

Thingkho Le Malcha


A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



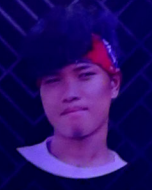
A Candlelight Vigil
Against the inhumanity of Meiteis, exposing their barbarism and depravity on defenceless corpses.

CANDLES OF SOLIDARITY

IN HONOR OF OUR INNOCENT DEPARTED SOULS



KAMLENGSAT LUNKIM



KAMMINLAL LUPHENG

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
WALL OF REMEMBRANCE
Peace Ground, Tuibong
14th April, 2024 (Sunday)

Pray for the victim
Pray for their families
Pray for Separate Administration



MEITEIS' BRUTAL MUTILATION OF KUKI BRAVE MARTYRS



Mr. Kamlengsat Lunkim (25 years) & Mr. Kamminlal Lupheng (23 years)



WE SALUTE YOUR SUPREME SACRIFICE IN DEFENCE OF OUR ANCESTRAL LAND AND FREEDOM



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.04.2024



173
DEATHS



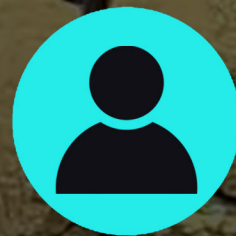
200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

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

KUKI BODIES CONDEMN INHUMANE ACTS, BRUTAL MURDER OF TWO KUKI YOUTHS BY MEITEIS

Following the inhumane act perpetrated by the Meiteis towards two Kuki individuals on Saturday, condemnation poured in from various kuki bodies.

Kuki bodies including Kuki Inpi Manipur, Kuki Inpi Saikul Gamkai, Hill Tribal Council Moreh, Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights has labelled the inhumane act of the meiteis as barbaric, an upright violation of human rights, blatant disregard for law and order, mockery of justice system and that such act is an implication that the state government is the power behind such abominable acts of the Meitei terrorist and radical groups.

In a separate release, the Kuki Inpi Manipur issued a press release on Sunday stating that the utter lack of humanity in treatment of the lifeless bodies of the two Kuki Village Volunteers in Phailengmol area of Kangpokpi District is indescribable.

KIM stated that the bodies were stomped on, mutilated and dismembered, shamed and dragged with ropes depicting sheer brutality, barbarism, and utter disregard for human dignity.

“The deliberate recording and circulation of videos of such atrocities on social media platforms demonstrate a total disregard for law and order and a mockery of the justice system of the country”, KIM added.

The apex Kuki body stated that such acts are an implication of the patronage of N. Biren Singh and the state government in financing, arming and shielding the Meitei militia including the Arambai Tenggol and the Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) besides the deployment of State armed forces; the Meitei Police Commandos, Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) and other state forces to carry out atrocities against the Kukis.

KIM added that the ethnic-cleansing and persecution of the Kukis in their quest for domination and distortion of Kuki history and identity is completely dehumanising and outrageous.

Similarly, the perpetual armed attacks on the Kukis are



a test to the progress of credibility, reliability and accountability of the country's justice system and the competence of our governance and more so the moral-ethical convictions of the citizens, it added.

It is only apt for the Government of India to deliberate on the use of its resources, funds and arms and ammunition for terror activities within its own borders and correspondingly take appropriate redressal measures, says KIM.

In a state of affairs where a state government is openly waging a majoritarian war against a minority, and where law enforcement authorities have succumbed to sectarian bias, there is an urgent need for relevant nationwide intervention, stated the release.

KIM also added that the gross violation of human rights, the outrageous disregard for human dignity, the ruthless ethnic-shaming etc. are contraventions to the shared values and principles of the country and is a call to all concerned citizens to come together to end these atrocities.

KIM appealed to all concerned individuals across the country, regardless of diverse backgrounds and capacities to join the Kukis who played a big part in the Independence movement of India, in defending their rights and privileges under the Constitution of India and in safeguarding their shared values and

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principles that defined national identity, as a responsible citizens of the country.

Meanwhile, the Hill Tribal Council, Moreh also condemned the barbaric killing of the two Kuki village volunteers on April 13 by a combined team of Arambai Tenggol and VBIGs aided by the “prestigious” “Bihar Regiment”, who reportedly fired and shelled heavy mortars towards the Kuki volunteers’ positions at Phailengmol area of Sadar Hills district.

HTC claimed that the Bihar Regiment, supposedly stationed to prevent any aggressor from crossing the buffer zone, had rather colluded, with the approaching armed militants who came in large numbers, in committing such inhumane acts of dragging and mutilating the two lifeless bodies.

The Hill Tribal Council appealed to all the peace loving Indians, particularly the tribals or Adivasi groups, from all the states in condemning the barbaric ethnic cleansing pogrom waged upon the Kuki populace by Manipur state sponsored terrorism.

As a mark of discontentment and protest against the unabated killings of the tribals in Manipur, the HTC call upon all the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes to abstain from participation in the upcoming 18 Lok Sabha Election 2024.

Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) stated that the latest incident of gross violations of human rights by the security forces and the VBIGs on the Kuki volunteers cannot be tolerated any further, the inhumane acts of which deserved a strong condemnation by all right-thinking individuals and groups across the world.

“What is equally deplorable is the manner in which the Meitei Police Commandos, in collaboration with the UNLF (Pambei) which recently signed a peace-pact with Gol & GoM, acted without any restraint in heavily shelling on the Kuki Village Volunteers alone, thereby paving the way for beastly Meitei combatants to despoil and mutilate the lifeless bodies of our two martyrs, who sacrificed their precious lives for their people”, says KWOHR.

The incessant involvement of personnel of Manipur

Police Commando in abetting the proscribed valley-based Meitei militants/terrorists, Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun since the Meiteis launched the ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kuki people on 03 May, 2023 is self-evident in that, a bullet-proof vehicle used by the Meitei police commandos has been damaged in retaliatory strikes by the brave Kuki Village Volunteers, stated the release.

The KWOHR unequivocally demands the MHA, Govt. of India to immediately and unconditionally deploy more central security forces in Phailengmol area and other vulnerable Kuki inhabited areas of Manipur.

Demanding that “justice” is delivered to all the Kuki victims in the ongoing Meiteis’ ethnic cleansing pogrom, KWOHR reiterated their continuous clarion call to the Government of India to expedite the mechanisms to realize the Kukis’ collective demand for a Separate Administration without any further delay.

KWOHR further demanded that personnel of the security forces- particularly the Meitei police commandos involved in wanton shelling on, and maiming and mutilation of, the Kuki volunteers yesterday on April 13 in Phailengmol area be tried, prosecuted and given befitting punishment in the interest of justice and fairness.

“We shall, and must not live together under a single political administrative unit with the cannibal Meiteis any longer”, KWOHR added.

Photos of the mutilated bodies and videos have been circulated widely on various social media platforms. However, there has been no condemnation from the state government regarding the barbaric act committed by the meiteis

Such silence from the head of a government regarding the disturbing incident is a clear indication that the Kukis and the Meiteis are separated in all fields and that the government has acknowledged the physical and geographical separation. The wait is now for an official Government notification, for the Separation of Administration for the Kukis and the Meiteis.

PHAIENGMOL KILLING HAILS AS CENTURY'S MOST GRUESOME HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENCE, BODIES STILL MISSING AS CONDEMNATION MOUNTS

As the 24-hour total shutdown imposed by the Committee on Tribal Unity commenced at midnight on April 13, a sea of Kuki-Zo people inundated National Highway 2 at daybreak, protesting against the Phailengmol's inhuman killing, shooting of innocent Kuki-Zo labourers at Gamgiphai and the wilful disregard of the Model Code of Conduct by valley the people and the Meitei armed militia.

The simultaneous massive protest rally and the 24-hour total shutdown under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills crippled normal life in the district as all business establishments remained closed and vehicular movements were restricted except those exempted from the purview of the stir.

The monumental 2 km rally, originating from Motbung, looping back at Gamgiphai, and returning, witnessed the fervent participation of thousands of Kuki-Zo, predominantly women, resounding with powerful chants: "Bihar Regiment Down, Down," "N Biren Singh, Shame, Shame," "We demand NIA intervention," "Separate Administration Now," and "No Separate Administration, No Solution."

The remains of Kamminlal Lupheng and Kamlengsat Lunkim, the two Kuki-Zo Volunteers in their early twenties, still lie unfound and unrecovered for burial. They were dragged, their faces brutalized, shot multiple times after desecrating, and their arms brutally hacked off with machetes.

Speaking to the media, CoTU's Media Cell Convenor, Ng. Lun Kipgen said that today's protest addresses the grave human rights violations and the Election Commission of India's silence regarding the blatant disregard of the Model Code of Conduct by the Meitei community and their armed militia.



"Their cowardly actions toward the bodies of two Kuki-Zo village volunteers are reprehensible, constituting one of the most gruesome human rights violations in recent memory", he added.

He continued that the world woke up when two Kuki-Zo women were shamefully paraded naked by Meitei mobs in the presence of state forces while adding that despite brief statements, the Prime Minister, stopped short of pointing fingers at the perpetrators.

He also said that for the past 11 months, the Kuki-Zo community had suffered relentless atrocities at the hands of the majoritarian community unfortunately led by fascist leaders.

He further said that incidents such as this, are a clear indication by the current dispensation to pivot the election mood from losing too fast while adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's choice of leadership in Manipur is one of the BJP's greatest political miscalculations in the last decade.

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Additionally, Kipgen also questioned as to why the Phailengmol area in Kangpokpi District falls under the valley's police jurisdiction when it should be under Kangpokpi police and urged the Centre Government to instruct the state Government to put the Phailengmol area under the Kangpokpi District Police.

While conveying the Kuki-Zo people's hope on the National Investigation Agency (NIA), CoTU's Media Cell Convenor, Ng. Lun Kipgen urged the NIA to swing into action as it swung on the previous cases stating that they too have video evidence for the case as much as they had verbal evidence then.

Ng. Lun Kipgen underscored that despite the imminent conclusion of the 24-hour total shutdown on April 14 at midnight, the solemn duty of laying the fallen heroes to rest remains unfulfilled due to their bodies not being located while adding that they reserve the right to engage in democratic protest until their bodies are returned to them.

Meanwhile, Kuki Inpi Manipur and various other organisations, including ITLF, KSO Sadar Hills, TYA Sadar Hills, also condemned the gruesome inhumane act of the Meitei militants.

CENTRAL FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF TWO KUKI VILLAGE GUARDS? ITLF CONDEMNS INHUMANE TREATMENT OF SLAIN CORPSES

Allegedly, the preliminary findings indicated that personnel of the Army's Bihar Regiment, posted nearby the tragic incident of Island Block, Kangpokpi district, were solely responsible for the tragic death of two Kuki Village Volunteers and the subsequent inhumane treatment of the slain corpses by the illegal armed Meitei group- the Arambai Tenggol, on Saturday.

Two youths, namely, Kamminlal and Kamlengsat, who were defending the Kuki ancestral land from illegal encroachment, had lost their precious lives as a result of bomb splinters, indiscriminately shelled upon them by the personnel of Bihar Regiment. The central Armed Police Forces including the Bihar Regiment are deployed in the buffer zone between Phailengmol Kuki area under Kangpokpi district and the Meitei dominated area of Moirangpurel under Imphal-East district.

They are purported to maintain or de-escalate violence between the two warring communities on both sides without fear and favour, but their actions speak otherwise.



Is there any tacit understanding between the outlawed arms looters and personnel of Bihar Regiment? Wouldn't it be right to connect the dots between yesterday's incident and the last cordial meeting between the two, a few days ago?

A few days ago, army personnel from the newly deployed Bihar Regiment and the Arambai Tenggol had a cordial meeting in the Meitei dominated Moirangpurel, the video footage of their meeting

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went viral on social media platforms. What transpired during the meeting was unknown but the unfortunate killings of Kuki Village Volunteers on Saturday irked suspicion of a deep connection between them. As a result of which, the integrity and dignity of the Indian Army has become a serious concern to the aggrieved party.

The outbreak of fresh violence, fueled by the aggression of armed Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol who are abetted by the communal state police forces including personnel from the IRB and police commandos, was precursor to the illegal quarry, sand mining and pilferage of Kukis' ancestral villages at L. Songphel, Saichang, Bongjang, Kamu-Saichang, and Bongbal Khullen.

The tranquillity of the area was shattered at 8:30 AM on Saturday morning as they were besieged from multiple fronts in a meticulously co-ordinated onslaught by the Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol. They are backed by Meitei Police Commandos using cutting-edge bulletproof vehicles (Mine Protected Vehicles) which were recently acquired by the Government of Manipur. With this, the Kukis' earlier suspicions of misusing the MPV for assaulting the Kukis has been vindicated. The use of high-end MPV for attacking Kuki villages proved that the ongoing violence is "state-sponsored" ethnic cleansing pogrom.

The central security forces, instead of intervening to quell both warring parties, illogically resorted to extensive shelling of mortar and artillery fire upon the Kuki Village Volunteers, thus claiming two precious lives. In such a situation, the village guards could not recover their comrades' lifeless bodies and were forced to retreat. The subsequent recovery of the corpses and the mutilation by the Meitei extremists was horrible and agonisingly painful to witness. The bodies were stomped on, mutilated, shamed and dragged with ropes depicting sheer brutality, barbarism and utter disregard for human dignity.

Meanwhile, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), in the strongest term, condemned the killing of two Kuki-Zo village volunteers by central security forces, who aided Meitei militants by firing and shelling the position of the Kuki village volunteers in Phailengmol area of Manipur's Kangpokpi district.

In a statement, ITLF alleged that when clashes broke out on Saturday between the two sides, central security forces posted nearby resorted to firing heavily (witnesses said it was raining bullets) towards the hills. They also fired mortars, which killed two village volunteers and forced other volunteers to retreat from their bunkers causing them to leave the deceased bodies of their comrades. Meitei militants then went up the hills and discovered the bodies - one inside a bunker and another lying nearby.

Central security forces are deployed to maintain peace and remain neutral, but their actions today have raised many questions ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Also, how were the Meitei militants able to cross the buffer zone, which is supposedly maintained by the central forces, freely only to defile the bodies of the deceased with such barbarism?

The developments are a grave concern for many tribal villagers who, after almost a year of being displaced, have recently resettled in the area.

ITLF also condemned the barbaric treatment of the bodies - the deceased were dragged on ropes, their faces stomped on and sprayed with bullets, their arms hacked off with machetes. It also demanded for the retrieval of the lifeless bodies by the concerned central security forces and to hand them over to their families as soon as possible to enable them to perform the last rites of their deceased kin.

KSO CHURACHANDPUR HOLDS CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL IN HONOUR OF FALLEN HEROES; KSO-D & NCR SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO PMO, HM

In a display of solemn solidarity to the brutal death of two Kuki village volunteers, the Kuki Students' Organization Churachandpur today held 'Candle Light Vigil' as a show of honour and regards for the fallen heroes.

The solemn ceremony was held this evening at "Wall of Remembrance" in Tuibong, where hundreds gathered to pay their last respect to the departed fallen heroes. The attendees lit Candle as a mark of respect and honour.

The programme, christened as 'Candles of Solidarity', was attended by family members of the victims who shared the life story of the deceased bravehearts.

In a similar incident, the Kuki Students' Organization Delhi & NCR today staged a 'Solidarity Protest' against the barbaric mutilation of slain Kuki village volunteers. The protesters congregated at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, to voice their grievances against the indifferences of the concerned authority.

The Apex Kuki student body in Delhi also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, requesting them for giving written assurance to restore the rightful land of the Kukis for a lasting solution.

The Kuki Students' Organisation, Delhi & NCR (KSO D&NCR), representing the Kuki community, urgently brought to the attention of the Government of India (GOI) the ongoing atrocities committed against the Kukis by Meitei radicals and outlawed insurgent groups in Manipur.

"Despite numerous appeals in the past, the situation continues to deteriorate, with recent incidents highlighting gross human rights violations," KSO said in the memorandum.

On April 13th, 2024, a joint operation involving the Meitei insurgents, Manipur Police Commandos, and Manipur



Police against the Kuki villages resulted in the merciless killing of two Kuki Village Volunteers, Kamminlal Lupheng and Kamlensat Lunkim. Their bodies were brutally mutilated, reflecting a disturbing disregard for humanity and governance.

KSO D&NCR appealed to the Home Minister Amit Shah for immediate intervention and urged for a visit to Manipur to address the escalating violence against the Kukis. It is imperative that the GOI take decisive action to ensure the safety and security of the Kuki community, it said.

Furthermore, the KSO D&NCR emphasized the importance of preserving the territorial integrity of the Kukis and called for the establishment of a separate administrative unit with legislative powers. "This is essential for achieving lasting peace in Manipur and the broader Northeast region," KSO added.

The organization urged the GOI to prioritize the resolution of the Kuki issue and take concrete steps towards justice and peace in the region.

BJP'S LOK SABHA POLL MANIFESTO FAILS TO MENTION SOLUTION TO MANIPUR MAYHEM; UCC IMPLEMENTATION, ONE NATION ONE ELECTION KEY FOCUSES

While encompassing a wide array of promises, including initiatives aimed at empowering various segments of society such as women, youth, the poor, and farmers, the BJP's Elections Manifesto failed to mention a solution to the ongoing ethnic violence in the state of Manipur.

In its 76-page long manifesto, the BJP noticeably omitted the Meiteis' fantasy dreams for implementation of NRC, ST status, Border fencing, FMR, etc. In a section addressing the maintenance of peace in Northeast India, the manifesto outlined the party's commitment to addressing issues in disturbed areas and gradually phasing out the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). It also promised to work towards resolving inter-state border disputes through sustained efforts, while emphasizing the Northeast's role as a strategic gateway for India's Act East Policy, focusing on connectivity, education, healthcare, economic development, and security.

For Hill states, BJP promised to continue to protect and preserve the unique ecological balance of Bharat's hill states through sustainable development initiatives, and pledged to work with state governments and local bodies to prepare a special master plan to maintain their pristine beauty and biodiversity, taking into account the local geography, culture and traditional practices, for the balanced development of hilly areas.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the BJP's Lok Sabha poll manifesto in New Delhi on April 14 in the presence of party president J.P. Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other leaders.

Here are the key highlights of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) "Sankalp Patra" for the 2024 parliamentary polls:

- * Free ration for the poor for the next five years under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.
- * The party will continue to provide free and quality healthcare services of up to ₹5 lakh to poor families



under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

- * Free electricity to poor households under the Prime Minister Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- * Efforts to empower three crore rural women to become "Lakhpati Didis".
- * Integration of women self-help groups (SHGs) with the service sector, enhancing market access for women SHG enterprises: Ensuring development of infrastructure, such as working women's hostels and creches, with a specific focus on locations near industrial and commercial centres to facilitate increased participation of women in the workforce.
- * Expansion of the existing health services, focusing on prevention and reduction of anaemia, breast cancer, cervical cancer and osteoporosis, ensuring a healthy life for women.
- * Launching a focused initiative to eliminate cervical cancer.

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- * Implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam to ensure representation of women in Parliament and the State legislatures.
- * A transparent government recruitment system.
- * Enactment of a law to prevent paper leaks.
- * Expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana to cover senior citizens and provide them access to free and quality healthcare. Delivery of government services at doorsteps to ensure seamless access to social security benefits and other essential government services for senior citizens by leveraging the extensive reach and reliability of the postal and digital network.
- * Strengthening the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme to provide sustained financial support to farmers.
- * Strengthening the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana through more technological interventions to ensure speedy and more accurate assessment, faster payouts and quicker grievance resolution.
- * Increasing the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.
- * Launching the Krishi Infrastructure Mission for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of agri-infrastructure projects like storage facilities, irrigation, grading and sorting units, cold-storage facilities and food processing.
- * Expansion of irrigation facilities, launching technology-enabled irrigation initiatives to implement cutting-edge technology for efficient water management.
- * Launching an indigenous “Bharat Krishi” satellite for farm-related activities like crop forecasting, pesticide application, irrigation, soil health and weather forecasting.
- * A periodic review of the national floor-level minimum wages.
- * Inclusion of autorickshaw, taxi, truck drivers and other drivers in all social security schemes.
- * Empowerment of small traders and MSMEs through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to help them expand their businesses using technology.
- * A focused approach for tribal healthcare, measures to eliminate malnutrition among tribal children and providing comprehensive healthcare services in tribal areas on a mission mode.
- * Measures to eliminate sickle-cell anaemia.
- * “Modi ki Guarantee” for a secure and prosperous Bharat.
- * Robust infrastructure along the borders, technological solutions on the fenced portions to make fencing smarter.
- * Implementing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).
- * Making India the third-largest economy in the world.
- * Expansion of employment opportunities. Measures to make India a global manufacturing hub in various sectors, including electronics, by 2030.
- * “Modi ki Guarantee” on good governance.
- * Bringing a Uniform Civil Code.
- * Making “One Nation, One Election” a reality.
- * Quality education, establishing new institutions of higher learning.
- * Balanced regional development, maintaining peace in the northeast.
- * Resolution of inter-State border disputes among the northeastern States through sustained efforts.

**OPINION**

How Many Precious Lives of Kukis Shall Amount to “Enough” for Justice to Go?

Meiteis say, “Manipur integrity cannot be broken”, but they act like savages even towards death as long as the body belongs to Kuki.

In a realm, where even the dead are not spared from Meiteis’ barbaric violence and atrocities, parading women naked, burning people alive, decapitating one’s head, gang raping and others are what await the living, the old and the young, women and girls, beyond the line of Kuki village defence forces’ deployment or the Buffer Zone.

Thus the question is do the Meitei want the integrity of Manipur where their own government protects their crimes and sins from the eye of the Law, and acts as an agent to fulfil the thirst for the psychotic desire of torturing and killing others? Does Kukis’ life matter at all to the government of India? Why are the Kukis made the prey for the barbaric and savage community? Why can’t the government of India protect their life, liberty, equality, freedom and dignity? Why the discrimination and unfair treatment? Is the might of the Meitei community so powerful that the Indian government is helpless?

Is the integrity of Manipur so important that the lives of lakhs of Kuki are surrendered at the mercy of this

bloodthirsty community? When the exercise of Article 3 by the central government can save the lives of lakhs of Kukis, why has it not been utilized? Or is their demographic tally their misfortune? Had they been at par with the Meiteis in the population tally, would they be guaranteed the same rights as their predators? Would their lives then be considered worthy of protection even at the cost of dividing the state in two? Why are Meiteis’ demands for territorial integrity while committing atrocities and crimes against the Kukis valued more than Kukis’ own demand for their life against their bloodthirsty atrocious crimes? Timely intervention by the central government might have saved Manipur’s integrity but did not protect the victims of the Meitei bloodshed and atrocities, the Kukis.

The Kukis never attack but defend. Meitei mouthpiece media like India Today, North East and Meitei newspapers might have quoted the source of origin of the attackers as the point of conflict, as if they are winds whose name is named after its direction of origin, but as long as the Indian government agencies deployed in the state feed

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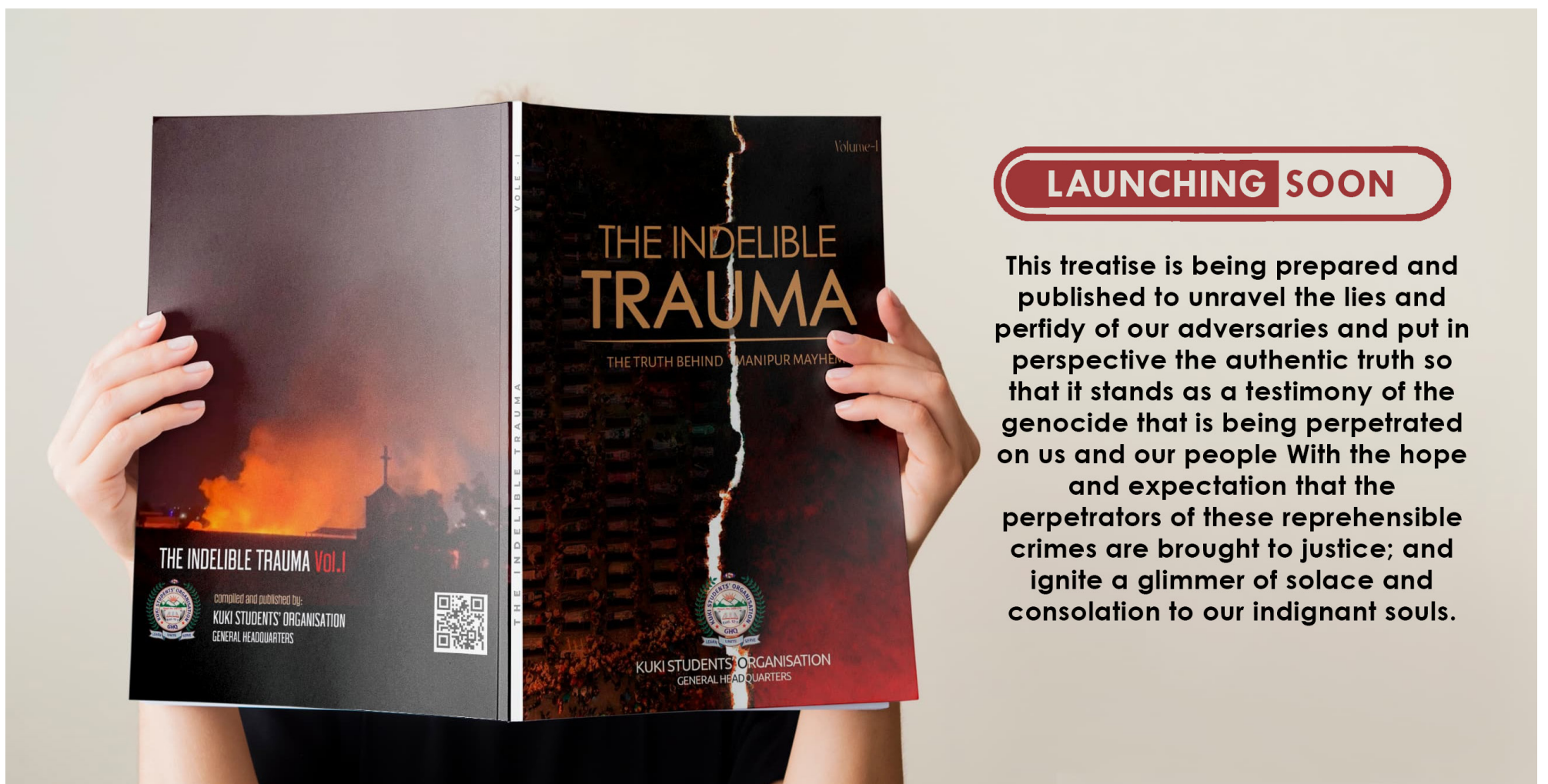
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the right information to Delhi, the facts and truth are as bright as the sun. Lay aside science, common sense alone will tell one that mountains and hills cannot be developed in a day or two. Yet since the pogrom to ethnically cleanse the Kuki has been executed by the Meitei, one can see Meitei newspapers, media house and journalist forming hilly terrain in the various districts of Manipur, non-existent earlier. If Meitei journalists who should be torch bearers of truth and facts dare lie and they dare lie even on topography and geographical location facts, the buck stops at no one as long as they are Meiteis and nowhere.

What the LOC is for Pakistani terrorists, is what the buffer zone created by the government is for Arambai Tenggol and Meitei terrorists. What the ISI and Pakistan army are for the terrorists operating in India, the Manipur state government and its department are for the terrorists who implemented the ethnic cleansing against the Kukis. Their forefathers fought for India's

Independence, but their ancestors are repaid to be the prey of the bloodthirsty community, well protected and fed by their government In the state.

The Kukis want separation from Manipur, not from India, to protect their lives, families, community continuity, dignity, liberty, equality, freedom and democracy. The Kuki's demands are within the walls of rights and provisions of the Indian constitution. So why are the demands for their justice made so costly? They have lost hundreds of lives in the past 11 months, today they lost two and it's uncertain how much more they shall lose in the future. How many lives shall they lose more for the government to give them justice? The past few months are telling of the fact that Kukis are not safe as long as they remain within the reign of the Meiteis. Thus between lakhs of lives and geographical territory that shall still remain in India, which option shall the government of India go for?



LAUNCHING SOON

This treatise is being prepared and published to unravel the lies and perfidy of our adversaries and put in perspective the authentic truth so that it stands as a testimony of the genocide that is being perpetrated on us and our people With the hope and expectation that the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes are brought to justice; and ignite a glimmer of solace and consolation to our indignant souls.



SPECIAL SUNDAY ARTICLE

What it Means to Survive a War, With Dignity

Greeshma Kuthar

A video first surfaced within Manipur in July of 2023, where I could see two women being paraded naked by a mob of men. The video was of an incident that had occurred on May 4. The fact that it took two and a half months for the incident to be reported by any mainstream journalistic organisation, isn't the only aspect that is shocking. An FIR registered by the affected families in May mentioned the presence of the state police during the incident. Yet, the brutal act was left to fester as if it never occurred. "In 2006, 21 Hmar women were sexually assaulted by Meitei insurgents. Tribal women have borne the brunt of several such cases, yet in those cases, we could attempt to at least arrest the culprits as we were considered part of the state. It is different now. The state government is fighting us. The question of dignity or justice for us is absent," said Jessica Mawi, a writer from the community.

"Although the violence had been precipitated by the Manipur High Court directing the state government to expedite the longstanding Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe status, the order came amid an escalation in the Biren Singh government's concerted campaign to stir up majoritarian sentiments against Kukis, using the same tactics it had employed against the Pangals (Meitei Muslims)."

– from Greeshma Kuthar's cover story in August 2023

for The Caravan titled Fire and Blood: How the BJP is enabling ethnic cleansing in Manipur

It had been more than two months since the ethnic violence started, and by then, such images of violence, gunfire and killings had become commonplace in the state. This video, though, was shocking even to look at. It was visual evidence of what was being said by Kuki-Zo women for weeks: sexual violence has been an intrinsic part of the ethnic violence they had been subject to since May, although no one, especially the central government, had been willing to listen. The next day, the video was shared on X, where it garnered international attention overnight. Manipur was finally in the news, albeit for a really short period.

DELAYED ATTENTION, DENIAL OF JUSTICE

In the weeks following the video going viral, national and international media organisations were suddenly flooding Manipur – demanding that they be allowed to meet and talk to victims of sexual abuse, forcing them to recount their abuse on camera. During one such pursuit by an international agency, I witnessed a few Kuki-Zo women leaders fighting back by refusing to

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agree to such representation and insisting that the victim's lawyer be interviewed instead. But their opinion wasn't taken into consideration. Male leaders from the community who had permitted such interactions before, almost oblivious of the problematic nature of such interviews, said, "The women have already given interviews; how does a few more matter?" The men took the journalists to the victim, and she was made to recount how she was sexually assaulted in Imphal all over again.

Whether this is a women's issue, a tribal issue, a human rights issue, a Manipur issue, or a national issue hasn't necessitated any inquiry of 'why the dignity of these women, being subject to such treatment and representation, didn't figure in bringing the conflict to an end'. As I attended different protests organised by other communities in the following weeks, a few Meitei women I spoke to were quick to condemn the incident in no uncertain terms. Unfortunately, these were just a handful. A majority of women I spoke to justified the incident, indulging in slut-shaming Kuki-Zo women and alleging that tribal women are used to being 'loose'. There were also insensitive appeals by Meitei men urging their women to come forward with accounts of sexual assault by Kuki men to 'protect the dignity of the community'. One Meitei lady from Bishnupur eventually registered an FIR, stating that she was sexually assaulted, leading to the involvement of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is currently probing all cases of sexual assault. Protests by Naga women groups condemned the incident but were reluctant to question its structural nature. While decrying it as a failure of the police apparatus, they declined to get involved with the inquiry of how huge mobs were emboldened by the Manipur state to carry out such an act. While there had been an instance of Naga women students being molested before and more Naga women were subject to violence in the Valley in the months to follow, civil society organisations orchestrated out-of-courts settlements, and the issues quickly closed. The victims I spoke to told me that they were opposed to this, questioning why their self-

respect and dignity weren't considered important to address.

For Kuki-Zo women, even organising a protest where they could centre their voices was difficult. In Kangpokpi, as women leaders unaffiliated with political groups organised a rally demanding justice for the victims, male leaders from various Civil Society Organisations scuffled with them, demanding they be allowed to occupy space on the stage and speak. In the months to come, I saw many women question their own roles in society at large and refuse to acknowledge their leadership or their work in rebuilding a society riddled with war. I saw many of them lose heart as the violence waged on, yet pick themselves up over and over again, centring the community and its needs.

Kuki-Zo women have not had the time or the space to mourn the lack of justice and dignity owed to them by society at large and state institutions, specifically. But far from being reduced to victims, many of these women have been participating in everything that they believe is needed at the moment, foremost of which has been facilitating access to education, as their community faces an unprecedented systemic denial of access to state institutions and constitutional rights.

UNCERTAIN FUTURES AMIDST STATE APATHY
Hemkholen Touthang recognised me as soon as he spotted me from a distance. Waving me over, he posed his customary "How are you miss?" to greet me, grinning all the while, followed by "Had your food?" These are two questions he would always ask me when I'd call him for updates about the situation along the Manipur river he helped people navigate.

"Very difficult, miss, still very difficult," he said as he climbed into his boat, preparing to cross the

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river. He would do almost 12-hour shifts, as there was no other way for people to quickly go over to the other side but by his boat. "I am a social worker, Miss, we make no money," he told me while being his cherubic self, denoting that there was hardly any sustenance to be made through what he did. Yet, he said his work was very important, as even for accessing basic essentials or the closest market to sell produce, crossing the river was the only option. This was at the peak of winter in December.

When I met Hemkholen in June, he wasn't in as good a mood. Along the river lie Sugnu and Serou, two towns that saw widespread violence in May. The only bridge that would help people flee from the Kuki-Zo localities was burnt down, and many had to turn to the river as they fled. As Hemkholen helped some of them across the river, he was reminded of the other wars he had lived through, one between the Nagas and Kuki-Zo, the other within tribes of the Kuki-Zo. During both these wars, he helped rescue people, rowing them from the Lamka side to the Chandel side and vice versa. He had been a mere observer, he told me, but he was and remains very scared for young people. Every time I met him, he hoped that the war would end soon. "No schools, no medicine, no food here, Miss."

"It took us more than a month to understand the scale of what was happening. Not only were we being attacked, but we also had nobody to turn to," recounted Veijakim, an educator from Kangpokpi who runs a school founded by her husband, Dennis Misao. Within weeks, both of them realised that as society saw polarisation, so did state institutions.

Headquartered and controlled from Imphal, these institutions were dangerously being used against the Kuki-Zo community under the direction of Manipur's Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The first such visible partisan behaviour was that of the police, who've been photographed and video-graphed supporting armed Meiteis, as they would orchestrate violence in Kuki-Zo villages. Over the year, this has become common

practice across government departments, such as in electricity distribution and education. Kuki-Zo districts would see power cuts spanning for weeks, and yet, there would be no immediate intervention on the part of the state. All Kuki-Zo students studying in schools and colleges in Imphal, including state and central universities, had to flee the city, yet most of them have yet to find support from the government to continue their education, even to obtain a basic transfer certificate.

Such disparities were faced by educators such as Kim and Dennis in the early days of the violence. One of the first challenges they faced was the correction of pending board language exam papers of the students belonging to the Kuki-Zo community. Security agencies had to step in just to ensure that the answer sheets were checked, marked and transported safely to and from the Board offices to the districts affected by the violence. Displaced Kuki-Zo students couldn't physically collect certificates and mark sheets, as travelling to the Board Offices in Imphal was out of the question. Many videos emerged on social media platforms of individuals burning certificates, mark sheets, laptops and written work of Kuki-Zo students, raising serious concerns about the safety and security of academic records. Equally disturbing were images of schools being burnt down.

In this backdrop of civil unrest, Dennis, along with 70 other school owners functioning under the state government, applied for affiliation with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). "In times of great distress, the need for a stable and recognized curriculum becomes paramount, and the CBSE affiliation seemed to be the only beacon of hope for us," explains Dennis. After an arduous application and verification process, 26 out of the

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71 schools that applied were granted CBSE affiliation. Almost overnight, the state government intervened, alleging they were not informed about the process. The 'No-Objection Certificates' (NoC) that schools had obtained from Kuki-Zo zonal officers they could access were termed 'fraudulent', and eventually, the affiliations were withdrawn by the CBSE. These zonal officers were suspended and were eventually forced to tender apology letters. As the state criminalised the attempts of Tribal educators to do what is best for their students, the future and welfare of 30,000 students who stood to be directly affected by such administrative bullying barely figured anywhere.

Educators such as Kim, Dennis and others feel cheated, not just by state institutions but also by their own leaders, flagging that nobody could remedy the situation, which directly affects the lives of young Tribal children. Reiterating that now most members in the community feel that they are too insignificant a populace to receive empathy, Dennis and Kim say they'll no longer swim in self-pity mode. "We will have to question our own choices, be it in choosing our leaders, or whether we [have] got the government we deserve."

Conversations on leadership, or the lack of it, have repeatedly surfaced since the onset of violence in the hill districts. Many feel threatened to speak up, as civil society organisations selected as the representatives of the community are those endorsed by insurgent groups, yielding gunpower to threaten most into submission. Almost all elected representatives are either directly affiliated with these groups or are supported by them. If individuals speak independently and critically, they have been subject to either threats or violence. However, even more problematic is where women figure in decision-making. "Men guard their "leadership positions" as sacrosanct and aren't ready to acknowledge the contribution of women to the level where they have to share a space in "leadership", says Kimnejou, a scholar and activist from Haipi, referring to traditional patriarchal structures that make up Kuki-Zo society. Villages within the community are

governed by a single chief, who can only be a man, a rite passed on to male descendants only. Jou feels that this patriarchal position of power has translated from traditional social orderings to modern democratic spaces as well. Men prefer conforming to society and are not yet bold enough to break the mould. "I guess it's very difficult to give up these privileges hence, they choose to turn a blind eye," observed Jou, reiterating that the community is stuck because of such a patriarchal mindset and an unwillingness to share leadership or acknowledge differences of opinions. "This also means we are denying possibilities of all kinds of reform to our community."

This conversation has become all the more relevant as many instances of infighting within the Kuki-Zo tribes have emerged over the past few months. Most women leaders who have been talking to me about these skirmishes feel that if they were in leadership positions, they would have dealt with this very differently. This, they feel, isn't asking for too much, as women from across Kuki-Zo tribes have played a decisive role in working through the war and rebuilding lives. Yet, neither is their role acknowledged anywhere, nor are the qualities they represent considered important enough to work through the war.

"You'll hardly find any women in the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), an apex body of Kuki tribes. The only spaces for us, with very limited roles and responsibilities, are groups such as KWU, KWOHR, ZWC," explains Ngaipilhing Alice, a civil rights activist from Lamka. Alice and many other women leaders are of the strong belief that if women were given higher leadership roles with actual decision-making powers, the way in which this war would've been handled would've been different. "Internal conflicts would definitely have been much less."

Under the condition of anonymity, a senior woman

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leader told me that the more urgent problem right now is that critical decisions on how to help those displaced during the war are being made by incompetent leaders.

An independent researcher, Breeze has spent weeks living in relief camps, attempting to understand the needs of those internally displaced by the ethnic violence. Wherever possible, she has tried to provide whatever resources she could and is extending tutoring help to students. "At times, it is better to just lend an ear. We don't even understand their ordeals enough, as everybody from the community has a lot to cope with at the moment," Breeze shared while also highlighting the limitations of providing mental health care to the displaced. Volunteers like Breeze feel the acute lack of resources that is felt in the relief camps spread across hill districts.

Within those displaced, at least 70% from Imphal who are more affluent have been able to pick themselves up and fend for themselves, says Dr Mary Grace Zou, Convenor of the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum, Delhi. But the working class from Imphal and those displaced from more than 200 destroyed villages, now staying in relief camps, are unable to move ahead. "The disparity within the displaced is something we have to recognise to be able to work for those that need most help," explains Dr Grace, pointing to nuances that outsiders don't understand easily. The way Kuki-Zo society functions is that each unit is composed of individuals who are prescribed land by the village chief that they live in and cultivate. This unit is self-sustained, deciding on most matters concerning their land by themselves through a governing council. When the land is taken from the unit, their landlessness fuels a loss of identity and resources. Many of the villages that have been burnt down now face this loss of identity, reduced to being helpless in helping themselves. "To remedy this situation, we will need other village chiefs to step in and share their land," observes Dr Grace. This has already happened in a few villages.

The Kuki-Zo community has supported its internally

displaced almost entirely by itself, receiving close to no support from the Manipur state government. "People from our community are contributing every month, but we are about to finish a year of being at war. How long will we fend for ourselves?" questions Dr Grace. Many of the displaced, she explains, stay in these camps mainly because there are basic supplies, such as food, available at the camp. "Most of them are not even forthcoming to request even medical care; they are all feeling a sense of being a burden on society."

Organisations such as the Kuki Students Organisation (KSO), in spite of facing dilapidating resource limitations, have set up close to six temporary schools catering to more than 1000 students just to ensure that these students are not completely left out of formal education. The Highlanders Dream Project is a venture that seeks to serve as bridge educators providing support to augment learning losses caused due to displacement. More than 1071 children are being catered to by 47 fellows spread across 47 relief camps. Jessica, who is a part of this initiative, shares that many of the children she interacts with worry about having to discontinue education, as their parents are not in a position to access any means of income. To hear that they have no resources for schooling is heartbreaking, but it is also a reality for these families, explains Jessica. Jessica, on her part, is collecting names of such children and speaking to schools she can access to push for enrollment of as many children as possible. "Though we are amidst chaos and are facing so many challenges, I am coming across people who are also pushing their limits to help each other. The children in these relief camps are full of dreams, and we need to do everything in our capacity to be their voice and get them closer to their aspirations."

Organisations aside, there are also individuals who are going out of their way to ensure they provide

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for society in ways that would seem impossible.

Tracy Kipgen would seem to anybody who knows her to be an individual who is constantly on the move. A teacher from the hill district of Kangpokpi, she runs a school with her husband. As the war resulted in widespread displacement, she felt that her calling was to facilitate access to education for internally displaced children. Since then, she has organised support for most internally displaced children in surrounding relief camps and for those who are in no position to pay for their children's education.

I had first heard of Tracy from the Kuki-Zo journalist Kaybie Chongloi, who had informed me about an event she had organised to mark the 75th Independence Day of India. Tracy had accumulated resources to pay eight teachers, many of whom were themselves displaced, who were taking classes for children in their relief camps at a makeshift facility close by. On August 15th, Tracy organised a drawing competition at this facility, where students had to depict the tricolour in the best way possible. When I visited the makeshift school, I saw drawings of the national flag along with the names of children and their villages written on them. All these villages have been burnt down and now lie deserted in buffer zones. Yet, miles away, in a relief camp, the children of these villages were participating in an exercise to showcase their patriotism, even though the state to which they belonged had reduced them to names that ranged from 'illegal immigrants' to 'narco-terrorists'. The weight of these images, drawn by students whose future has been rendered uncertain by the country's political dispensation, seemed to bear down on everybody present there.

This make-shift facility was fully functional with regular classes till it had to be handed over to paramilitary forces in January. Undeterred, Tracy planned with the teachers to build a small facility alongside the relief camp. As she started raising money, she sourced materials that the teachers eventually used to build up the camp by themselves. By the time I visited the camp in February, the school had been fully built. The

school's principal, Neilemchong Suantak, showed me around the classrooms, all of which were built by her and her colleagues using their bare hands. Very young herself, Achong was displaced when her village came under heavy fire and eventually, houses burnt down. She told me her older siblings are still at the periphery close to her village, keeping guard. I felt compelled to ask her how she stays level-headed, steering a whole school by herself and managing children who are also affected by the same trauma that she was living with. Here is what she said:

"Education is the greatest weapon we have. All of us have the responsibility of removing war from our society. Even during this violence, I want to help children in the best way possible, where I can teach them what is right and wrong. When they have the power to make these judgments and have good thoughts, our problems will see their logical end. We teachers have an important role. We need to show younger people the right way. They are our future."

Reporters note:

I've been reporting from Manipur since June 2023. From the very beginning, I could understand that though women were contributing as much as men in facing the brunt of the war, their roles never received enough acknowledgment nor were their views taken into account while making important decisions. As an outsider, I could see that women leaders had a much more pragmatic method and manner of dealing with most situations, yet they found no place on the leadership table. This, I was made to understand, stems from a society that is founded on a patriarchal structure, yet a visible reluctance of present-day male-dominated organizations to relinquish space to women during a crucial time as this continues.

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KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION

CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT

Motto: *Learn, Unite & Serve*

Regd. No. 2991 of 1979

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Ref. No. KSO/CCP/PR/2023-: 52

Date.....

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

April 14, 2024

Tonight, we gather with heavy hearts yet steadfast resolve as we hold 'Candles of Solidarity' to honor the brave souls of our two village volunteers who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our ancestral lands. Their unwavering courage and selflessness in the face of adversity deserve the highest respect and honor.

The KSO Churachandpur would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one, fellow student bodies – Gangte Students' Organization, Hmar Students' Association, Zou Sangnaupang Pawlpi, Zomi Students' Federation - GHQ, Tedim Chin Students' Association, Zillai etc. for their unwavering support and dedication in making our candlelight vigil programme a resounding success.

As we light the candles, let us remember their bravery, their dedication, and their unwavering commitment to protecting our community. May their sacrifices never be forgotten, and may their legacy continue to inspire us to stand united and resilient in the face of challenges.

The presence and participation of all us brought light and warmth to our event, symbolizing unity, solidarity, and remembrance. Together, we honored and paid tribute to our brave martyrs standing in solidarity with those affected and spreading hope and comfort to our community.

The commitment and compassion of all participants truly made a difference and helped create a meaningful and memorable experience for all involved.

Thanks to all for incredible support and for being a part of this special event.

With sincere appreciation,

D.J. Haokip
General Secretary
Kuki Students' Organisation, Lamka

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Salman Anees Soz
@SalmanSoz

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Modi Ki Guarantee:

Silence on [#Manipur](#).

Not one word on Manipur in the BJP Manifesto.

[#NoVoteForBJP](#)

Armed group clash claims 2 lives in Manipur just 6 days before Lok Sabha elections 2024

1 min read • 14 Apr 2024, 07:49 AM IST

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Livemint

A gun battle in Manipur resulted in the deaths of two individuals. The clash between militants from Kuki and Meitei villages heightened tensions. The incident occurred before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, prompting security measures to ensure stability in the region.

7:09 pm · 14 Apr 24 · 935 Views



Sushant Singh @SushantSin · 12h

Wasn't Manipur CM interviewed by many newspapers a day back to say that there was peace in the state? And of course, Modi's weird claim to an Assamese newspaper a week or so back.

This is the reality. Two dead and firing has gone on for 48 hours, as per some media reports.

April 19 polling round the corner, two tribals shot in Manipur violence

Prabin Kalita | TNN

Guwahati: Gunmen shot dead two tribal village defence volunteers in Manipur on Saturday amid heightened security for the April 19 and 26 elections in the state's two LS seats.

The shooting at Phailengmola, bordering Kangpokpi and Imphal East districts, happened ahead of home minister Amit Shah's scheduled rally at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal East on Monday. The two slain village volunteers are yet to be identified.

This follows a civilian suffering a gunshot wound during a clash between armed village volunteers and gunmen near Heirok village in Thoubal district on Friday. The clash occurred when the intruders attacked the village, prompting the volunteers to retaliate. The gunfight lasted an hour.

AHEAD OF RALLY

> Shooting of two village defence volunteers at Phailengmola happened ahead of Amit Shah's rally at Hapta Kangjeibung in Imphal East on Monday

> A civilian suffered a gunshot wound during a clash between armed village volunteers and unidentified gunmen in Thoubal district

> On Thursday, a sawmill was set afire near Pallel in Kakching, triggering concerns

Earlier, miscreants set fire to a saw mill near Pallel in Kakching district, 50km from Imphal, on Thursday, triggering security concerns before polls. Around 50 people were rounded up for questioning and five suspects were arrested later, police said.



Don't worry about the haters...
They are just angry because the truth you speak contradicts the lie they live.

— Christopher Hitchens



**Our band is few but true, tried and trialled by fire.
15 strong and fearing none, none that need be feared
which bleed.**

**Like our fathers before and in days of yore our
fathers' father, Who answered the call, on the hour of
his nation's need.**

**True sons of the soil, in the truest sense of the word
indeed.**

**Now we honor the same, young and aged, strong and
abled, to join the fray.**

**Lest we die of shame, a coward, if we hie from our
calling today.**

**While Armed With every treachery known and
unknown under the sun, Veiled beasts with their wild
pride lay siege our Zalen'Gam And with brute force
domineer over us, holding our Freedom ransom.
Our freedom, no ransom worth more or equals, even
our lives.**

**So we come now to the alter, in this very sanctum
sanctum, No crown, no coins to offer but to barter-
Liberty, limb or lives.**

**Hereon, we bequeath our future into our own hands
Ready to take and ready to give what the hour
commands.**

To take and ask no quarters, to hold and give none.

**Through Mornings of pacing, days of waiting and
nights of waking, Standing staunch, on the
vedetta, with eager eyes, for a nearing gun.
Come what may, leaden hail or hail of lead, we
welcome all.**

**We'll meet them down in the vale, we'll struck
them down in the hill, We know not to yield, we
know not how to quail, Strong in will, never to
yield, pulse of a free man beat still.**

**Ready to share this ground where champions of
freedom lay**

**Ready to join them in the long silence, if that is our
fate today.**

**We band of few, we band of brothers- forgles dans
le feu We will be numbered with the free, or
numbered with the few, Who embraced the
ultimate price of freedom over a peaceful chain of
slavery.**

**Who'd sooner die fighting on their feet to remain
free, Than live a shackled slave upon their knees.**

**So, We band of few, We band of Brothers of
Penggalep (8) get, With resolute hearts we smite
our breast upon a solemn decree-
"Liberty or Lead, Zalen'Gam or Death".**

- JJ Jem Baite