

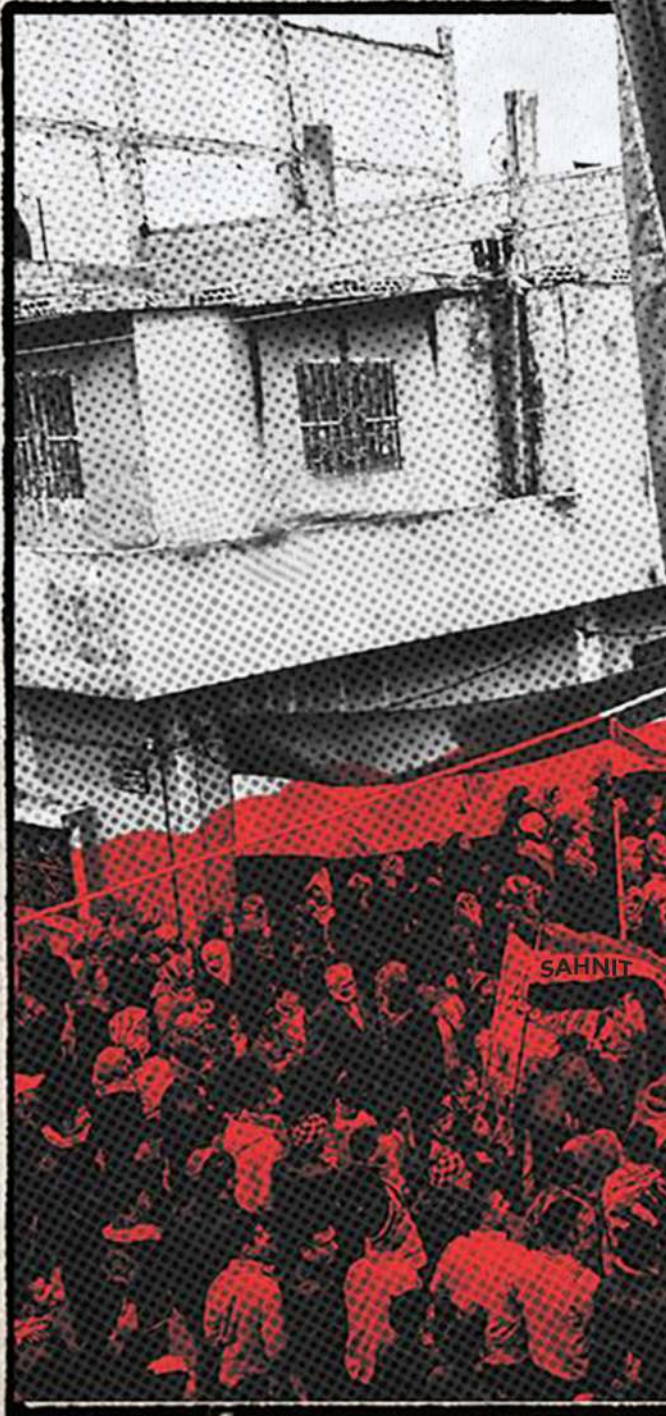
Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



KUKI BLACK DAY

“Lest we Forget”
Seeking justice
for the departed
souls since '90s



SAHNIT



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 09.09.2024



199
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.

KSO-GHQ CONDEMNS MEDIA BIAS, CALLS FOR FACT-BASED REPORTING AND SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION

The Kuki Students' Organization General Headquarters, the apex Kuki student body, has publicly condemned recent media coverage, accusing national news outlets of bias and misinformation regarding the ongoing ethnic conflict in the region. The group's statement highlights alleged discrepancies in the reporting of incidents involving the Kuki-Zo community and calls for a fact-based approach to journalism.

Of late, few national news TV channels and print newspapers seem to have been swayed by the false statements of the Meitei-led Manipur government and the misleading narratives of secessionist Meitei people since the Koutruk incident on September 1, 2024, and the Moirang incident on September 6, 2024, where the Kuki-Zo were accused of using drone bombs and rocket missiles, respectively, a statement issued by the Kuki apex student body said on September 13.

In contrast to the hue and cry, the initial investigation into the Koutruk incident by the authorities—including the post-mortem and the recorded video of the procedure in the presence of an executive magistrate—shows that Ms. Surbala was unfortunately hit by a stray bullet to the head, not by alleged bomb splinters dropped by drones. Regarding the Moirang incident, it is part of an ongoing violent ethnic conflict between the two communities that has been continuing since May 3, 2023. The incident involved a retaliatory action by a Kuki-Zo village volunteer, who used an indigenously made "PUMPI," a type of cannon, rather than a rocket or missile.

The baseless and unfounded accusations against the Kukis made by the Government of Manipur, without any substantial evidence, are not new. Any statements issued by the state department under the leadership of the Meitei Chief Minister regarding the current conflict must be verified for authenticity. Due to the de facto separation between Kuki-Zo and Meiteis in various spheres—such as restricted access to areas, the



inability of our elected representatives to attend the State Legislative Assembly, and the removal of Kuki-Zo bureaucrats from the Manipur Secretariat and Police Headquarters—we do not trust the state government. In fact, it is the Kuki-Zo people who have faced persecution from secessionist Meitei rapists for many years; it was the Kuki-Zo's endurance and tolerance that kept Manipur at peace until May 3, 2023. The Meitei secessionist Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), particularly the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), initially operated from the Kuki Hills of Manipur during the early years of their revolutionary movement. Later, the UNLF, in blatant disregard for Kuki landowners, declared the Sajik Tampak area in Chandel District as a "UNLF Liberated Zone." Kukis were forced to act as porters, and highly regarded Kuki chiefs were subjected to torture and exploitation. For instance, on the night of January 16, 2006, militants belonging to the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) at Parbung and Lungthulien Hmar villages in the Tipaimukh sub division in Manipur's Churachandpur district, armed with sophisticated weapons dragged the people of Lungthulien to a central place and beat them up mercilessly. Four hundred and two people were beaten and tortured, while 15 girls and women aged between 12 and 27 were either raped or molested.

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As the Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) continue their atrocities against the Kuki-Zo people in the Hills of Manipur and the Meitei secessionist revolutionary movement gains significant momentum, there have been several notable military operations. In January 2006, the Indian Army's 57 Mountain Division, under the aegis of 3 Corps, launched an intense operation code-named "Operation Dagnet" to clear the two subdivisions in southern Manipur—Parbung and Thanlon—along NH 150 in Churachandpur district of the secessionist Meitei insurgent group stronghold. In December 2006, the Indian Army's 10 Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Battalion and the Assam Rifles conducted a vigorous offensive under the code name "Operation Khengjoi (Somtal-I)" to eliminate the presence of the UNLF in the Khengjoi-Somtal area of Chandel District. Innocent Kuki-Zo villagers in the Dingpi area of Chandel District endured immense torture, and many were killed by Meitei militants for reasons known only to them. Until May 3, 2023, the planting of IED landmines by the UNLF in Kuki areas of Chandel District as they retreated towards Myanmar was not fully comprehended. Although these IED landmines were ostensibly planted for Indian forces, they were actually intended for Kuki villagers. Since 2001, more than 40 Kuki villagers have been killed in such landmine explosions in Khengjoi Block of Chandel District, which borders Myanmar, and many others have been maimed for life. Survivors of these incidents can testify to the acts of terrorism perpetrated by the UNLF and other VBIGs in the Kuki hills. This overlooked and unresolved issue of universally banned IED landmines must be addressed by the Government of India before any further peace dialogue with the UNLF.

During "Operation Somtal-II," valley-based militant outfits operating in the border areas of Chandel district have forcibly driven innocent villagers into grouping centers at their convenience, using them as human shields in counter-insurgency operations in Somtal. The militants have displaced people from Khengjoi, JM Moljol, Sijang, Old Samtal, S Bungpi, S Bongjoi, and Toitung, gathering them at Molcham, Twileng, New Somtal, Jangnomphai, and Lajang villages for use as human shields. Some villagers were taken as forced labourers, and their whereabouts remain unknown to this day. The counter-insurgency operation Somtal-II was seen as a "ray of hope" and a new "lease of life" from the Central government to the beleaguered, innocent, and indigenous Kuki-Zo people of Chandel district. Without the presence of Central Para Military Forces and the Assam Rifles in the hill districts of Manipur, particularly in the Kuki hills, the majority Meiteis and their secessionist militant underground groups would have likely enslaved the Kuki-Zo people long ago. Reflecting on past incidents, the atrocities and hatred towards the Kuki-Zo people by secessionist Meitei militants have reached a level of severity that surpasses tolerance, making coexistence with these militants increasingly untenable.

For lasting peace, it is essential for the Kuki-Zo people to live separately as good neighbors under a distinct administrative unit, such as a Union Territory.



**Injustice in the end produces
independence.**

-Voltaire

KUKI INPI MANIPUR DENOUNCES FALSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FORMER ASSAM RIFLES DG LT. GEN. PC NAIR

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has issued a strong condemnation of the recent baseless and misleading allegations made by the Meitei Heritage Society, DeMaS, and NUPI, Delhi, against Lt. Gen. PC Nair, a distinguished military leader and former Director General of Assam Rifles. KIM has described these allegations as unfounded and an attack on both Lt. Gen. Nair's reputation and the Assam Rifles, intended to distract from the ongoing crises in Manipur.

KIM highlighted that the violence in Manipur, which has heavily impacted the Kuki-Zo people, has been exacerbated by misinformation spread by these organizations. This violence has resulted in devastating losses:

- 199 deaths
- Over 200 villages burned
- More than 7,000 houses destroyed
- Over 360 churches and synagogues reduced to ashes
- 41,425+ people displaced

KIM stated that these tragic figures are a direct result of the irresponsible and divisive rhetoric from groups aiming to perpetuate hatred and stoke communal tensions rather than promote peace and reconciliation.

Kuki Inpi Manipur has called on the Government of India to urgently investigate the actions of these groups, urging agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to look into their role in spreading falsehoods that destabilize the region. KIM has demanded an immediate retraction of the allegations and a public apology to Lt. Gen. PC Nair, while urging the Government to take decisive action to prevent further dissemination of harmful disinformation.



Ref. No. 04/KIM/PR./22-78

Date: 12-09-2024

Denouncing False Allegations by Meitei Heritage Society, DeMaS, and NUPI, Delhi Against Lt. Gen. PC Nair, Former DG of Assam Rifles

No. 04/KIM/PR./22-78: Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) strongly condemns the baseless and misleading statements made by the Meitei Heritage Society, DeMaS, and NUPI, Delhi, against Lt. Gen. PC Nair, a distinguished military leader and former DG of Assam Rifles. These fabricated allegations, devoid of any credible evidence, are not only a direct attack on Lt. Gen. Nair's reputation but is an attack on the Assam Rifles, designed to distract people from the real issues that continues to plague Manipur.

The ongoing violence in Manipur, which has devastated the Kuki-Zo people, has been fueled by the spread of misinformation by dubious organizations such as these. Their sole aim seems to be the perpetuation of hatred and the stoking of communal tensions, rather than contributing to peace and reconciliation. The impact of this violence on the Kuki-Zo community is well documented, with heartbreaking statistics that paint a stark picture:

- 199 deaths
- 200+ villages burnt
- 7,000+ houses destroyed
- 360+ churches and synagogues reduced to ashes
- 41,425+ people displaced

It is evident that these tragic losses have been exacerbated by the irresponsible rhetoric and false narratives being pushed by these organizations. By falsely accusing Lt. Gen. Nair of disregarding facts and questioning the role of the Assam Rifles, these groups are deflecting attention from the atrocities being committed against the Kuki-Zo people.

The Government of India must urgently intervene to investigate the activities of these malicious organizations. We call upon central agencies such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the involvement of these groups in spreading falsehoods and destabilizing the region. Their reckless actions are endangering the lives of civilians and undermining the efforts of the security forces who are striving to restore peace in Manipur.

Kuki Inpi Manipur demands that these fabricated allegations be withdrawn and that an apology be issued to Lt. Gen. PC Nair. We also urge the Government to take swift action to prevent further dissemination of harmful disinformation that continues to fuel violence and suffering.

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KIM remains committed to advocating for justice and highlighting the suffering of the Kuki-Zo community. The organization reiterated that these recent actions only strengthen their call for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people, reflecting their belief that peaceful coexistence with the Meitei community is no longer viable.

THINGKHO LE MALCHA CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF COMBATING MISINFORMATION WITH NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

Thingkho Le Malcha (TLM), the prominent mouthpiece of the Kuki Students' Organization, marked its one-year anniversary with the launch of its official website at a ceremony held yesterday at Le Zara Hotel. The event, attended by notable Kukis leaders and student representatives, was a significant milestone for the organization, which has been at the forefront of challenging misleading narratives about the Kuki-Zo community.

The new website, accessible at thingkholemalcha.com, aims to enhance TLM's capacity to disseminate accurate information and counteract the false reports and biases propagated by certain media outlets. The launch event was graced by Sholet Lhungdim, Kumpipa of Kuki Inpi, who emphasized the importance of truth in both wartime and political contexts. Lhungdim praised TLM's commitment to exposing the truth amid attempts by some to obscure it.

"Despite the attempts to suppress the truth and mislead the public, Thingkho Le Malcha has steadfastly worked to present the real facts and challenge the biased narratives propagated by Meitei-controlled media," Lhungdim stated. He extended his appreciation to the TLM team for their relentless efforts over the past year.

The event also featured a dedicatory prayer by Rev. Dr. J. Lamboi Haokip, and saw a strong turnout from various Kuki student organizations, including the Zomi Students' Federation, Hmar Students' Association, and Zou Sangnaupang Pawlpi. Speakers at the event commended TLM for its role in providing factual reporting and correcting misleading information about the Kukis.

Since its establishment on September 12, 2023, TLM has made a significant impact by debunking several misleading narratives about the Kuki community. Its rigorous fact-checking and reporting have made it



a target of Meiteis, leading to an FIR being filed against the publication at Heingang Police Station by those displeased – the Meiteis, with its work. The publication has been pivotal in addressing biased media coverage of the Kuki-Zo community, particularly manipulative, bias and one-sided news coverage of Imphal-based media outlets. The new website is for bolstering TLM's ability to reach a broader audience and further its mission of promoting truthful and unbiased reporting.

KUKI-ZO WOMEN'S FORUM CONDEMNS FALSE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST LT. GEN. PC NAIR

The Kuki-Zo Women's Forum Delhi & NCR has issued a strong condemnation against the recent press release by the Meitei Heritage Society, DeMaS, and NUPI, Delhi, which contains what they describe as "false and baseless allegations" targeting Lt. Gen. PC Nair, former Director General of Assam Rifles, over the alleged misuse of drones in the Manipur conflict.

In their statement, the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum denounced the attempts by these organizations to malign Lt. Gen. Nair's esteemed reputation without any substantive evidence. The Forum emphasized that such unfounded claims reflect poorly on the credibility of the accusers and are a clear attempt to manipulate public opinion for political gain.

"It is deeply troubling to see these politically motivated groups attacking a respected military veteran with fabricated allegations. Lt. Gen. Nair's distinguished service to the nation is well-documented, and these attempts to discredit him are both unjust and misleading," stated a spokesperson from the Forum.

The Forum has called on the Government of India to take immediate action against these organizations for spreading what they deem as dangerous misinformation. They have urged central investigative agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to conduct a thorough investigation into these entities to address the spread of falsehoods and protect the reputation of distinguished individuals.

The statement also criticized the organizations for their alleged lies regarding drone usage and missile



strikes, asserting that such claims are baseless and designed to distract from the real issues faced by the Kuki-Zo community. The Forum challenged these groups to provide verifiable evidence for their accusations and condemned the unethical use of KSO leaders' names to promote these fabrications.

Furthermore, the Forum highlighted the selective targeting of Kuki-Zo leaders while ignoring state-sponsored violence and atrocities committed by militant factions. They accused these groups of attempting to vilify and discredit those advocating for truth in the ongoing Manipur conflict.

In conclusion, the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum has called for immediate government intervention to halt the spread of malicious propaganda and ensure that the organizations responsible for these defamatory statements are held accountable. They stressed the need for respect towards public figures and institutions like the Assam Rifles, which should not be subjected to unwarranted attacks based on misleading narratives.

KUKI INPI JIRIBAM REBUTS ALLEGATIONS BY JIRI APUNBA LUP, CALLS FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

The Kuki-Zo community's top body Kuki Inpi Jiribam, Tamenglong and Noney vehemently rebutted the allegations of Jiri Apunba Lup, accusing Kuki militants of attacking Meitei villages, terming it as misleading, accusing Jiri Apunba Lup of deliberately distorting the truth and vilifying the Kuki-Zo community.

They argue that the narrative serves to deflect attention from the real perpetrators of violence—Meitei terrorists and their state-backed allies, outlining the following points in response to the allegations.

1. Violation of the Jiribam Peace Agreement:

The Kuki top body claims that the first peace agreement between Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities in Jiribam was violated by Meitei terrorists and their sympathizers. They highlight that Kuki-Zo villages have been under continuous attack since the signing of the agreement. The peace deal was shattered when Seigoulen Singson was abducted and brutally murdered on May 14, 2024, allegedly by Meitei extremists, which the Kuki-Zo community cites as a clear disregard for peace.

2. State-Backed Assaults on Kuki-Zo Villages:

Despite the presence of security forces, the Kuki top body accuse Meitei terrorists of continuing their assaults on Kuki-Zo villages without repercussions. They report that Mongbung and Sejang villages in Jiribam have faced nightly bombardments for over a week, with little response from the state administration. They also allege discriminatory distribution of aid, claiming that while Meitei villagers receive assistance, displaced Kuki-Zo persons are left without basic humanitarian support.

3. UNLF-MPA Terrorists Disguised as "Village Volunteers":

Kuki Inpi criticized the Jiri Apunba Lup and Manipur Police for portraying UNLF-MPA terrorist sergeant Baspatimayum Heithoiba as a "village volunteer." They argue that such misrepresentations manipulate public sentiment and escalate tensions. Even the UNLF-MPA has identified Heithoiba as a member, making his portrayal as an innocent civilian misleading and dangerous.



4. Murder of Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers:

The Kuki's top body condemned the murder of four Kuki-Zo village volunteers on September 7, 2024, allegedly by Meitei terrorists. They noted the silence of Jiri Apunba Lup on this issue, arguing that the group's selective outrage demonstrates bias and tacit support for violence against the Kuki-Zo people.

5. Condemnation of Attacks on CRPF and Civilians:

The Kuki Inpi Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney condemned an attack on CRPF personnel at Thangbuh on September 8, reportedly carried out by the Meitei separatist group G5. The attack led to the death of Nengjakhoh Lhungdim, a civilian and mother of an Indian Army soldier. The Kuki-Zo leaders accuse Jiri Apunba Lup of ignoring such acts of violence while focusing on false allegations.

Given the ongoing violence, selective aid, and media manipulation, the Kuki-Zo community has called for the establishment of a separate administration for their people. They urge the Government of India to take decisive action to protect the Kuki-Zo community and ensure justice for victims of the ongoing conflict. The Kuki-Zo leaders insist that the truth must be acknowledged and acted upon to end the cycle of violence and secure a peaceful future for their community.

SAHILCA CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON THANGBUH VILLAGE AND CRPF CAMP, CALLS FOR REINSTATEMENT OF AFSPA

The Sadar Hills Chiefs' Association (SAHILCA) strongly condemned the recent attacks on Thangbuh village and the CRPF camp at Laimaton Thangbuh village. The attacks were allegedly carried out by cadres of the KYKL, operating under the G5 alliance, which includes five valley-based banned Meitei insurgent groups: UNLF(K), KYKL(O), PREPAK, KCP, and KYKL(S).

The assault led to the burning of houses and the tragic death of Nengjakhoh Lhungdim, a 46-year-old resident of Thangbuh village. SAHILCA described this act as part of a series of ongoing attacks against central forces and paramilitary units working to maintain peace and protect Kuki-Zo villages in peripheral areas.

Since the onset of violence in May 2023, attacks have intensified, which SAHILCA attributes to the state government's decision to withdraw the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from 19 police stations

across seven districts of the Imphal Valley, a month before the unrest began. The association claims this move has hindered security forces' ability to counter insurgent threats, allowing banned groups to operate with impunity.

SAHILCA demands the immediate reinstatement of AFSPA in the valley to restore order and deter further violence. The association urges authorities to take swift action against those responsible for these heinous acts.

"We stand resolutely for the protection of our people and will not relent in our fight for justice," said Haokholen Kipgen, President of SAHILCA. "We call on all concerned parties to support this cause and take a firm stand against those who seek to disrupt peace in our land", he added.



This is B. Phainom village, where two Kuki women were paraded naked. The village has now completely disappeared:

B. Phainom: 3, May 2023 B. Phainom: After 500 Days



11:53 · 13 Sept 24 · 4,735 Views



Why are you such a habitual liar @nsitharaman ? The Naga MP from Manipur Alfred Arthur was prevented from speaking before the PM by YOUR speaker. He is the one started protesting for not being allowed to speak as the only Tribal MP from Manipur



From Polimer News

13:49 · 13 Sept 24 · 1,350 Views

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MANIPUR VIOLENCE: CENTRE GIVES INQUIRY COMMISSION MORE TIME TO SUBMIT REPORT

A three-member Commission of Inquiry formed last year to investigate the series of violence in Manipur has been now given time till November 20 by the Centre, according to a notification issued by the Union home ministry on Friday.

The Commission of Inquiry, headed by former chief justice of the Gauhati high court, Ajai Lamba, was set up on June 3, 2023. The panel, also comprising retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Alok Prabhakar, was mandated to make inquiry with respect of the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur since May 3, 2023.

The commission was supposed to submit its report to the central government "as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting".

According to the fresh notification: "The Commission shall submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than the 20th November, 2024".

According to the terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry, it would probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relating to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities/ individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots.

The inquiry by the commission shall look into the complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association.

According to the June 4, 2023 notification of the home ministry, large scale violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023 and as a result of the violence, many residents of the state lost their lives and several others got seriously injured.

Their houses and properties were burnt down as a



result of arson and many of them were rendered homeless, it said.

The notification said the government of Manipur recommended on May 29, 2023 for institution of Judicial Inquiry Commission to look into the causes and associated factors of the crisis and the unfortunate incidents happened on May 3, 2023 and afterwards under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

On the recommendation of the government of Manipur, the central government is of the opinion that it is necessary to appoint a commission of inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into a definite matter of public importance, namely, incidents of violence in Manipur, it said.

Manipur has been witnessing sporadic violence ever since ethnic clashes broke out on May 3. The ethnic violence first broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

Source: Hindustan Times



OPINION

Why the Kuki-Meitei War Cannot be Compared to the Kuki - Manipur Naga Conflict

In recent months, comparisons have been drawn between the present Kuki-Meitei Conflict in Manipur to the Kuki-Naga Conflict of the 1990s. This was started by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi while answering his critics in the Indian Parliament. He said in effect that wars of that scale had happened earlier too in Manipur and that it had lasted more than 5 years. This seems to be an attempt to divert the criticism that the Prime Minister had not visited Manipur even after one year of conflict. Recently, the former Director General of Assam Rifles Lieutenant General P.C. Nair drew similar comparisons of the current conflict with the Kuki-Naga conflict and seemed to even suggest that the former was more deadly. These remarks might convince an outsider but a keen observer of both these conflicts knows very well how different the two are. The current Manipur conflict is unparalleled not just in the Northeast but in Independent India.

The parallel drawn between the two conflicts is wrong in many ways. Let's look back at the 1990s' conflict. It's undeniable that the Kuki-Naga conflict lasted roughly from 1993 to 1997 till the time the NSCN-IM signed a ceasefire with the Government of India. In fact, the psychological effects of the war lasted much longer, and though casualties were there on both sides, the loss on the Kuki side was much higher. Kukis lost about a 1000 souls, had to abandon most of their villages in Tamenglong and Ukhrul districts, and about 360 Kuki

villages (big, small, and very small) were turned into ashes. As for the Nagas, they had to abandon their settlements in Moreh and Kangpokpi towns and a few of their villages were burnt. Their total death could be a hundred or two. In a sense, it was a one-sided war like the current Kuki-Meitei conflict but in many ways, it was very different.

Firstly, in the Kuki-Naga conflict, the state government was not outrightly supporting one side. Though Rishang Keishing, a Tangkhul Naga, was the Chief Minister of Manipur during most of the conflict, since the state machinery was dominated by Meiteis, the involvement of the state was limited. In fact, Rishang was not seen making hate speeches or changing narratives every month the way Biren Singh is doing. Nor did Rishang allow State Armouries to be looted or ordered bombardment of Kuki areas. The state capital Imphal functioned normally and every community had access to all state institutions and hospitals. The most important thing was that the State Police was neutral and there was nothing like the Kuki Police and Naga police the way things are now. Meiteis being the most dominant in the state were neutral and therefore, could influence much of the functioning of the state. In contrast,

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in the Meitei-Kuki conflict, since the Meiteis control most of the state machinery, it has become a conflict where the Meiteis, the entire state machinery including Manipur Commandos and Secretariat officers are on one side and the Kukis on the other.

Secondly, in the Kuki-Meitei issue, the conglomeration of Meitei Society groups, the COCOMI and another armed group, the Meitei Leepun explicitly declared “War on the Kukis”. Pramot Singh of Meitei Leepun even threatened that the Kukis would be wiped clean from 15 kms square bordering the Valley areas. Such open declaration of war by Civil Societies didn’t happen during the Kuki-Naga Conflict.

Thirdly, in the Kuki-Naga conflict, not all the people were brainwashed to hate each other. In fact, it was seen mostly as an excess of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Issac-Muivah) faction or the NSCN-IM. The war was initially seen as a fallout between the NSCN-IM and the Kuki National Army over control of the Kuki town of Moreh because of its lucrative trade, both in legal and illegal goods. It’s another matter that, like many other conflicts, it soon started affecting most Kukis and Nagas in Manipur. In Nagaland, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) faction, which is the rival faction of NSCN-IM, gave protection to the Kukis. The Naga National Council led by General Phovezo set up a camp in Kuki areas to protect them from NSCN-IM. The Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri S.C. Jamir also tried his best to give protection to the minority Kukis by placing police camps in sensitive villages. Jamir did this at great personal risk and the attempts on his life by NSCN-IM might not be altogether unrelated to this though there were other reasons too.

Even in the most violent days of the Kuki-Naga conflict, there were pockets where people from both parties would come together for prayer. In Manipur, many Kukis and Nagas still functioned under the same Manipur Baptist Convention, with members from both tribes even assembling together in some churches atleast in Imphal. In the town of Mao where many Kukis were waylaid and killed, a Kuki Reverend even went

to preach in a Mao Church and his message cut ice leading to a great reduction in killings in that town. The church therefore still remained a unifying force even in the worst days. In contrast, there is no common ground where Kuki and Meitei can come together today. The fact that Armabai Tengol even burnt Meitei Churches means that the small channel of dialogue between Kukis and the few Christian groups among Meiteis is also gone. Its another matter that Christian Meiteis would not be even taken seriously by the other Sanamahi and Hindu sections.

Kukis of Imphal were the ones closest to the Meiteis. In fact, some would even accuse them of becoming Meitei-like in their lifestyle and thinking. Incidentally, since the Kukis of Imphal turned out to be the greatest victims of this war, and they being the influential ones in Kuki society, any reconciling movewith the Meities seem all the more difficult. Earlier, Meitei intellectuals like Pradip Phanjoubam, Yambem Laba, and Babloo Loitangbam were respected figures even amongst the Kukis. However, people like Pradip ended up creating false narratives against Kukis just before the war and Yambem lost all his respect for his ultra-Meitei nationalist speeches. Babloo is seen as too impartial even by Meiteis and his word might not carry weight amongst them. TV actors like Kaiku and Bala were more popular among Kukis than Ratan Theyam but Bala was seen calling for blood against Kukis while Kaiku was with his gun in the frontline-hoping to score political gains. Thus, we can see that there is now very little scope for ambassadors of peace and it also kind of show how much polarised the society has become. The brainwashing of Meiteis’ mind against Kukis looks similar to the Nazi propaganda which was not present during the Kuki-Naga conflict. Similarly, on the Kuki side also, when two Kuki MLAs allegedly had a chance meeting with Biren in Guwahati (which Biren trumpeted in Imphal), the Kukis were up in arms against their MLAs. One MLA was even

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threatened by Kuki Volunteers.

Another major difference between the two conflicts is that the Kukis could still go to the capital city Imphal during the Kuki-Naga conflict. If Kukis could not go to Ukhrul or Tamenglong earlier, or vice versa Nagas in Churachandpur, it did not affect the normal functioning of the Kukis and Nagas to a large extent because the State Administration was headquartered in Imphal. Today, the Meitei-dominated city of Imphal is out of bounds for the Kukis in the same way the Kuki hills are out of bounds for the Meiteis. For the first time in Independent India, there is a Line of Control within a state between two communities. With the kind of polarised hate campaigns against Kukis, it is unlikely that Kukis would ever return to Imphal. The importance of a Capital city cannot be overstated. In such a scenario, it is only logical that Kukis would demand Separate Administration and any sane person will know why it's no longer a choice but a necessity.

Some might wonder how Kukis with one-third of the population of Meiteis are able to fight back. The answer is that though the Meiteis are using every state machinery, the Kukis are holding on because it's a fight for survival; it's also a fight for one's dignity after all the lies and propagandas that have been spread. With Biren Singh still comfortable in his Chair, and the Central Government more concerned about the Ukraine-Russia war, the only thing that might become similar between the Kuki-Naga conflict and the Kuki-Meitei War is that it might be a long-drawn war. Contrary to media reports, no foreign power is yet known to be involved in the current conflict. However, the longer the war lasts the greater the chances of China putting its hand inside India's kitchen which will eventually be a far greater headache for India



zdr/few

Everybody's Wanted Man



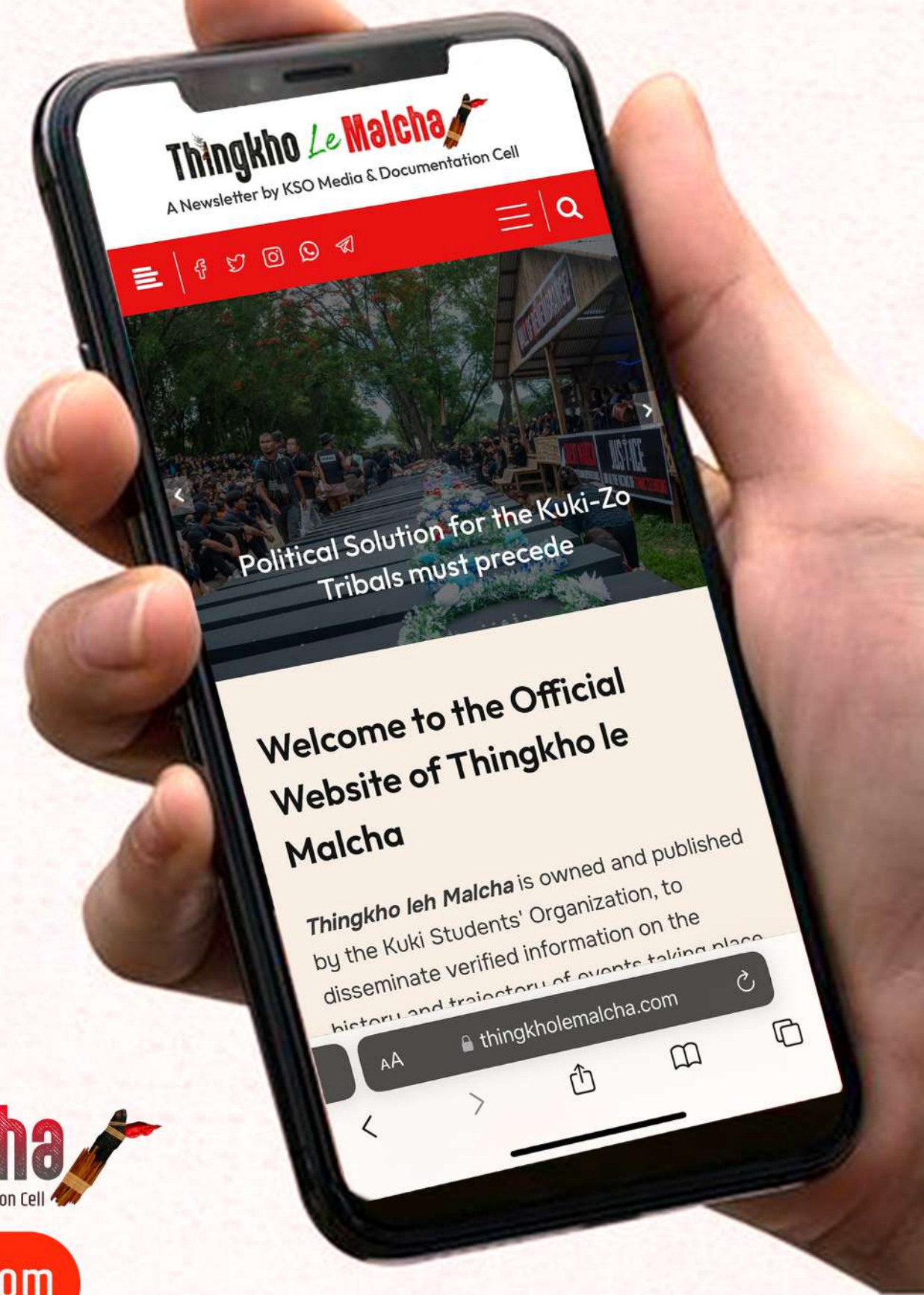
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WE MUST FIGHT ON EVEN AFTER OUR SPARROWS HAS GONE!

The hardest thing for a man is -
To watch his son struggling for his last breathe,
From the moment he first held him in his arms,
He had a high hopes on him, a bright future!
Every boy dreamt of becoming a true son of his father,
But, his dreams are blown away like a leaf by the winds!

The hardest thing for a woman is -
To watch her daughter being stripped off and raped!
From the moment she bore her into this life,
She had high hopes on her, a bright future!
Every girl dreamt of marrying a prince as in fairy tales,
But, that dreamt of hers shattered like a broken glasses!

We may say - what's still left behind with us?
When our sons and daughters are no more!
Our mouth is too dry to speak or sing,
Our hands and legs are too numb to move,
We don't have the will and thrill to live on!
Even the sunshine is too dimmed to brighten us!

But, thoughts of hope came into my mind,
That, neither our sons nor our daughter would like -
'The gloomy attitude of ours trying to give up - end of hopes'
They would rather wants us to fight - till the end no matter what!
So, let's awake and rise up, for there's more battle to fight!
This is our battle; not yours or mine alone but it's ours!

~ Hillsman J. Tearsworth