

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



KHOUNGLIENSANG VAIPHEI (49 YEARS)

S/O (L) MANGCHINKAM

ADDRESS: CENTER ROAD, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 24TH JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KANGVAI, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



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.

KUKI APEX BODY RAISES ALARM OVER ACQUISITION OF SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT BY MANIPUR POLICE

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has raised alarm over the recent acquisition of sophisticated military equipment by the Government of Manipur. Reports indicate that several 7.62 mm MMG MK 2A1 machine guns, obtained from the Ordnance Factory Jabalpur, have been delivered to the Manipur Police Training College in Pangei. Troops from the 57th Mountain Division are reportedly training local police personnel in their use.

The 7.62 mm MMG MK 2A1, a conventional wartime weapon typically reserved for high-intensity conflict scenarios, is rarely employed in counter-insurgency operations. Its deployment in Manipur's ongoing ethnic conflict has sparked significant concern, given its advanced nature and the escalation it could cause. The weapon's introduction has fueled confusion and anxiety among the public, with fears that it may exacerbate tensions between the state's ethnic communities.

The Kuki-Zo community, which has been embroiled in conflict with the Meitei community since May 2023, is particularly alarmed by this development. The state government has previously procured various military assets, including bulletproof and mine-protected vehicles, which have been used in operations against the Kuki-Zo people by the Meitei Police, Arambai Tenggol, and VBIGS.

KIM warns that the addition of such advanced artillery could lead to severe consequences for the Kuki-Zo community, who are already enduring



PRESS STATEMENT

Lamka, the 14th September, 2024

04/KIM/PR./22-79: It has come to the attention of the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) that the Government of Manipur has procured several 7.62 mm MMG MK 2A1 weapons from the Ordnance Factory Jabalpur. These advanced artillery are now in the Manipur Police Training College in Pangei with troops from the 57th Mountain Division purportedly training Manipur Police personnel on the use of the 7.62mm MMG MK 2A1.

The 7.62mm MMG MK 2A1 is a conventional wartime weapon typically reserved for high-intensity conflict scenarios between nations. It is a highly sophisticated weapon that is rarely employed even by the Indian Army and Assam Rifles in counter-insurgency operations. As a result, its deployment in a domestic ethnic conflict is not only disproportionate but also exacerbates the already volatile situation. The attempt to deploy these sophisticated weaponry has caused confusion and anxiety among the public, raising concerns about the state government's intentions in acquiring such a lethal weapon for use in the ongoing ethnic conflict between communities.

The potential use of such advanced artillery is particularly alarming for the Kuki-Zo people. Since the conflict began on May 3, 2023, the State government has purchased various military equipment, including bulletproof vehicles and mine-protected vehicles (MPVs). This equipment, along with the existing state armory, has been used collectively by the Meitei Police, Arambai Tenggol, and VBIGS against the Kuki-Zo community, under the patronage of the Manipur State Government.

The introduction of the 7.62mm MMG MK 2A1 into this conflict will have dire consequences for the Kuki-Zo community, who are already suffering from coordinated attacks by radical militias and the state police. To that matter, we earnestly call upon the Government of India to urgently address this issue and reconsider the necessity of deploying such advanced weaponry in an internal conflict.

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



targeted attacks by radical militias and the state police. The organization is calling on the Government of India to urgently address the issue and reconsider the necessity of deploying such high-caliber weaponry in this internal conflict.

ARMY HAS FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF DRONES DROPPING BOMBS IN MANIPUR, SAY TOP DEFENCE OFFICIALS

The Army has found no evidence of drones dropping bombs in Manipur, a state which has seen continuous ethnic clashes since May last year, resulting in the death of over 200 people.

Videos and photographs on social media which show drones releasing or carrying small explosives like grenades or mortar are from Myanmar and Palestine, top sources in the defence establishment said.

Asked about the Manipur Police's claim that minority Kuki groups were using drones to launch rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), a source said: "Don't want to get into who has said what. As far as the situation on the ground is concerned, the Army has found no evidence of drones being used by any side."

The source also said what was in use were crude weapons, debunking the alleged use of modern hand-held rockets in the violence. A source added the central forces could only try and contain the violence, "but the problem is between two communities".

Tribal Kukis and the majority Meitei community have attacked each other since 3 May last year following a demand by Meiteis for a scheduled tribe status, reserved so far for the hill-based, minority Kukis. According to government sources, nearly 220 people have died in the last 16 months, and thousands displaced.

A period of relative calm, however, was shattered on 1 September when the Manipur Police claimed there was an unprecedented attack on Koutruk in Imphal West. The fresh violence has killed 11 people, authorities said.

The police blamed Kuki militants for allegedly deploying numerous RPGs using high-tech drones. The police said the use of drones—"which have commonly been used in general warfares"—to drop explosives on security forces and civilians "marks a significant escalation".

"The involvement of highly trained professionals, possibly with technical expertise and support, cannot be ruled out. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, and the police are prepared to respond to any contingency that may arise," the cops said.



Manipur Inspector General of Police for Operations, I.K. Muviah, said on 10 September that they would "most likely" hand over to central agencies all evidence collected during their probe into the drone bombing. He said these kinds of "important cases" should be investigated at the highest level.

He added: "We have recovered all bomb fragments; they have been sent to the forensic lab so that chemicals that have been used can be detected... We have clarified the incident on our official media handles very clearly and we stand by it."

According to media reports, the Manipur Police contacted IIT, Delhi, to help them with their investigation into the alleged use of drones in these attacks.

The fresh violence has prompted Delhi-based Meitei organisations to renew their demand to terminate the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki insurgent groups.

Meanwhile, the apex body of the Kuki community has refuted the drone claims, and alleged there was actually an attempt to "ambush Kuki-Zo civilians along the Kanggui-Lamka Road". The Kuki Inpi Manipur said this led to heavy exchange of fire "between the combined forces of Arambai Tenggol, Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), Meitei state forces, and Kuki-Zo volunteers" in the Kangchup region near Koutruk village. (News 18)

PM MODI MAKING PLANS TO TRAVEL ABROAD BUT 'STUDIOUSLY AVOIDING' MANIPUR: CONGRESS

The Congress on Saturday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying that he is “studiously avoiding” a visit to Manipur while continuing to plan his travel to other parts of the country and abroad.

Manipur has been gripped by ethnic clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023. At least 237 persons have died and more than 59,000 persons displaced since the beginning of the clashes.

On Saturday, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that the three-member Commission of Enquiry set up by the Union government in June 2023 to investigate the causes and spread of the violence had not submitted its report.

“It was given six months to submit its report,” Ramesh said in a social media post. “No report has been submitted till now. The Commission has just been given time till Nov 24, 2024 (sic) to do so.”

Ramesh was referring to the commission headed by Ajai Lamba, the former chief justice of the Gauhati High Court. Retired Indian Administrative Service officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired Indian Police Service official Aloka Prabhakar are the other members on the panel.

On Friday, the Centre extended the deadline to November 20 for the commission to submit its report.

“Meanwhile the anguish and agony of the people of Manipur continues unabated,” the Opposition leader added. “And the non-biological PM continues to make plans to travel in other parts of the country and abroad, studiously avoiding a visit to this most troubled state.”

It was unclear which visits Ramesh was referring to. Earlier this month, Modi visited Brunei and Singapore.



The prime minister is expected to visit the United States later this month for the meeting of the Quad leaders and the United Nations Summit of the Future, according to reports.

Ramesh’s comment came five days after Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge asked why Modi had “not spent a single second in Manipur” in the past 16 months, despite the continued violence in the state.

On Monday, the Congress president had also said that it appeared that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, like the prime minister, had given up on his constitutional responsibility to ensure security in Manipur. Kharge alleged that Shah was “busy politicking and addressing rallies in [poll-bound] states” instead of resolving the situation in the northeastern state.

Kharge had also urged the Centre to immediately dismiss Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, accusing him of failing to end the ethnic violence in the state.

ZELIANGRONG UNITED FRONT REBUKES NSCN-IM CLAIMS AS FALSE AND MISLEADING

The Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) has issued a strong rebuttal against recent statements made by the NSCN-IM (National Socialist Council of Nagalim - Isak-Muivah) that they claim are filled with falsehoods and designed to mislead the public.

In a press release dated September 12, 2024, the NSCN-IM published an article under the banner "Nagalim for Christ," which ZUF describes as an attempt at psychological manipulation. The ZUF has labeled the publication as a "cheap game of psychological warfare" aimed at deceiving the public and spreading false narratives.

According to ZUF, the NSCN-IM's article falsely claimed that 10 of their cadres had been integrated into the NSCN-IM ranks through diplomatic and peaceful means facilitated by various Naga Army units. The ZUF dismisses these claims as entirely fabricated. The organization insists that no such integration took place and counters that instead, several NSCN-IM members have joined the ZUF. The ZUF has offered to provide names and ranks of these individuals if necessary.

The ZUF's statement also critiques the leadership of Longvibu.Gen. Ningkhan Shimray-MC-VC, accusing him of fostering division within the NSCN-IM. The ZUF claims that Shimray's leadership has been discredited by his own faction, the Eastern Flank, and demands his resignation.

Furthermore, the ZUF has raised concerns about the treatment of Zeliangrong youths allegedly recruited by the NSCN-IM for a village defense force. They report that these youths are being subjected to harsh conditions



GOVERNMENT OF THE
ZELIANGRONG UNITED FRONT
Makuilongdi Region

Ref. No.

Date 12th Sept. 2024

Counter Press Statement
13th September 2024

The Zeliangrong United Front is compelled to publish this clarification on the white lies reflected in print media by the so-called Naga Army NSCN-IM with sole intention to confuse and make the public to believe their false message. Their false statement was published in an unofficial paper with blue stamp seal; "Nagalim for Christ" on the 12th September 2024. This is simply a cheap game of psychological warfare implanted in the minds of innocent public.

The published paper and its content simply reflect malicious intention and superficial flow of self-glorifying attitude mean to gain peoples' support by false means. Right and rational thinkers and citizens will read it and shy and shame away seeing such reflection. Naga Christian community who subscribes to "Nagalim for Christ" will read it and say, it's a blasphemous thing being committed by NSCN-IM.

The statement, wherein mentioned that 10 cadres from ZUF group were brought home to the mainstream on 11th September 2024 through diplomacy and peaceful means by Jadonang Brigade, NP Bn. & Central Command Naga Army in collaboration with the CAO & staff of Zeilad region is a subtle play game seen only to make a concocted report for promotion of the said command and to make believe that it happened. Whereas the fact that, there was no such joining of ZUF cadres to NSCN-IM. Rather more of NSCN-IM cadres joined the Front. We can even furnish their names and ranks if we were to motion with pride. The ZUF by its principle keep its culture of humility, patience and peace and shall ever commit to safeguarding and defending the cause, life and land of the people from draining in the hand of the adversary. Further the statement also mentioned lauding the name and leadership of Longvibu.Gen. Ningkhan Shimray –MC-VC, whose leadership has created conspiracy and division within the organization. His leadership has been rejected and demanding to step down from the post by the Eastern Flank. We shall never allow our Zeliangrong kindred people to subscribe to the befooling game of NSCN-IM.

Cautions that, the NSCN-IM having been committing to training and recruiting Zeliangrong Youth supposed for Village defense Force (Charuang-Rihganh). These youth are being transported and deputed to war prone zone. Many youths are suffering and complaining of harsh and ill treatment under the command of NSCN-IM. The concerned village authority shall be held responsibility for any eventuality and they shall make way to bring the youth safely back to their respective villages. Informed that, the Zeliangrong kindred public particularly the youth should not be drained and driven away by the sweet-sounding words and messages filled with falsehood of NSCN-IM.

(R.LUMMEI)
Regional Tenki Officer (RTO)
Makuilongdi Region

and mistreatment. The ZUF has called on village authorities to take responsibility for the welfare of these youths and ensure their safe return to their communities.

The ZUF's statement concludes with a warning to the Zeliangrong public and youth, urging them not to be swayed by what they describe as deceptive and alluring rhetoric from the NSCN-IM.

NESO URGES PM MODI TO VISIT MANIPUR

The North East Students' Organization (NESO) on Thursday urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his silence and visit Manipur, which has witnessed violence for an alarming 16 months.

In a letter submitted to Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the NESO has also demanded the immediate appointment of a high-level peace committee to facilitate a lasting and peaceful resolution for Manipur.

“We urge the Prime Minister to break his silence and visit Manipur to assess the ground situation personally and to provide security to the civilian population of both the communities, especially women and children who are the most vulnerable section in this type of conflict. The people of Manipur need to see that their suffering is acknowledged and that concrete actions are being taken to resolve the conflict,” NESO chairman Samuel B Jyrwa said in the letter.

He said the prolonged silence of the Prime Minister, who is yet to visit Manipur since the violence erupted, has only served to aggravate the crisis. The absence of strong, timely leadership and intervention has allowed the conflict to fester, further escalating the violence and suffering endured by the people.

“The situation in Manipur is dire, and it demands immediate attention from the highest levels of government. The failure to address the conflict not

only undermines the stability of Manipur but also poses a threat to the broader peace and security of the entire North East region. NESO calls upon the Government of India to act without further delay and take concrete steps to restore peace in the state,” Jyrwa said.

“NESO also calls for the appointment of a high-level peace committee, involving representatives from all communities, to facilitate a lasting and peaceful resolution,” he also added.

Further, the NESO chief said this prolonged conflict has resulted in the tragic loss of countless innocent lives, widespread destruction of property, and created an atmosphere of fear and instability throughout the state.

Meanwhile, Jyrwa said that NESO reaffirms its commitment to peace and justice in Manipur and the entire North East region.

“We believe that violence can never be the solution to any conflict, and we call upon all communities and stakeholders to embrace dialogue and work together towards restoring peace. NESO stands ready to assist in any constructive efforts to resolve the ongoing crisis and ensure a stable, secure future for Manipur,” he stated.



A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.

- George S. Patton



NEWS ANALYSIS

CRPF Should Not Meddle With Cheap Propaganda, Dirty Politics at the Whims and Fancies of Majoritarian Regime

It is irresponsible and outrageous on the part of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to make comments on the political demand of the Kuki-Zo people. Security officials should stick to their job, not meddle with dirty politics and cheap propaganda.

On Friday, DIG Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Manish Kumar Sachar visited Thangkanphai village in Kangpokpi district of Manipur and Songpehjang relief camp in Saikul Hilltown and interacted with inmates of relief camps. He said, "People have no demands, they just wish to go home."

"This is a relief camp in Kangpokpi district where around 100 families are living...They are living peacefully...But our objective is that all these families return to their homes as soon as possible and restart their lives...We are identifying their farms and taking them there...They are all living peacefully...They don't have any demand except getting back to their normal life...They want that there should not be any attack on them or any life threat to them," DIG Manish Kumar Sachar said.

DIG, CRPF should note that, obviously, the internal displaced persons would really want to go back home and live a normal life provided that their already

torched homes and villages should be rebuilt and there should be no risk of lives being killed by the Meitei radicals. This does not mean that they have no political demand. Their demand is clear - Separate Administration from the communal Meitei government.

The Kuki-Zo people or IDPs are sensible enough that there is no point in demanding political solutions to the officials from the security agencies who are only meant to look after law and order situations in the region.

If Manish Kumar Sachar is trying to politicise the situation by indicating that the internally displaced persons do not have any political demand, that will be very unfortunate. The point is: Why should they demand anything political to the Central Reserve Police Force?

For, the internally displaced persons wishing to return home would mean the return of peace and normalcy after delivering justice for the Kuki-Zo people in the form of Separate Administration.

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Can the CRPF guarantee the safe return of the Kuki-Zo people in the valley of death - Imphal? Can DIG Manish Kumar Sachar give back the lives of Kuki-Zo people who have been raped, murdered and butchered?

Let it be clear that the Kuki-Zo people do not have any hope and trust from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), a security agency which can be easily manipulated at the whims and fancies of the Meitei government led by N. Biren Singh - the chief architect of the ongoing ethnic persecution against Kukis.

Notably, since the beginning of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom, there were many instances of CRPF remaining mute spectators when the Meitei

militants carried out aggressive attacks on the Kukis across buffer zones.

Of course, Kuki-Zo IDPs want homes or villages where they can live in peace, where they aren't chased, raped or murdered like wild animals. This can happen whenever the Centre government grants Union Territory with Legislature under the framework of the Indian Constitution.

While the people do wish to return home, this does not mean they are without demands. Their needs and concerns and political aspirations remain significant and should not be overlooked.



Jairam Ramesh
@Jairam_Ramesh



On May 3, 2023, Manipur erupted and began burning.

On June 3, 2023, a three-member Commission of Enquiry was set up to investigate the causes and spread of violence and riots. It was given six months to submit its report.

No report has been submitted till now. The Commission has just been given time till Nov 24, 2024 to do so.

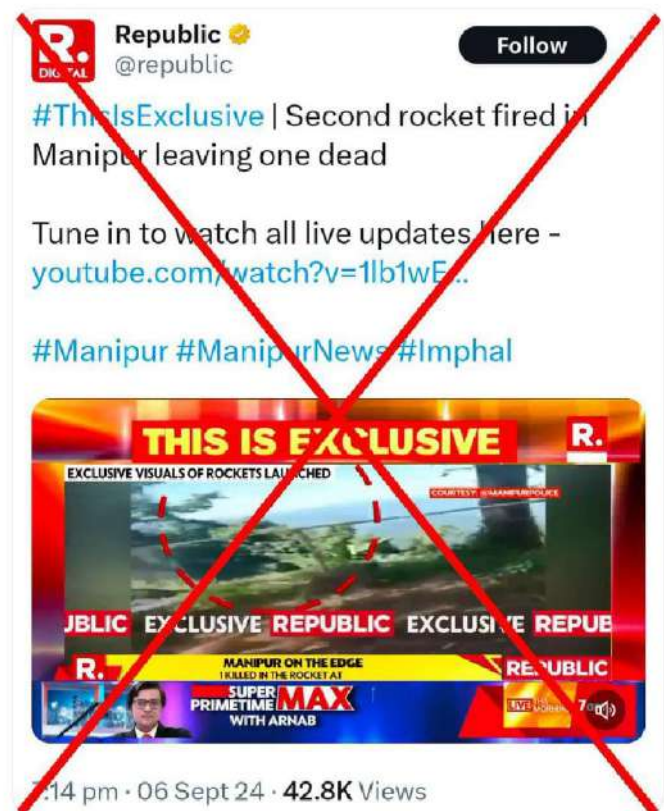
Meanwhile the anguish and agony of the people of Manipur continues unabated. And the non-biological PM continues to make plans to travel in other parts of the country and abroad, studiously avoiding a visit to this most troubled state.

8:46 · 14 Sept 24 · 3,362 Views



Abhishek @AbhishekSay · 15h

Dangerous misinformation aired by @republic about insurgency-hit Manipur. Republic News broadcasted Myanmar video and claimed that they have 'exclusive' and 'authenticated' footage of insurgents in Manipur using portable air defence system, and attributed this to Manipur Police.





OPINION

BEFORE MEMORY FADES

On the Commemoration of the 31st Kuki Sahnit Ni (Black Day)

Thangminlal (Lalcha) Haokip

“There is one place where all the people with the greatest stories are gathered. One place. And that’s the graveyard “_Viola Davis (American Actor)

This article seeks to address the concern that the commemoration of Sahnit Ni or Black Day over the past three decades has yield no positive political results and therefore its continuance must be discouraged and stop. The article agrees otherwise.

In the days of changing space of politics and amidst the animosity to the Kuki identity in the current political scenario in the state of Manipur, Black Day occupies an important space for dialogue about Kukis history and political aspirations. Apart from being an important historical event in the history of Manipur, it is also a significant memory that has evoke our collective conscience as Kukis which has continue to affect our image, identity and politics in the state of Manipur; in the Indian diaspora and around the world.

On this 13th of September, we will mark the 29th commemoration day of Sahnit Ni/Black Day for all the Kukis around the world. The date is marked to remember the brutal killing of Kukis carried out by the Naga Lim Guard (NLG); a proxy of Naga militant group- the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah). The massacre was a result of ‘quit notice’ issued by the United Naga Council (UNC) to the Kuki villages in Naga dominated hill areas of Manipur to vacate their lands.

(Nehginpao Kipgen “Memories that don’t fade to black” Sept 13, 2013 THE HINDU).

As a result of the ‘quite notice’ many Kuki villages were evicted by NSCN-IM. One of such unfortunate incidents occurred at Zoupi village in Tamenglong District; the village Chief was warned to vacate the village by the 15th of September 1993 but subsequently killed even before he could make such arrangements. Thereafter, the defenseless and helpless villagers sensing a greater harm to their lives vacated the village two days in advance hoping to escape the wrath of NSCN-IM. Unfortunately for the villagers, NSCN-IM ambushed them on the way and carried out a killing spree indiscriminately without differential treatment to women, children and infants. Eye witness account reports that ‘machete’ was used in the killing of infants. Similar actions were also carried out in Gelnel village in Senapati District and surrounding areas resulting in the death of more than hundred of Kukis on a single day, making it the highest number of Kukis killed in a single day; and one of the bloodiest massacres in Northeast India since post-independence.

Today, the Kukis around the world continue to observed this day in respect of the memory of

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victim of an unjust and brutal act and as a symbol of an unserved justice by the Government of India.

Nearly after three decades of the observance of this day, question have arose as to whether the continuance of Sahnit Ni/Black Day serves any purpose? This question stems from two thoughts. One, that the observance has borne no political advantage or success, and two, that both the parties (Nagas-Kukis) are Christians and therefore must practice Christ like character; forgive and forget the wrong doings of an adversary.

Firstly, the observance of Shanit Ni/Black Day is not merely an act of political stance but also a personal one. Personal because it provides us an opportunity to pay respect to the memories of the victims and in doing so make alive their memories and hear the defenses that they were denied. We do not commemorate the date merely to point out the crimes of an adversary but as a collective make known that we disapproved the injustice that was carried out to our people because it had affected our collective conscience, as the hundreds of people who were killed met their fate because of one political crime - being a 'Kuki'.

This day allows us to turn their memories into our collective conscience and help us to understand what our identity and history represents to other groups and people around world. This is an important element; no group or nation can create a political identity without the preservation of its own memory. Black Day is a reminder that Kukis are a distinct political group whose human rights were uprooted and political rights sideline, but whose history is embedded in the land as much as the sands are to the sea. Alternatively, by not observation the Black Day we only assist in distorting our own memory and thereby our identity. If we are to loss this part of our memory we only distort our own political identity as 'Kukis', but, if we are to truly protect our identity, which we must at all cost do so by collecting the pieces of such memories. The observance of black day therefore holds a significant symbol towards this process.

Secondly, reading a New-Testament Biblical moral to a politically charge animosity is as good as seeking the

righteous party in a conflict of war. Each is justified in its own right. To forgive is one of personal choice but to forget a mammoth incident which evokes the identity of the group is not at the liberty of the personal but personnel.

In fact, this whole argument is taken out of context and misleading. Because 'Sahnit' (a literal translation implies a period of non-consumption of red-meat due to an unfortunate event or circumstance) is an aged old customary practice of our ancestors which is observed when a member of a community has faced unnatural death or in the conflicts of war a member is killed unjustly and no acceptable resolution has been arrange or agreed upon between the aggressor and the victim. During such period the corpse is left unburied. The moral of this practice lies in the fact that no person shall be sent to the grave without due acknowledgement of the cause of his/her death. And, if the cause of death be an unnatural one; appropriate remedy was undertaken to ensure that the soul in the afterlife does not suffer.

Therefore, the observance of Sahnit Ni or Black Day has a customary implication rather than a Biblical one. Reading it out of context is misleading and uncalled for. In fact, speaking of the moral to forgive and forget is impractical in this case because for the victims to forgive the aggressor, the latter has to show or express remorse which in this case has not been witness (NSCN-IM has never in any form formally or informally apologised to the Kukis). How can a victim really forgive when the aggressor has not desired for one?

For the Kukis around the world, the Black Day incident does not only remind us of the hundreds of persons that died on the fateful day of 13th September 1993 but also the thousands more victims after that day and the lakhs of people that were displaced in the aftermath. This day marked the beginning of the Kuki political turmoil

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affecting our psyche to this day. What happen in Zoupi and Gelnel villages may not have seen the scale and extend of violation experienced at Auschwitz where the Jews were persecuted by the Nazi party during the Holocaust period but the harrowing experiences of the witness account tell no lesser tale. The history of the Kukis will find a gap to be filled without the record of the memories of the lives whose blood were spilled in cold blood.

Therefore, this day binds and compels us to awake the stories of the victims buried in the graveyard and enable them to speak their stories because their stories have become a part of our collective conscience which has defined and shaped our political consciousness.

A people without conscience can have no memory; and a people without memory can create no story; a people

without stories can write no history; a people with no history can have no identity and a people with no identity can have no nation.

If we are a nation with a political future, we must protect the collective national conscience before memory fades because we do not own this memory as it belongs to the collective, we are mere custodian of it for the next generation which will seek to build their history based on our memories.

(The author is the former General Secretary of KSO Bangalore (2022-2023). He thanks Mr.Thangjahou Haokip, Phd scholar at Institutes for Social & Economic Change (ISEC) Bangalore for providing valuable inputs)



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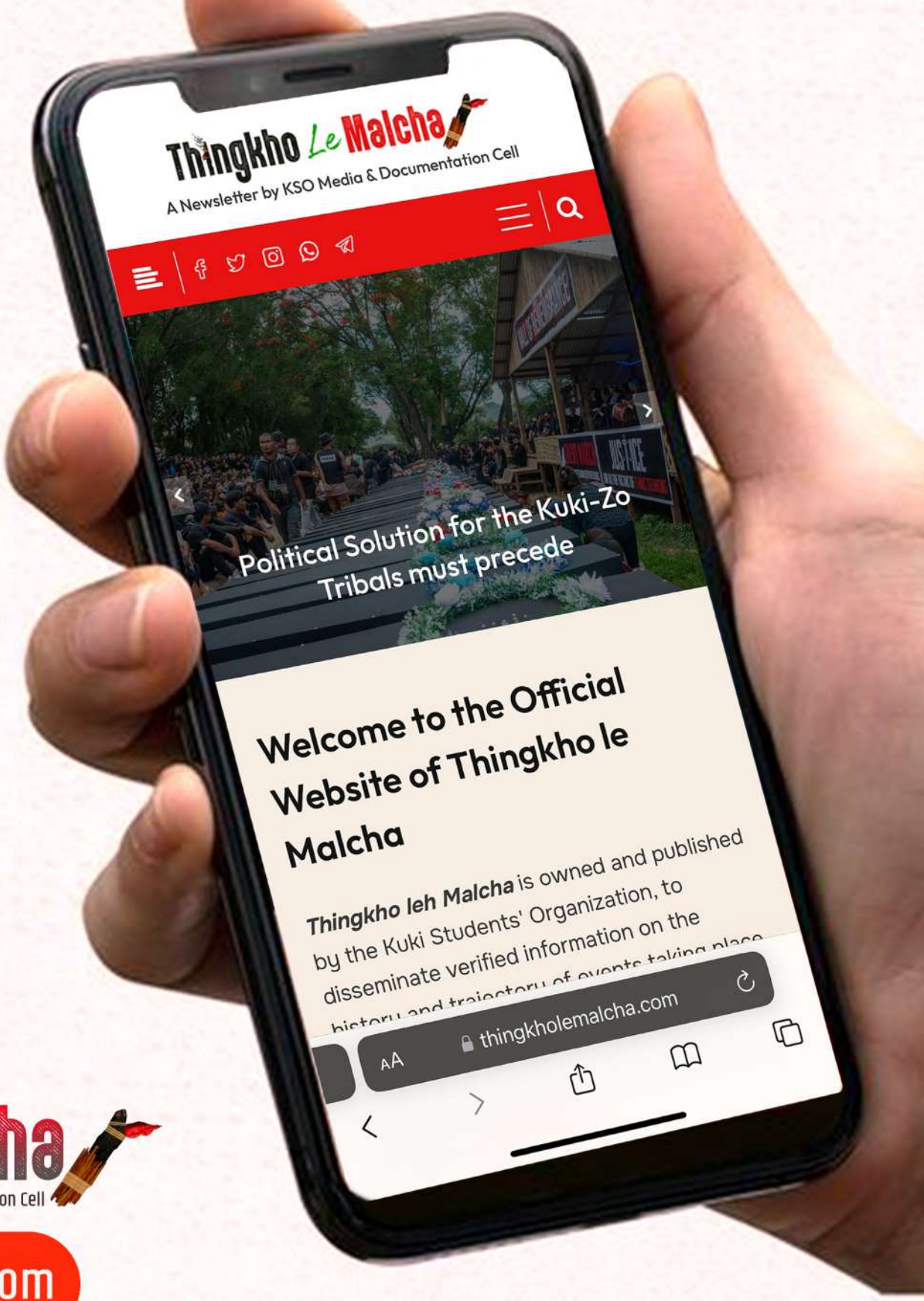
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POETRY



TEARS OF THE HILLS

The tears of the hills echoed loudly.
The cries of a mother, a father, a lover.
The cries of children longing for the shadow of their parents.
Paying the price of land for death.
Paying the price of freedom for separation.
Innocent souls we lose day after day, We never know who will be
the next to pay.
Today may be the last time you see a soldier fighting for our land
with tears and blood in his hand;
A conversation left halfway with his loved ones.
Still, the prayers of the hills echoed loudly.
For we are the children of our living God
We know the price of the innocent souls will bring us to our land
destined for us.
Today we cried with pain and agony that we lost souls for land.
But a day will come when we will cry with pride and tears of joy;
when we will be free and acquire our land.
A day will come when we will proclaim the land we fight for with
blood and tears.
That day our innocent souls will rest with pride, that day we will
equalise.

~ Tingngainem Lhungdim

