

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Haipi RELIEF CENTRE

Haipi Community Hall, Sadar Hills
(Camp Code: KPI-2-09)

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 124



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 05.02.2024



161
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

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

MANIPUR CM N. BIREN SINGH OFFERS CONTRADICTIONARY EXPLANATIONS FOR STATE VIOLENCE

N. Biren Singh, the chief instigator of unrest in Manipur, has continuously shifted his stance on the underlying causes of violence in the state since the conflict began. His fluctuating positions, ranging from accepting responsibility to blaming illegal immigrants or narco-terrorists, reflects a lack of clarity and consistency in his approach. Critics have pointed out the confusion and inconsistency in his statements, questioning the competency of his administration amidst the ongoing turmoil in Manipur.

Here are several contradictory statements made by the Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh, since the outbreak of violence on May 3, 2023:

On May 4th, shortly after the violence erupted, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh attributed the situation to misunderstanding and communication gap between communities. CM Biren Singh appealed to the people of the state to cooperate with the government to maintain law and order.

“The government is taking all the measure to maintain the law and order situation in the state. Paramilitary forces have been deployed in sensitive areas. We are committed to protecting the lives and property of all our people. Long term grievances of different communities will also be suitably addressed in due course in consultation with the people and their representatives,” he said.

However, on May 21st, he acknowledged the government’s failure to predict and control the violence, citing security lapses and intelligence failure as the contributing factors. He admitted that the present unrest in the state is due to security and intelligence lapse of the state government and stated that the government is ready to take all the blame. “Please don’t blame one other. Blame the state government,” he added.

On June 25th, Singh characterized the conflict in Manipur as a dispute between two communities, rather than between tribals and Meiteis. Chief Minister N Biren Singh on July 2 called Kuki leaders for reconciliation and peace in the strife-torn state, saying “let’s forget and forgive”, after a sea of supporters stopped him from



going to the Raj Bhavan to step down and then tore his resignation letter the previous day. Then, on August 15th, he suggested that outside elements were instigating the violence to destabilize the state and country, urging both communities to reconcile.

Despite his call for forgiveness, on October 15th, Singh claimed that the violence was actually a war against the Indian Union, implicating Myanmar and Bangladesh-based Kuki militants along with other militant groups.

In a chat with Bhabesh Sharma of TOI on October 21, Biren stated that the genesis of the unrest was planned years ago with the demand for a separate nation. Later, on December 18th, he reverted to blaming drug-mafias and illegal immigrants for the violence, also criticizing the previous government for failing to secure the state’s borders.

Consistently altering his position on the ongoing violence is not a mark of principled leadership but rather a sign of indecisiveness and lack of conviction. It reflects a failure to grasp the complexities of the situation and a tendency to prioritize personal and political expediency over genuine solutions. His behavior undermines trust and credibility, leaving observers questioning the sincerity and authenticity of his motives. Instead of providing clarity and direction, this pattern of vacillation only serves to sow confusion and erode confidence in the ability of Mr. Biren Singh to lead the state effectively.

ASSAM RIFLES OFFICIALS REFUTE MEITEI'S ACCUSATIONS OF FAVORING KUKIS

Hindustan Times has published a report on the response from serving Assam Rifles personnel on the ground and its former top commanders on the allegations by the Meiteis that they (Assam Rifles) are helping or taking sides with the Kukis in the ongoing conflict in the State.

The media house reported that serving Assam Rifles personnel on the ground and the army's former top commanders whom they spoke to believe that a variety of reasons are behind the attempts to tarnish the Assam Rifles's image, including a controversial past, a possible administrative miscalculation to post the force near Kuki areas and a false narrative set by militants from both sides.

As per the report, Lieutenant General Shokin Chauhan (retd), a former director general of the force said the call to remove the Assam Rifles from Manipur is unrealistic.

"The Assam Rifles is an all-India, all-class force and does not discriminate against any community," said Chauhan, who has also served as the chairman of the Ceasefire Monitoring Group responsible for implementing ceasefire ground rules between the Centre and Naga insurgent groups.

It is stated in the report that Lieutenant General Konsam Himalay Singh (retd) also said the latest controversy could be "historically and psychologically linked" to the past and it may have started with a security decision too.

"When the so-called buffer zones (sensitive zones) were set up last year, the Assam Rifles were mostly located closer on the side adjacent to the adjoining hills dominated by a few Kuki tribes, while CAPF/state police forces were seen alongside the valley villages. This could have also led to some affected parties perceiving the force is close to the Kukis." Himalaya told the Hindustan Times.

The report stated that Singh also attributed the controversy to the prevailing climate of suspicion,



fear and uncertainty thereby magnifying every friction on the ground. "Singh said some elements on both sides have also made attempts to portray the forces as partial and project armed civilian volunteers as saviours. The entire force shouldn't be targeted because of isolated incidents." it added.

A senior officer, who is posted in Manipur and learnt his trade operating in the Northeast also told HT that a strict teacher is not liked by the students. The officer said "We followed the law. In the initial months after the clashes erupted, Kuki militant groups, who are under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement, were not part of the violence...But the valley-based militant groups were active. When our personnel stopped such militants and chased them back, they mischievously started a narrative about the force being biased. The protests began sometime in June-July last year." the officer added.

The report added that Assam Rifles personnel said the criminal groups used women to block roads and interfere in the force's operations.

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“Women, especially the elderly, were put in front of mobs to stop the security forces. This was carefully done by the criminal elements to ensure that the forces did not reach the crime spots on time. There are so many viral photos of elderly women refusing to let the forces move ahead. Our food trucks were robbed too. At some places such women protesters even demanded identity card of the Assam Rifles personnel before letting them move in the villages. But our boys exercised restraint. There was not a single controversy,” said a second officer, who also asked not to be named.

“The residents do not have a problem. They saw how the force rescued both communities. The Assam Rifles personnel also helped people who were unwell at

the relief camps. At least four children must have been born in such relief camps. Another reason why there are protests is because the force is actively recovering drugs and weapons from the criminals,” the second officer informed HT.

As per the report, another officer said “Our force does not report to the state government. The massive crackdown on drugs by us does hurt the local criminal elements. Some of these criminal elements are influential. They want the force to be removed from Manipur. Manipur police are also not biased. But almost 90% of people in the state police will be locals so these criminal elements want to have a force where the personnel are locals.”

TWO MEITEI MILITANTS SUSTAIN INJURIES IN ATTACK ON KUKI VILLAGES

Two Meitei militants were injured in an attack on Kuki villages in Kangpokpi district on Monday evening.

Reports have stated that the injured have been shifted to a private hospital and at Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) at Imphal.

Heavy exchange of fire has been reported between Meitei militants and Kuki Village volunteers at Satang hill range under Island Block in Kangpokpi district.

The Meitei militants have been launching series of attack on Kuki villages of Satang area since February 7. Satang Kuki village, which shares the district boundary with Kangpokpi, has witnessed several incidents of gunfight since violence broke out in May last year.

The peripheral areas between the districts of Imphal East and the hill district of Kangpokpi have been witnessing skirmishes and firings in-between intervals



which show that the situation in Manipur is quite far from over.

Meitei militants have been relentlessly carrying out attack against Kuki villages which have led to several deaths since January this year.

UNION, STATE GOVERNMENTS RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE PEACE IN MANIPUR, SAYS SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH HEAD

Patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Moran Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, on Sunday, 11 February, said that it is the responsibility of the state governments and Union government to ensure peace and harmony in Manipur and that everyone, irrespective of religion, is protected under the same law.

The supreme head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church, while addressing the media on the concluding day of his official visit to the state, responded to a query on the Manipur issue and said that violence committed in the name of religion often stems from some other deeper underlying reasons.

“I am not here to judge any government, but I do know that in these kinds of fighting... using religion, usually is not religious in nature, but there may be some other underlying reasons for that. Because religion is the thing that affects people’s hearts and emotions...,” he said.

‘Separate politics and religion’

India is known for tolerance, acceptance, and peaceful coexistence for all, the patriarch said, adding that India was one of the countries that were made up of so many different religions, castes, languages, and cultures, yet comes together in harmony.

“I don’t believe religion is the only thing. It’s the responsibility of every government, be it the state or the Union government, to make sure that people live together in harmony and make sure that everyone is



protected under the same law and in the same spirit,” he said.

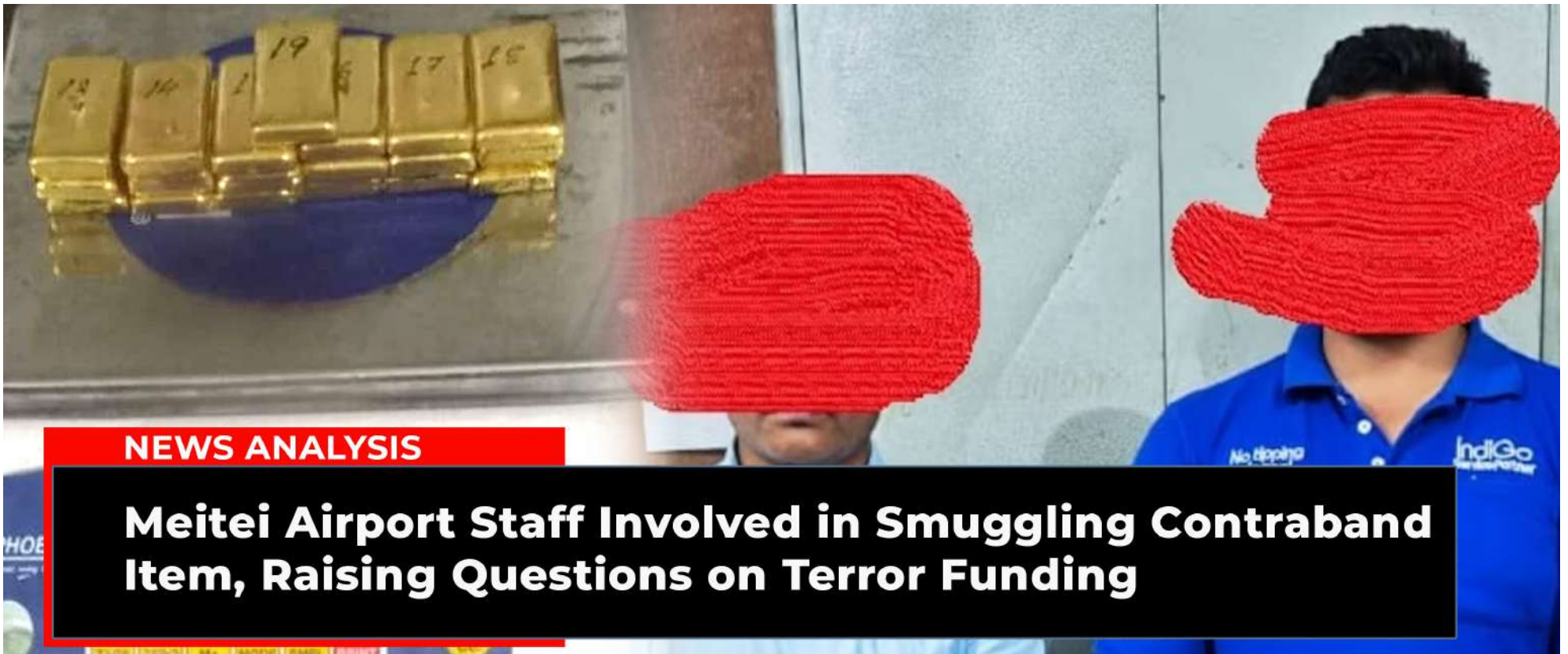
Aphrem alleged that many use religion for their political aim. However, the church has always respected the space between religion and politics, he added.

“We believe that mixing religion with politics will spoil politics, and using politics in religion will spoil religion. So it is always better to separate the two issues because these two things touch upon different aspects of the lives of people,” he added.



**Courage is resistance to fear,
mastery of fear, not absence of fear.**

- Mark Twain

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Meitei Airport Staff Involved in Smuggling Contraband Item, Raising Questions on Terror Funding**

“A perusal of the ‘Gold Smuggling Cumulative Value Of Illegal Import By Persons With Common Intention To Determine Whether Offence Bailable’ statutory provisions makes it abundantly clear that if the goods, which have been misdeclared or its duty evaded or imported illegally, have a market price of more than One Crore of rupees, the offence becomes non-bailable,” the Kerala High Court observed.

Anti-smuggling unit of the Customs division in Imphal confiscated 19 gold biscuits worth over Rs 1.99 crore from two Meiteis at Imphal International Airport on Sunday. The two have been identified as A. Minaketan Sharma of Brahamapur Aribam Leikai in Imphal East district and Maibam Priyobrata Singh of Nambol Kongkham Makha Leikai in Bishnupur district. Of the two, one is a coach driver for IndiGo Airlines. Under the relevant action of the Customs Act, 1962, the two have been arrested, and further investigation to nab other offenders of the case is ongoing.

Manipur alone contributes about 50% of Gold smuggling crimes in the northeast region of India. The anti-smuggling unit report in 2017 stated, a whopping recovery of 137.4 kg of gold, worth around Rs 40 crore, was made in Manipur alone. The recovery from the

entire northeast region amounted to 267.2 kg of gold, worth Rs 84.12 crores. With the involvement of Airport staff, it is highly possible that the smuggling is a well-organized cartel and the percentage of Manipur involvement in the crime is expected to rise than it was in 2017. The involvement of the Meitei terrorist outfits still operating in Myanmar cannot be ruled out. The organised illicit black businesses crime ranging from drugs, and guns to gold of these outfits in the state supplying it from Myanmar is an open secret.

Just to give a glimpse of the Meitei Terrorist involvement, on 21 September 2021, ANI news reported the killings of 3 PLA cadres. Their bodies were discovered dumped in a pit in neighbouring Myanmar, where the PLA have set up their bases. A senior Indian army officer said that the PLA cadres were killed by a Myanmar-based drug cartel in a clash. This was one of the many instances said, the Indian army officer. Despite the successful smuggling of drugs in India via the Northeast region, many of these groups failed to pay the money to drug cartels in Myanmar. The existence

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of other Meitei terrorist outfit bases is no secret either. Thus who is the real Narco- terrorist?

As far as the North East Smuggling Route is concerned, according to the DRI Report, 73% of the gold caught had been brought through Myanmar and Bangladesh. 37% of all the gold seized in FY22 was from Myanmar. 20% of it originated from West Asia. With the proximity of Manipur to Myanmar, it is likely the smuggled Gold must have come from the war-torn country. The continual existence of black market business with Myanmar doesn't line up with the hue and cry of the Anti -Myanmar refugee stance of the Meitei public and Biren government in general and Arambai Tenggol in particular.

Gold smuggling, widely viewed as an economic offence, has gained a criminal edge. Economic offences not only inflict pecuniary losses on individuals but also damage the national economy and have security implications as well. The offences of smuggling of narcotic substances, counterfeiting of currency and valuable securities, financial scams, frauds, gold smuggling, money laundering hawala transactions etc. evoke serious concern about their impact on national security.

The past few months are quite telling of the attitude of Meiteis on Indian Law. One can make an assumption that Criminal offences of Indian Laws, guidelines, rules and regulations must have been Meitei's favourite recreation. Ranging from the smuggling of drugs even in the capital city Delhi to the smuggling of gold, from domestic crimes to economic offences, from poaching of animals to genocide pogrom of a community, from singing lewd and defamatory songs to gang rape, from attacking religious institutions to God himself, from arson of homes to education institutions, from ransom to murder, from forceful donation to physical assault, from assaulting vegetable vendors to favouritism/

discriminatory politics of marks based on being Meitei and non-Meitei, and the list goes on. They left no stone unturned to break and disregard Indian Laws but still got the audacity to generalize the illegal activities of a few to defame the whole community as narco-terrorists as if there ain't a society where rotten apples didn't exist. However, there is only a handful of communities where a majority of the community unanimously resorts to breaking laws, the Meitei community is an example.

Where is the money if the Kukis are Narco-terrorist? They should not have been affected had they been into an organised drug cartel that sponsors terrorism. The plight of those in relief centres, employees of unorganized sectors, daily wage labourers, the number of dropouts from schools and colleges, the tally of deaths due to unavailability of proper medical facilities and economic resources, the ever-increasing numbers of children helping their parents to sell fruits and vegetables and the sorry state of their kitchen and maintenance of most household since the advent of 3rd May genocide pogrom says otherwise. Thus one cannot help but question on seeing the ground reality as to if Narco-terrorist is a tag to blindside Indians and the world to shield the alienation of Kukis and their lands from development funds by the State government, and from the helping hand of central government, NGOs, international organisations and other Indian states? It is possible since the pogrom is a state-sponsored one.

Thus, Meiteis should first take the log out of their own eye before preaching on the speck of another's eye. Hypocrisy won't wash away one of his crimes. People might suffer a little setback due to one's lie and defamation but they should know Satyamev Jayate or Truth alone triumphs.



Why This Nero Attitude to Manipur?

Through the nine months of ethnic violence and social and political polarisation, Manipur has been sliding into anarchy and a situation where a return to normalcy seems to be difficult in the near future.

The social division between the Meitei in the plains and the Kuki in the hills has turned into a hostile relationship and the militant and extremist elements and organisations on both sides are setting the agenda.

The plains and the hills have become exclusive domains of the respective communities, and neither the Meitei nor the Kuki can think of visiting the other side. The writ of the state government of Chief Minister Biren Singh does not run in the Kuki areas.

The government is seen as the government of the Meitei. The media has also divided itself on ethnic and communal lines. Every institution of democracy is either ineffective or lacking in credibility. At least 208 people have been killed and over 50,000 people have been displaced since May last year. Most schools are not working and life is not normal in most areas.

The attendance at a meeting called by a Meitei extremist organisation, Arambai Tenggol, in Imphal last week is an indication of the extent of loss of control of the government over the situation. At least 36 legislators from the Meitei community belonging to all parties attended the meeting, many on their own and some under threat, at the Kangla Fort, which is seen as the traditional seat of Meitei power.

They signed a pledge supporting the Arambai's main demands, including the abrogation of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki militants, deportation of refugees from Myanmar to neighbouring Mizoram, implementation of a National Register of Citizens with 1951 as the base year, erecting a fence along the Myanmar border, and removal of Kuki immigrants from the Scheduled Tribe list.

This will make a reconciliation with the Kuki community impossible. It has, in effect, declared Manipur as a Meitei state. The Meitei conduct and attitudes are reciprocated in the Kuki areas, and it is difficult to see how the twain can meet.

Killings continue, and there are frequent outbreaks of violence. The state government, which virtually identifies itself with the Meitei, is part of the problem.

The Centre has adopted a hands-off policy, though it has taken over the law and order situation. The divisions in society have affected perceptions about the security forces also, with the central forces, including the Army, and the state police seen to be representing opposite interests.

The arms looted from the state armouries are still in circulation. A part of the country is imploding and there is no effort to salvage it.

Source: [Deccan Herald](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

This is from the India Today survey where every single detail is buried under the rah-rah headlines.

On Manipur, even the people know, overwhelmingly, what needs to be done and what the Modi govt has not done for the past nine months.

12:21 AM · Feb 12, 2024 · 6,031 Views

Pauboi Kuki_Zo
@pbkhuptong

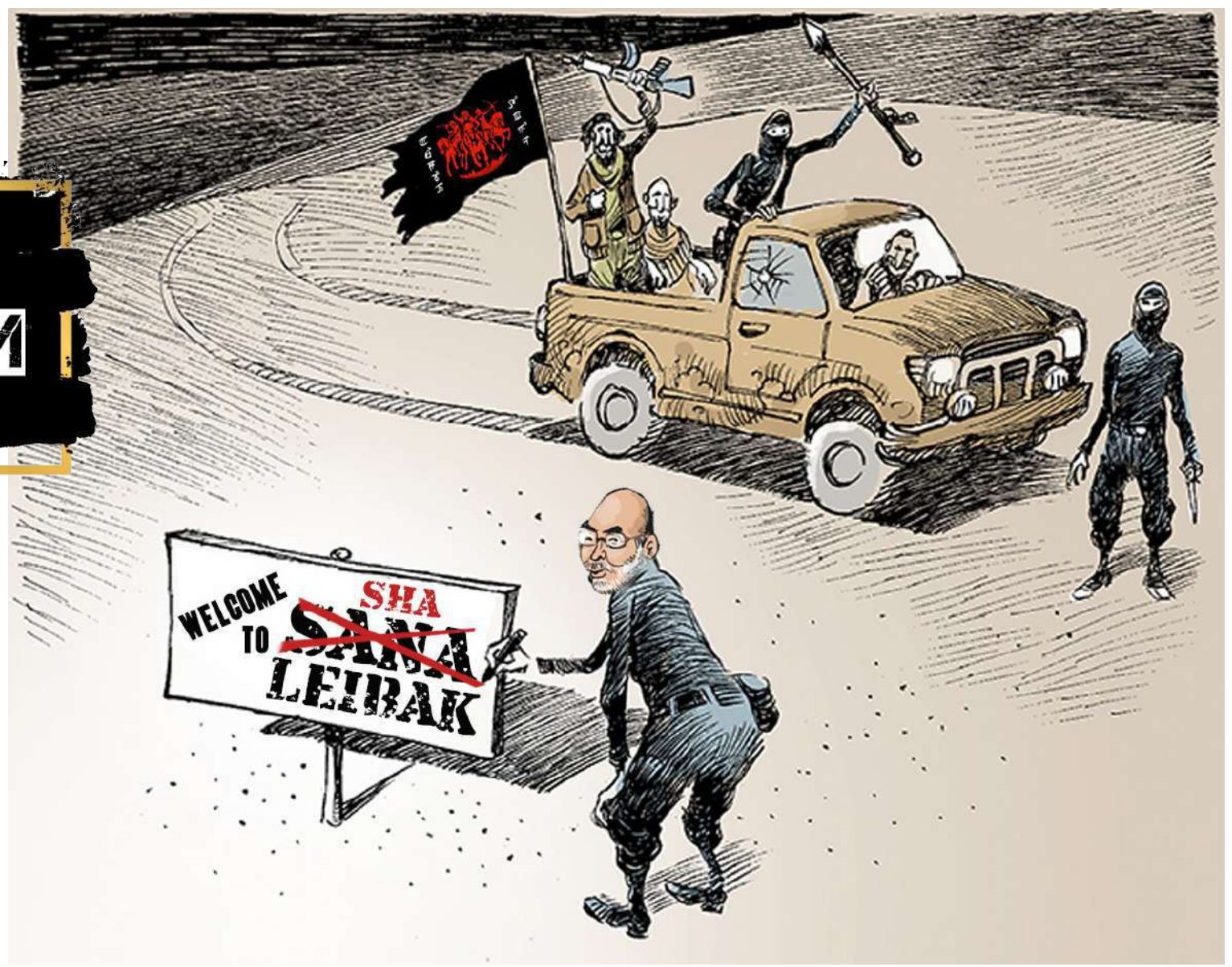
Brothers from Nagaland Indigenous people's Forum Nagaland Inviting Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal, Manipur for discussion on FMR reconsideration and Border Fencing. It's a very good steps.



11:30 AM · Feb 12, 2024 · 15.3K Views

Post MORTEM

THE ARTIST OF SHA LEIBAK





Letter to the Heavenly Abode

O Divine Architect of Heaven,
Whose hand molded the earth,
Amidst the turmoil and war,
With heavy hearts,
battle scars we bear.

With humble voice, we seek
Thy love; all sorrow release,
The grace, all suffering fade.

Forgive us, Lord, for time astray,
Thy children walk the road to war,
Seeking thy guidance for battle's roar.
Help us bear these weights
Against the tide of sinners,
Restore thy lasting peace,
Shower down thy blessings.

Let alone war to cease,
Grant us our prayer:
The promised land.

- Lungouthang Singson

