDIM

ADDRESS: N HEIKON

DATE OF DEATH: 6TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 10.07.2024



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.

NO PEACE TALKS BETWEEN KUKI-ZO PEOPLE AND MEITEIS, SAYS KUKI INPI MANIPUR IN RESPONSE TO BIREN'S STATEMENT

Apropos to Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh's statement, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), an apex body of the Kuki Tribes, has clarified that "there are no peace talks between the Kuki-Zo people and the Meiteis."

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Information and Publicity Secretary of Kuki apex body, Janghaolun Haokip said, "The Kuki Inpi Manipur is utterly taken aback by the supposed 'Peace Talks' held between the Kuki-Zo representatives and the Meiteis.

He clarified that the Kuki Inpi has no knowledge of any "Peace Talk" held between the Kuki-Zo people and the Meiteis as mentioned by the Manipur Chief Minister N.Biren Singh.

In sharp contrast, the Kuki Inpi Manipur reiterated that it would remain committed in its resolve for a political boycott of the Manipur state government for orchestrating and perpetrating the persecution against the Kuki-Zo people.

"The Manipur state government continues to utilise government machinery in its ruthless campaign against our people inflicting untold damage. On that account, a supposed 'Peace Talk' between the Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei can only be termed as overly optimistic," said KIM.

The Kuki-Zo apex body also stated that its people, who have been victims of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign of the Manipur state government, cannot negotiate with their oppressors for justice and equality for Kuki-Zo people.

To that matter, a demand for Union Territory with legislature for the Kuki-Zo people has long been forwarded to the Government of India for constitutional course of action and the Kuki-Zo people is only resolute to commit to the same until its fulfillment, it stated.



PRESS STATEMENT
Sadar Hills, the 11th July, 2024

"NO PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE KUKI-ZO PEOPLE AND THE MEITEIS"

04/KIM/PR/22-63: The Kuki Inpi is utterly taken aback by the supposed "Peace Talks" held between the Kuki-Zo representatives and the Meiteis.

The Kuki Inpi, as the Apex body of the Kukis, has no knowledge of any "Peace Talk" held between the Kuki-Zo people and the Meiteis as mentioned by the Manipur Chief Minister N.Biren Singh. In sharp contrast, the Kuki Inpi will remain committed to its resolve for a **political boycott of the Manipur state government** for orchestrating and perpetrating the persecution against the Kuki-Zo people. The Manipur state government continues to utilise government machinery in its ruthless campaign against our people inflicting untold damage. On that account, a supposed "Peace Talk" between the Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei can only be termed as overly optimistic.

The Kuki-Zo people, who have been victims of the state sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign of the Manipur state government **cannot negotiate with our oppressors for justice and equality for our people.** To that matter, a demand for Union Territory with Legislature for the Kuki-Zo people have long been forwarded to the Government of India for constitutional course of action and the Kuki-Zo people is only resolute to commit to the same until its fulfilment. The demand is legitimate as the only means for equality and justice for the Kuki-Zo people and the safe-guarding of their rights and privileges as equal citizens of the country.

Furthermore; any supposed Peace Talk or Political negotiations; without the knowledge of the Kuki Inpi and its constituent organisations, is only illusionary. The Kuki Inpi and its constituent organisations, are the only legitimate bodies to manoeuvre a way forward for the Kuki-Zo people.

Janghaolun Haokip
(JANGHAOLUN HAOKIP)
Secretary, Information & Publicity
Kuki Inpi Manipur



The statement also asserted that the demand for the Union territory is legitimate as the only means for equality and justice for the Kuki-Zo people and the safe-guarding of their rights and privileges as equal citizens of the country.

"Furthermore, any supposed peace talk or political negotiation without the knowledge of the Kuki Inpi and its constituent organisations, is only illusionary," said the Kuki-Zo apex body, adding that the Kuki Inpi and its constituent organisations are the only legitimate bodies to manoeuvre a way forward for the Kuki-Zo people.

CHIEF MINISTER N BIREN SINGH'S PEACE TALKS CLAIM MET WITH SKEPTICISM BY KSO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

Chief Minister N Biren Singh announced on Wednesday that peace talks between the Kuki and Meitei communities, who have been involved in an ongoing ethnic conflict, have begun and that peace is gradually returning to the state.

However, the Kuki Students' Organization (KSO) General Headquarters has expressed skepticism about the CM's statements, demanding transparency and accountability. The KSO insists that the Chief Minister should disclose the precise details regarding the organization or individuals involved in these peace negotiations.

"We are not aware of any peace talks involving the Chief Minister or any valley-based CSO," said a KSO spokesperson. "This seems to be another media stunt by the CM to placate the Centre and the public. To date, there has been no formal invitation from any Government agencies regarding any negotiations for peace talks."

The KSO emphasizes that the CM cannot assert that negotiations for peace talks are occurring without the involvement and presence of the Central Government and the knowledge of Kuki CSOs. They also challenge the term "ethnic conflict," arguing that it is used to conceal government misdeeds.

"This is not an ethnic conflict but a conflict against the Government of Manipur, which has used its own radical groups to stifle the emotional and rational discontentment of the Kuki-Zo people. This situation has inevitably led to demands for a separate administration to safeguard our existence," the spokesperson added.



KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

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2. KSO Sadar Hills (Manipur)	11. KSO Dibrugarh (Assam)	20. KSO Pune (Maharashtra)
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Ref. No.

Date 11-07-2024

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Wednesday (yesterday) stated that "talks between the two communities - Kuki and Meitei - involved in the ongoing ethnic conflict have already started and peace has begun to return to the state".

Pertinent to this, the KSO General Headquarters insists that the Chief Minister (CM) should disclose the precise details regarding the organization or individual involved in the peace negotiations. If it's real, we seek transparency and accountability from the CM regarding these negotiations, emphasizing the importance of truthfulness in revealing this information.

The KSO-GHQ is not aware and has no knowledge of any peace talks involving the Chief Minister (CM) or any valley-based CSO. The CM once again did media stunts to save its skin from the Centre and the public in general. Till date there has been no formal invitation from any Government agencies regarding any negotiations for peace talks. The KSO emphasizes that the CM cannot assert such negotiations for peace talks without the involvement and presence of the Central Government and without the knowledge of Kuki CSOs.

Furthermore, the narrative "ethnic conflict" is a misused term. This term is being used to conceal the Government misdeeds. It is not an ethnic rather it's a conflict against the Government of Manipur who used its own radical groups to occlude and choke-up the emotional and rational discontentment of Kuki-Zo people, which later on inevitably demanded a separate administration to safeguard their own existence.

Issued by
Department of Information & Publicity
KSO General Headquarters



The KSO calls for the CM to provide clear and truthful information about the alleged peace talks and stresses the need for genuine involvement and transparency in any such negotiations.

“MANIPUR IS DIVIDED”: CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI SHARES VIDEO OF HIS VISIT TO STATE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Manipur and suggested PM Modi to listen to the problems of the state people and said that Congress and INDIA bloc will raise the “need for peace” in Manipur with full force in Parliament.

Sharing a five minutes video on X, the Congress leader said that Manipur is “divided into two parts.” “This is the third time I have come here since violence broke out in Manipur. but unfortunately there is no improvement in the situation even today the state is divided into two parts,” Rahul Gandhi posted on X. He further said that thousands of families are forced to live in relief camps.

“Houses are burning, innocent lives are in danger and thousands of families are forced to live in relief camps. The Prime Minister should personally visit Manipur, listen to the problems of the people of the state and appeal for peace,” he added. One of the women at the relief camp demanded security saying “Sir, we want security. We want to go home. How long will we stay here?”

In response to them, Rahul Gandhi said, “So, the main thing is that you need security. And you want to go back.”

“Yes, we want to live in our own house,” the woman said.

When Rahul Gandhi asked why this fight started, the women said, “Because of the misunderstanding.”

Rahul Gandhi further said that “the Congress Party and INDIA bloc will raise the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament to pressure the government to end this tragedy.”

Rahul Gandhi listened to the problems of the



people at the relief camp in Manipur. “Is the violence helping anyone?” Rahul Gandhi asked.

The women in the relief camp responded, “No.”

Another woman in the relief camp broke down and said that everyone from outside comes to meet in Manipur, but Chief Minister (Biren Singh) and Home Minister (Amit Shah) have not come here.

“They come from Assam. Come from everywhere. Our Chief Minister never visits us,” she said.

Earlier on July 8, Congress MP met the victims of violence at the relief camp in Manipur and also met state Governor Anusuiya Uikey.

Addressing the press conference in Manipur’s Imphal, Rahul Gandhi said that thousands of families have been harmed, properties have been destroyed in the state.

“It’s the third time I have come here since the problem started and it has been a tremendous tragedy. I was expecting some improvement in

Contd.

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the situation but I was disappointed to see that the situation is still nowhere near what it should be. I visited the camps and heard the people there, heard their pain. I came here to listen to them, to build confidence in them and as somebody who is in the opposition, to try and apply pressure on the government so that it acts. Here, the need of the hour is peace. Violence is hurting everybody. Thousands of families have been harmed, properties have been destroyed, family members have been killed and I have never seen anywhere in India what is going on here, LoP said.

Rahul Gandhi said that he met Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey and expressed “displeasure” over the progress that has taken place in the state.

Rahul Gandhi said that he met Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey and expressed “displeasure” over the progress that has taken place in the state.

“We had a conversation with the Governor and we

expressed to the Governor that we would like to help in whatever way we can. We also expressed our displeasure and we said that we are not happy with the progress that has taken place here. I don’t want to go further into politicizing the issue. It is not my intention. As I said I come here as a brother and as a family member and I understand that the entire Manipur is in pain, is suffering and needs to get out of this suffering as soon as possible,” Rahul Gandhi added.

The Congress leader urged everyone to think about peace and brotherhood adding that “violence and hatred” are not going to get any solution.

Violence erupted in the northeastern state on May 3 last year following clashes during a rally organised by the All Tribals Students Union (ATSU) to protest against the demand for the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe category. (ANI)

NIA’S HYPOCRISY: LENIENCY OF LAW ON ARAMBAI TENGGOL?

Since the beginning of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom against the minority Kukis on 3 May 2023, the central agencies like NIA, CBI or Central Armed Police Forces including Assam Rifles seemed to have applied unequal treatment between the two warring communities, acting biasedly against the Kukis.

When the Kuki Village Volunteers were arrested, the cases were taken up by the National Investigation Agency, while there is leniency of law towards the Meiteis’ Arambai Tenggol. Hypocrisy at its height as the central law enforcement agency remains the mute spectator on the Meitei militants right under its nose.

On Wednesday, the Manipur police arrested two members of the radical armed Meitei outfit Arambai Tenggol in the heart of Imphal city’s Paona Bazaar area. The police also seized arms and ammunition, including an INSAS rifle with 16 live rounds of ammunition and a pistol with three live rounds.

However, their case was not taken up by the NIA or any other central investigating agencies. The radicalised armed outfit’s chief Korounganba Khuman still walks free even after being booked by the National Investigating Agency for his unlawful activities.

Does the NIA remain blind, deaf and dumb on the illegality of the Arambai Tenggol? What action has been taken by the NIA on Korounganba Khuman?

The Arambai Tenggol group has come into prominence as one of the largest armed actors in the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur, which began in May 2023. Looting 6000 sophisticated weapons and lakhs of ammunition from Police armouries, they are solely responsible for all war crimes against the Kukis.

ZORO ADVOCATES FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AT UNITED NATIONS, SLAMS INDO-MYANMAR FENCING

In an address at the United Nations, Lalnun Fella Changte, leader of the Zo-Reunification Organisation (ZoRO) advocated for the rights of the Zo Indigenous Peoples spread across Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. Changte, representing the Zo people highlighted the challenges faced by ethnic Zo communities due to geopolitical divisions enforced during colonial times.

ZoRO is an international non-governmental, non-profit Indigenous people's reunification organisation of Chin, Kuki and Mizo of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"The Zo peoples, scattered across borders imposed by colonial powers are unjustly divided and denied their fundamental rights," Changte stated, addressing the UN assembly. He pointed out ethnic clashes in Manipur where violence and displacement have plagued minority hill tribes forcing many to flee their homes.

Changte criticized India's plans to fence the Indo-Myanmar border, arguing it would further restrict the freedom of movement for Zo communities, already struggling with internal conflicts and displacement.

He stated the urgent need for international support to address the worsening humanitarian crisis faced



by Zo people, particularly those seeking refuge in Mizoram from neighboring Bangladesh amid escalating tensions in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

"Our people are under siege from multiple fronts—Bangladesh, Myanmar, Assam, and Manipur," Changte said demanding immediate humanitarian aid and the recognition of Zo people's right to self-determination.



**The essence of justice is
impartiality**

—John Rawls

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN INDIA PLEDGES TO BUILD 600 HOMES FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES IN MANIPUR FOLLOWING ETHNIC CLASHES

The Catholic Archdiocese of Imphal, in India, has started a housing rehabilitation project to help displaced families in Manipur, following the outbreak of violence between ethnic Meitei and Kuki in May 2023.

In just over a year, violence has caused more than 200 deaths and left behind deep wounds. Tens of thousands of people are still homeless after fleeing their village to escape violence.

For ethnic Kuki, who are mostly Christian, the archdiocese is promoting the construction of 600 homes, with a financial commitment of 5400,000 rupees (around US\$ 6,000) per unit, this according to Fr Varghese Velickakam, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Imphal, who coordinates the relief efforts.

Interethnic violence that broke out in May 2023 between Meitei and Kuki displaced more than 60,000 people. The Archdiocese of Imphal has started building housing for those who lost everything. For Vicar General Fr Varghese Velickakam, "IDPs are hard-working people, and with an intense desire to live in dignity and peace." Catholic priests from all over India are also mobilising to raise funds for the project.

To support these efforts, the Conference of Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI) launched the "Minimum of Rs. 500 to Manipur" challenge, inviting every priest in the country to raise that sum of money.

The fundraiser will last until August 2024 with contributions allocated to the Archdiocese of Imphal, with the aim of completing the housing project by February 2025.

The challenge is not only about rebuilding physical structures to replace hundreds of homes destroyed



during the violence, but also to provide spiritual support to those who have suffered from the clashes.

Many have settled in Singangat parish, Churachandpur district, where the predominantly Christian Kuki-Zou community are the majority, in a state governed by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Another 45,000 people have taken refuge in Kangpokpi district.

Catholic families lost some 1,200 houses in this parish alone, not to mention scores of homes located on the outskirts of Imphal.

"They lost everything: land, houses, vehicles and livelihoods, educational institutions, etc.," added the vicar general of the Archdiocese of Imphal.

Source: [Catholic News World](#)

**OPINION**

Manipur Crisis: Treat The Disease, Not The Symptoms

Ngaranmi Shimray

Manipur is afflicted with many ailments, but the doctors are treating the symptoms rather than the disease.

Firstly, the society in Manipur is fractured; the two warring communities are not living side by side as neighbours after May 2023. They are not inter-mingling in Manipur anymore. The Kuki-Zo tribes are informally banished from Imphal, the state's capital and their MLAs have not been participating in the proceedings of the Assembly. No Kuki-Zo person dare to step foot in Imphal for fear of being lynched on sight. Likewise the Meiteis will not venture into the stronghold of Kuki-Zo tribes like Churachandpur, Kangpokpi and Moreh. The Meitei IDPs (internally displaced persons) from Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Moreh and foothills adjacent to Imphal valley are in no position to go back to their last place of residence as they also fear for their lives.

Secondly, about half the looted guns from the police armouries are still with the village volunteers. These guns need to be recovered at all cost for people to feel safe to return to their original place of residence. Normalcy can never return and violence will erupt if the lethal guns are left in the hands of civilians.

Thirdly, the two warring communities i.e. Meiteis and Kuki-Zo are not talking. They are the ones waging an undeclared tit for tat fight turning the conflict into a never ending war. The state government has not taken any initiative for having local level peace committees.

Without talks at the community level, there is no opportunity for airing grievances, negotiations and settlement. If talks are not being initiated by the governments, it is no wonder that normalcy has not yet returned. Political settlement through talks with the MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) is a different matter which should not be mixed up with ironing out the problems of daily existence. Mixing up the two will only prolong misery of the two communities. They need to be separated and tackled individually.

The state government has demanded thousands of houses under PMAY (Prime Minister Aawaz Yojana) for roofs damaged by hail storm and houses destroyed in the ethnic conflict. This is a commendable development, but where will the IDPs construct their houses when they cannot go back to their last place of residence?

Under the above circumstances, the claim by the government that violence is reducing does not mean normalcy is returning in the state. Normalcy can only return when the IDPs can go back to their homes, the guns are recovered and all communities can live in peace without fear. Otherwise, it's like a doctor treating a patient's symptoms of fever and aches by giving painkiller while the real disease infecting the vital organs remain untreated. The disease in the mindset of both communities will need to be treated first by the government with sincerity, impartiality and justice.

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Kuki Inpi @Kuki_Inpi · 3h

The capital of Manipur is de facto under the control of VBIG, Biren, Sanajaoba, Meitei Leepun and Arambai Tenggol. Both state and non-state machinery conspired against the annihilation of the Kukis, in such an environment CM Biren Singh talking about peace is papering over the [Show more](#)



Greeshma Kuthar @jeegujja

It's been three weeks since I've been writing to media organisations about Jiribam and how the otherwise peaceful district was split apart by the root of the war in Manipur - disinformation. Nobody is interested in the story. I've spoken to every stakeholder under the Sun in

Greeshma Kuthar @jeegujja · 04 Jul

In the one week that I spent in Jiribam district, every time I passed a school, the kids would wave at me, all wide smiles. And immediately this song would play in my head for some reason. It was like a scene out of the song, happy kids who are just making their way to school.



19:26 · 10 Jul 24 · 11.3K Views



THE PETRIFIED HEROES





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KUKILAND'S RESURGENCE

T Gary Haokip, *Zalengam Media*

In annals of time, a saga grand,
Of an indomitable people, in a hallowed land.
From 1917 to nineteen and nineteen,
The Kuki struggle, valiant and keen.

Through historical mists, they ascended to combat,
In the Anglo-Kuki War, righteousness in their habitat.
Against oppressors, with valor they stood,
Defending their hills, their sanctified wood.

Kuki Independence Hills, lofty and high,
Kissing the heavens, where eagles fly.
Each peak a testament to their indomitable will,
Each valley resounds with their spirits still.

In every heart, traditions deeply embed,
Tales of forebears, perpetually retreat.
The Kuki love, a connection profound,
Customs they preserve, in reverence bound.

From dances resplendent, to ballads of yore,
Their customs are treasures, forevermore.
Festivals of harvest, jubilation, and cheer,
Intertwining them together, year after year.

Oh, Kukiland, a paradise sublime,
Where rivers in argent threads intertwine.
Regal fauna roam the verdant plains,
In sylvan glades, where serenity reigns.

Mountains ascend, like sentinels true,
Under skies splashed in every hue.
Each dawn a covenant, each dusk a reprieve,
In Kukiland, nature's heart does cleave.

Their love for the land, an ageless song,
In Kukiland's embrace, they belong.
With every breath, and every stride,
Their ardor for Kukiland is their pride.

One day, the shackles of oppression will fracture,
And Kukiland will stir, and enrapture.
From the yoke of alien dominion, they'll soar,
In freedom's radiance, forevermore.

The dream of liberty, perpetually alight,
Guides them through the stygian night.
Meitei's oppression, they'll dispel away,
For freedom's dawn, they'll welcome one day.

In unity and fortitude, their future lies,
With hope eternal, they'll graze the skies.
Kukiland, in splendor, will stand,
A beacon of tranquility, in a liberated land.

Through rivers, mountains, and forests green,
The beauty of Kukiland will be seen.
And the Kuki spirit, unrestrained and free,
Will soar like the eagle, over land and sea.

So, let the cosmos hear their hymn,
Of struggle, love, and rights long been dim.
For Kukiland's splendor, and the Kuki's plight,
One day freedom will blaze, in resplendent light.

In every heart, the vision will thrive,
And to Kukiland, their essence will strive.
For one day, in liberty's embrace,
Kukiland will find its rightful place.