WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 11, 2024







#### **GINSANGLUN LOTZEM (17 YEARS)**

S/O KAILENTHANG LOTZEM

ADDRESS: T. GAMNOM, SAIKUL, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 21st JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: BILEI, SAIKUL, SADAR HILLS CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS





#### **KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE**

As on 09.09.2024







VILLAGES BURNT

200+ 7000+ **HOUSES BURNT** 



**CHURCHES &** 

**SYNAGOGUES BURNT** 



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-ZO VILLAGES OF MONGBUNG, SEJANG, SUGNU AREAS CONTINUE TO FACE INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS FROM MEITEI ARMED GROUPS

The combined team of Meitei armed groups such as UNLF, Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Police Commandos and other armed outfits continued their aggressive attacks on Kuki villages of Mongbung and Sejang situated under Jiribam district.

The indiscriminate gun attacks resumed on Tuesday night at around 10:20 PM and the Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers defended the Meiteis' onslaught using a few hunting rifles and local-made Pumpi they possessed. The Meitei armed outfits, on the other hand, used sophisticated weapons and powerful bombs/mortars while attacking the minority Kuki community.

The heavy exchange of gun fire lasted for about three hours after which, the gun battle subsided for about a few hours. The Meitei radicals resumed the attacks in intervals till early morning on Wednesday.

Fortunately, there was no report of casualties from the Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers. Sources said that there could be some casualties from the assailants as Ambulances were seen moving 'to and fro' on the roads near to the site of incidents.

On Wednesday evening at around 8:30 PM, the Meitei armed groups resumed their attacks towards the Kuki villages, and the gun battle continued till the filing of this report.

This latest assault on Mongbung and Sejang villages is the ninth attack since the violence erupted between the two warring communities a few months back in Jiribam district.

The Meiteis' indiscriminate attacks were also reported in G. Songgel, Lalloiphai, Leisan and other Kuki areas of Lamka, adjoining the Meitei dominated Sugnu of Kakching district. The Meitei armed groups shelled



powerful mortars towards the Kuki village of G. Songgel and a house belonging to the Kuki community was destroyed due to the bomb explosion.

The attacks on Kuki villages of Sugnu areas occurred last night at around 9:30 PM and the ensuing gun battle lasted intermittently till late at night. Fortunately, no human casualty was reported during the heavy exchange of gun fire and shelling of bombs.

Tension still prevails and the Kuki villages situated along the buffer zones are seriously at risk of being destroyed or burnt down in the hands of the statesponsored Meitei terrorists.

These continuous attacks and atrocities against the minority Kuki-Zo community, orchestrated and perpetrated by the State Government under the leadership of N. Biren Singh, strongly advocates for the urgent need for political settlement. The Kukis and Meiteis can no longer co-exist peacefully under one administrative unit and therefore, separate administration for the Kuki people is the only solution for peace to return to the region.



# **KUKI-ZO WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST WITHDRAWAL OF ASSAM** RIFLES FROM KANGPOKPI

Hundreds of Kuki-Zo women in Kangpokpi Town staged a protest today in front of the 22 Assam Rifles Post, blocking the withdrawal of paramilitary forces from the area. The protest comes after a public meeting on September 9 at Brig. M. Thomas Ground, where the Kuki-Zo community unanimously decided to seal all Assam Rifles camps in Kangpokpi district if the Centre did not reconsider its decision to replace the Assam Rifles with the CRPF.

The women gathered at the Bais Bahadur 22 Assam Rifles Post upon learning that the paramilitary forces would be withdrawn today.

Robi Khongsai, one of the protestors, stated that the Assam Rifles have been the only neutral force in their efforts to protect lives during ongoing ethnic conflicts. She highlighted the Assam Rifles' unique capability to handle insurgents, unlike other central security forces, and warned that violence could escalate if the forces were withdrawn.

Expressing deep concern over the planned removal of the 9th and 22nd Battalions of Assam Rifles from conflict zones in Kangpokpi, Khongsai detailed the community's



insecurities and potential consequences of this decision on the region's ethnic conflicts. Rejecting the proposed relocation of the Assam Rifles, she emphasized that any replacement by other security forces would be unacceptable to the community, regardless of intentions.

Khongsai urged the Prime Minister to instruct the Ministry of Home Affairs to reconsider the withdrawal, stressing that the continued presence of the Assam Rifles is crucial for maintaining security and preventing further violence in the conflict-affected region.

# COTU CONDEMNS CBI ACTIONS, CALLS FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP FOR KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY

The Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) has expressed deep concern over the recent actions of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), accusing the agency of selectively targeting individuals from the Kuki-Zo community in Kangpokpi. The committee has criticized these actions as ill-timed and insensitive, especially as many cases of heinous crimes against the minority Kuki-Zo community remain ignored or unresolved by national investigative agencies.

In a statement, the committee reminded the public and the authorities in Manipur and Sadar Hills Kangpokpi



that it has adopted a "5 Points Declaration" on September 9, 2024, at Thomas Ground, Sadar Hills Kangpokpi. The declaration states that any

Contd.

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instructions or intimations from the state of Manipur will not be accepted or applicable in the hill areas predominantly inhabited by the Kuki-Zo community.

COTU has urged the administrative authorities in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi to disregard any orders from the state administration of Manipur, which it described as biased and detrimental to the safety and security of the Kuki-Zo people. The committee emphasized that such measures should remain in place until the law and order situation is restored, constitutional democracy is reestablished, and a separate administrative setup for the Kuki-Zo community in the form of a Union Territory under Article 239A is realized.

# MANIPUR GOVERNOR TO APPRISE CENTRE OF STATE'S ONGOING CRISIS, DEMANDS BY STUDENTS

Manipur Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya will soon apprise the Centre about the demands by the state government as well as the protesting students to restore peace in the conflict-torn state.

Acharya, who is also the Governor of Assam, returned to Guwahati on Wednesday, and is likely to visit New Delhi soon, sources said.

The Governor on Tuesday met a delegation of students, who staged violent protests in Imphal and at several other places in the Meitei-dominated valley. A statement issued by Raj Bhawan on Tuesday night said the students submitted a memorandum to the Governor with a set of their demands and Acharya assured them to take steps "in the best interest of the students and people of Manipur."

Several students were injured after they clashed with police and other security forces, who confronted them when they tried to march towards Raj Bahwan on Monday and Tuesday. This prompted the administration to suspend mobile and broadband internet in Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur and Kakching districts. Curfew was also imposed in three districts.

The students demanded the removal of Manipur DGP Rajiv Singh and Centre's security in-charge, Kuldiep



Singh and bringing the Unified Command back under the CM. The students launched the protest a day after CM N Biren Singh and a few other ruling MLAs met Acharya seeking leadership of the Unified Command.

The central forces operate under the Unified Command, which is typically headed by the CM. But the Centre rushed Kuldiep Singh, a former DG of CRPF, to take over the command after the Meitei-Kuki clash broke out in May last year. At least 136 people have died since then. The students say the central forces failed to end the conflict.

Sources said the situation on Wednesday remained under control even as curfew and the internet suspension remained in force. Schools and other educational institutions remained shut on Wednesday too.



# KSO CHURACHANDPUR ARRANGES TRAVEL FOR CANDIDATES AFTER EXAM CENTER CANCELLATION



The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) Churachandpur has stepped in to assist local SSC CGL 2024 candidates following the sudden cancellation of examination centers in Churachandpur and Ukhrul. The cancellation has forced candidates to travel over 330 kilometers to Aizawl for their Tier-I exams, adding to their burden due to high travel costs and adverse weather conditions.

To alleviate these difficulties, KSO Churachandpur arranged transportation for the first batch of 122 students, who departed this morning in 13 vehicles from the KSO complex in Tuibong. T. Letminlen Haokip, President of KSO, flagged off the group and extended his best wishes for their exams.

M. Seikhogin Haokip, Education Secretary of KSO Churachandpur, said the last-minute cancellation had placed many students, especially those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, in a tough situation. "As the apex student body, we took this initiative to ease the financial strain and logistical

challenges these candidates are facing," he said.

The KSO Churachandpur received 855 applications for travel assistance, with the first batch already on their way. Arrangements for subsequent batches will be made based on exam schedules.

In response to the cancellation, several student organizations, including the KSO, Zomi Students' Federation, and Tangkhul Katamnao Long, have appealed to authorities to reinstate local examination centers. Outer Manipur MP Alfred Kanngam Arthur has also urged the SSC head office to reconsider the decision.

The SSC North Eastern Region (NER) cited law and order issues as the reason for the cancellation, though many have criticized the decision, pointing out that the Imphal center, which faces similar challenges, remains operational.



# MANIPUR UNREST: NO EVIDENCE THAT DRONE-DROPPED BOMB KILLED KOUTRUK WOMAN, SAYS EX-ASSAM RIFLES DG

Even as drone-dropped grenades and crude bombs are being blamed for triggering the latest round of violence in Manipur, the recently retired DG of Assam Rifles (AR) has questioned this assessment.

In an exclusive conversation with CNN-News18, Lt Gen (Rtd) P C Nair said that the woman who died in Koutruk village may have been caught in the crossfire between the two groups and died of bullet injuries.

He also said that the rockets used in Bishnupur seem to be renovated Pompi Guns that have been used in strife-torn Manipur for decades.

#### Excerpts from the interview:

The latest round of violence from September 1 seems to have been triggered by use of drones. The Manipur Police has blamed Kuki groups. What is your assessment?

Drones have been used for many purposes. Usually surveillance, photography, imagery, agriculture, etc. So it's not new. In fact, in the initial days of violence, drones were used against some of our (Assam Rifles) posts too. It is something that has been happening and is not limited to Manipur alone. It is used in many places. Only thing is there is no check in Manipur for reasons known to all of us. When this news (September 1 incident) first came to me, I thought yes, it is quite possible that a drone was used because in next door Myanmar, too, drones are being used extensively.

But from the footage (of Koutruk) that I saw, it seemed like a light, small drone and the impact of the shells on ground was major. There are reasons to believe that the shells could not have been fired from those small drones. That is my take on this subject.

The Manipur Police, on its social media handle, put up a picture of a drone that they claim was used in this attack and said they were sending it for further analysis. But you are saying that your assessment



is that the woman died of splinter injury?

Not splinter...bullet. It is not just my assessment. It is there in the media that she died of bullet injuries. It is there in the reports of local media.

You think drones were used for surveillance and not really to drop a grenade at the victim's residence?

There was a fight going on between the two factions. The factions were fighting while these drones, rockets, pompies...whatever you call them... were being fired. It's possible she would have died because of a bullet from that crossfire.

## What about the allegation that rockets were fired?

The term rockets, as we (people of military background), understand, is of a specific kind. These (what is used in Manipur) are all improvised things which can be called a rocket because they move in an aerial trajectory...but it not the same as weapons that are mass produced. These are all indigenous weapons. These, for example, have been used long ago, almost 100 years ago in the Anglo-Kuki war. Progressively, some modifications

Contd.





have been made. The national media has covered it extensively in the past one year. Everyone has seen that. There's nothing new in this.

So are you suggesting there is no new chapter in the Kuki-Meitei conflict or new element in terms of drones or rockets or new foreign fighters?

Having said that, because of the extensive usage of drones across Myanmar, we should not be surprised if these come in larger numbers. That is the larger thing that we should be thinking of. What can happen in the future is what we should be thinking about.

Can you clarify on the foreign fighter bit? There are lot of apprehensions, especially in the Imphal Valley, that what's happening now is because of a foreign power.

It's been there. I mean most of the unrest in the North-East for the past 65-70 years is a consequence of foreigners' interference. Go back in time from the Naga insurgency onwards. There has been a hand of a Northern neighbour. Even now Paresh Baruah is sitting in Yunnan in China. So was there a foreign hand? I think it is a no-brainer, but who exactly in foreign land, I will not be able to comment on that. But it is in the interest of countries that are inimical to us cash in on the existing situation.

Is the situation aggravating because of the **Government of India's decision to move the Assam** Rifles units from Manipur to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)?

We do know that Jammu and Kashmir, especially Jammu, has terror-related challenges. The election is around the corner. So the government is trying to strengthen the hand of the security grid there.

Let me specifically speak about the AR battalions going there. The Jammu region has seen a lot of acts of terror in the past few months, so this decision is in the fitness of things. What is more important is to realise that rather than the debate on whether we are succumbing to somebody's pressure or not listening to somebody, it is important to tackle the situation.

The Assam Rifles battalions have always done a fabulous job in Jammu and Kashmir. One of the battalions that is going now to J&K has established an all-time record there. I think it is in the fitness of things that the government would have taken this decision.

In Manipur, the grudge is now no longer limited to AR alone. At least one member of the Legislative Assembly has written to the **Union Home Minister alleging that paramilitary** forces are mute spectators to violence. This sentiment seems to be gaining traction on the ground. What is the issue with the presence of the paramilitary forces?

The Centre sent them to ensure that peace prevails and to be fair, I think they did ensure peace for at least two or more consecutive months. It would be unfair to blame the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). They are operating under very challenging circumstances. The demands, if you see, began in the initial part, from AR should go back or withdrawn to the Indian Army should also go back. Then came the demand that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) should also go back. Then it was further scaled up to all the central forces should go back. So, who will handle the situation there? Somebody has to handle the situation there and nobody is in a better position than the central forces. Because central forces have no axe to grind. They are not, they can't be biased.

But that seems to be the allegation. It seems for the Kuki group specially. They have a special affinity or their special trust in the AR and the Meitei groups have zero trust in Assam Rifles or for that matter in the central forces, how did matters come to this stage?

All I can say is the Assam Rifles, like the other central forces, have been absolutely neutral. There is no way they could have been partial to anyone.

The news coming from Imphal is worrying. Contd.







We do know that student groups have laid a siege outside the Raj Bhavan. In a situation like this, what do you think is the way forward? We have the example of unified command in Jammu and Kashmir also.

Well, two situations can never be alike. J&K's issues are entirely different. We should not mix these things up... there is a particular kind of command that's happening in one place. I think nobody is in a better position than the government to decide what works best. Which government will not want peace to be restored at the earliest? They have multiple agencies, multiple sources, they know best. So if they feel this is the way it can be handled, maybe this is a way. But again, tomorrow if the situation turns worse or takes a totally different turn, I'm sure the government would consider everything and think of some other arrangement to handle the situation.

#### If the Central government decides on their demand and the CAPF is withdrawn, will the Manipur Police be able to handle the situation?

You should ask the Manipur Police. I mean, this is a question anyone can answer. When in a state, two communities are fighting, can it be left to them to sort it out? One, affinities will be there. Second would be the numbers. Where would they get the numbers from to carry out the arrests in such a situation?

## The Manipur Police claims there is no Meitei or Kuki Police...

What I would say is their ethnicity is strong. No matter where you are, and even if there is in some way, some rationality, the pressures are so high. People really have no choice. They have to think of their family. They have to think of their children. I feel this attachment towards ethnicity is prime. Everything else is secondary.

### The Internet ban and curfew are back in Manipur. Will it work?

Whenever the situation goes out of control, there is a need for an internet shutdown, but it cannot continue for long. Sooner rather than later, it will have to be restarted. Children's studies, medical needs, transport, everything gets impacted. So it's not a long-term solution.

#### Will withdrawal of Article 355 help in any way?

That is for the Centre to decide.

The DGP, the advisor and the chief secretary were sent by the Centre. Now, there is a demand that all of them be sent back, will it help matters?

No, that's again for the Centre to decide. But I can say that perhaps things would have been worse had the Centre not intervened.

#### What is the way forward?

The starting point (to peace) is people. They have to realise that this cannot go on endlessly. At some point, it has to stop. And that point is everyday. It's today. It should be tomorrow if not, then at least day after tomorrow. That is how they should be looking at this. In these 15-16 months, look at the state, how progressive it was. And I wish that this stops at the soonest. My good wishes to them. It can only happen if the two communities take a step back, realise that it is best for them and for the future of their children that they stop this. The elders, civil society organisations, youths and all people carrying weapons have to realise this.

Women in Manipur are very strong. They have a great influence over society. At one point, Manipur was known as the drug capital and HIV capital of India. How did it come down? It is totally because of the proactive manner in which the Meira Paibis acted against the youth. The youth listen to them. This is a moment in history when Meira Paibis and the other women of all other groups should cast aside their differences and come together for peace.

Published by News 18





The Meitei government, led by N. Biren Singh, on Tuesday banned Internet services in five districts of the Imphal Valley and imposed a curfew in two of them as the Meitei students' protests turned ugly for the two successive days.

The protesters, demanding the resignation of State's Security Advisor, Kuldeep Singh; DGP Rajiv Singh and handing over of Unified Command authority to the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, clashed with the security forces on the streets of Imphal.

The students defied the curfew as more protesters joined them to march to the Raj Bhavan but security personnel stopped them from nearing the VIP zone. This led to scuffles and the security personnel fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesters.

This violent protest is nothing but a N. Biren Singhinstigated drama to pressurize the Centre government amid speculations of his possible replacement from the top leadership. He is struggling to cling on the top post even after his incriminating audiotapes haunted him badly. The explosive audiotapes leaked to the media best explain his complicity in the state-sponsored ethnic genocide of Kuki-Zo community.

Sequence of events leading to the violent protest clearly indicate that N. Biren Singh is behind the violence so

as to remain at the top of the helm.

On September 7, Biren Singh once again created a drama around his possible resignation. The next day, amid much hype over his resignation, Biren met the Governor and later announced that he would not resign at that juncture. He then submitted an eight-point charter of demands to the Governor, including the demand for holding the Unified Command authority.

The Meitei Government, on September 8, declared closure of schools and colleges from 9-10 September, 2024, for no stated reason and no central or state holiday falling on those days. As the educational institutions were closed, the Meitei students came out on the streets in protest, in their school uniforms no less, as if their collective minds had been synchronised, their demands unsurprisingly in tune with that of the CM's. It may be mentioned that the holidays were declared only for educational institutions and not all state and central offices. As such it can be easily deduced that the students' participation had already been preplanned, organised and co-ordinated. The image of students in uniform protesting and clashing with security forces proved a strong imagery, skillfully

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planned to have the maximum impact on media.

The protesting mob attacked Raj Bhavan in the heart of Imphal. At least 50 violent protesters sustained injuries due to clashes with the security forces, all purely to serve the political interest of one person - N. Biren Singh, the CM and mastermind of the current Manipur violence whose alleged confessions have been caught on voice recordings. For his own personal gain, he has no qualms pitting Meiteis against Meiteis - Meitei students against Meitei state police (and central security forces), resulting in the injury of a state policeman by a bullet wound in his leg along with several other students. Lives could have been lost, but the CM couldn't care less as long as the drama had its intended effects - shifting blame on the deteriorating law and order situation in the state from himself to the non-native DGP of the state Shri Rajiv Singh, IPS and the security advisor Kuldiep Singh, thereby justifying his demand for control of the Unified Command, putting pressure on the Central government through the office of the state Governor, and once again diverting attention away from his leaked confessions. He may claim to be the hero of the Meiteis who started a war against the Kukis to safeguard the imagined threat to their identity, culture, land and so on and it seems he is willing to sacrifice any life - Kuki or Meitei - in this delusion.

How protesting students led to a bullet injury of a policeman is a question the state media did not bother to answer. Video evidence exists, but since it does not fit the narrative, the injured policeman barely makes the news. Another question worth pondering is whether the Central is playing Biren or the other way round. No doubt, the experts at the Centre would like to think that Biren is just a puppet; pliable in their own hands as long as they put him in his CM seat but the situation on the ground tempts one to think that the puppetry has gone the other way round for a while now. It has become more apparent that as the conflict drags on, it is the Centre who has been dancing to Biren's tunes instead of the other way around. Or at the very least, that Biren, much aware that he is a mere puppet, is trying to tug back at the strings with all his might.

This evening, the Governor informed representatives of the protesting students that it would not be possible to grant their demand of giving Unified Command to the Chief Minister. The students, who have been agitating for the change, expressed their dissatisfaction, stating that since their demands were not met, all schools and colleges would be shut down indefinitely.

Meanwhile, N. Biren Singh's government ordered an extension of the closure for all government and private colleges. As per the updated directive, Government Colleges, Aided Colleges, and Private Colleges under the Higher & Technical Education Department will remain closed on 11th September 2024 (Wednesday) and 12th September 2024 (Thursday).



Wars and revolutions and battles are due simply and solely to the body and its desires.

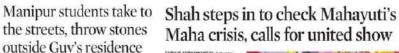
- Socrates







Manipur is burning. India's home minister is doing his party's politics in Maharashtra. Such are the Modi government's priorities.



Maha crisis, calls for united show

8:41 · 10 Sept 24 · 10.1K Views



**Follow Back** 

Our Jawans (CRPF) who do their duty in Imphal area are being forced to leave. They shouted, "Majang (mainland Indians) go back". These Meitei secessionists are slowly revealing their true colour. @EastMojo @MirrorNow @ndtv @republic



13:36 · 10 Sept 24 · 1,957 Views

## TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

#### A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

A deeply distressing incident transpired this morning when three innocent Kuki-Zo civilians were ambushed and ruthlessly murdered by a group of Meitei terrorist outfits. The victims have been identified as follows:

- 1. Ngamminlun Kipgen, resident of Lhangkichoi village.
- 2. Ngamminlun Lhouvum, from K Ponlen village, is notably a prominent singer and currently serves as the Secretary of the Thadou Artiste Association.
- 3. Satneo Tuboi, also hailing from K Ponlen village.

The victims were on their way to Kanggui, intending to seek medical treatment at the time of the attack.

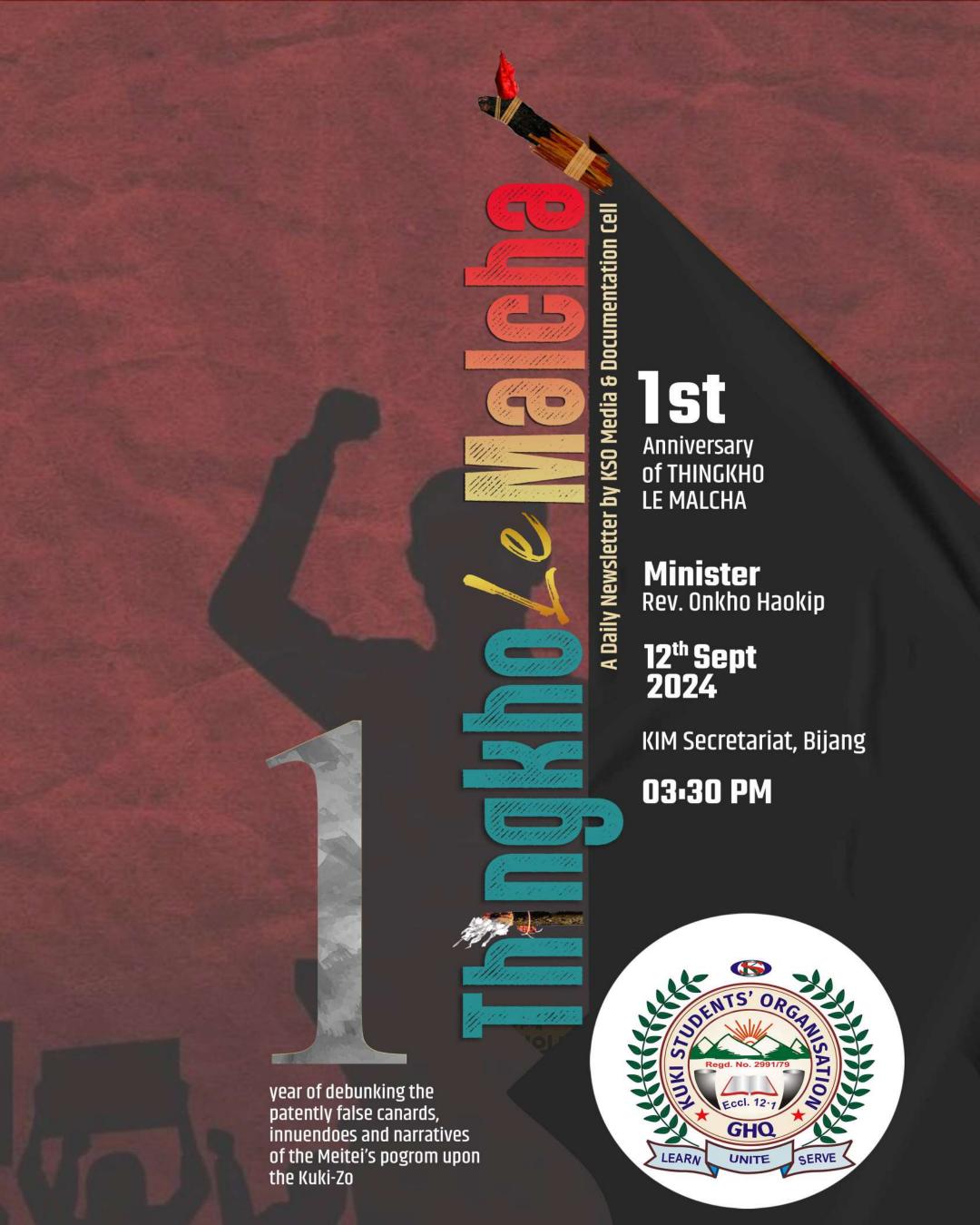
The ambush took place in the region situated between Ireng Naga village and Kharam Vaiphei

village under Kangpokpi district. It has been reported that Meitei terrorist groups, who have been increasingly infiltrating the Hill districts of Manipur in recent times, carried out the attack.

Of particular concern is the fact that the perpetrators were masquerading as Manipur police officers, donning Police Commando uniforms during the ambush. Subsequent investigations have revealed an unsettling photograph circulating online, depicting Meiteis dressed in Commando attire. The photograph also bears the name of the camera owner Kishan Soram.

The Meitei terrorists swiftly fled the scene following the attack, leaving behind a trail of grief and shock within the affected communities.







# THE IRONY OF WAR

War is the times of silence at home;
But loud thundering storms at frontlines.
It's the days of youngmen dying;
But the hours of old men talking.
It's the times of poormen becomes poorer;
But the richmen becomes richer.
Widows sent their only son for battlefields;
But the affluents sent their sons abroad.
The have-nots guarded their country dedicatedly;
But the haves crossed the borders for better life.

The destitutes could affords only a single meal;
But the affluents hosts luxury party every night.
It's the times when poorman lost his son in battles;
But the richman made marrying his son lavishly.

~ Seineo Kuki

