

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



NEHMANG KIPGEN (43 YEARS)

S/O DOUTHANG KIPGEN

ADDRESS: PHAILENGKOT, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 31ST MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: PHAILENGKOT, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: BURNT ALIVE BY MEITEI RADICAL GROUPS & MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
DEATHS



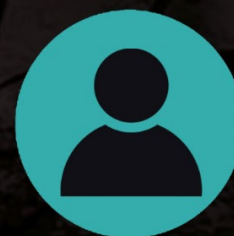
200+
VILLAGES BURNT



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.

CONTRASTING I-DAY CELEBRATION IN MANIPUR: KUKI DOMINATED AREA CELEBRATES WITH FERVOUR; IMPHAL VALLEY MARRED BY VIOLENCE, STRIKE

As the nation celebrates the 78th year of India's Independence, a contrasting scene emerged in troubled-torn Manipur state where one displayed sense of patriotism and nationalism, the other boycotted the national holiday marred by violence and strike.

The Kuki dominated area of Lamka (Churachandpur) and Kanggui (Kangpokpi) celebrated with pride as an Indian while the Meitei dominated area of Imphal valley witnessed total shutdown and closure of all establishments.

In Lamka, a district-level program was held at Peace Ground, Tuibong. Dharun Kumar S, Deputy Commissioner of the district hoisted the National Flag and took the Rashtriya Salute as the Chief Guest from the Parade Contingents. Thomas Haokip, SDPO Churachandpur commanded the 25 march past contingents.

Speaking on the occasion, Dharun Kumar S paid tribute to the many great freedom fighters who took part in shaping the glorious history of the people, culture, and achievements. He announced the setting up of computer centre in the district which will be ready for inauguration this month and online exams for the children can be conducted in the district from this year.

"As your District Magistrate, I assure you that the administration is fully committed to ensuring justice, security and development for all. We will continue to work tirelessly to promote understanding and dialogue and to build a future where every citizen feel safe, valued and respected" he stated.

Highlighting the achievements and contributions of various departments and offices in the district, the Deputy Commissioner stated that complete blood heamogram have been fitted at PHC Thanlon and CHC Singhat, scan and share OPD was launched under



e-hospital program. Despite the challenges, the district is housing the highest number of IDPs in total of 93 relief camps compared to other districts. The District administration, with the help of civil societies, has been providing support and assistance in the compassionate management of these camps.

Other highlights of the program included cultural items from different communities and bamboo dance from the Hmar Youth Association (HYA). The chief guest also gave away appreciation certificates to 107 government employees, government institutions and individuals/NGOs in recognition of their outstanding and valuable services in public service. Special certificates were also awarded to 10 schools which housed IDPs.

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The District Administration also organised a mass pledge-taking ceremony against drug abuse under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) as a part of the program. Thangboi Gangte, ADC Nanda administered the oath in which the participants pledged to work against drug abuse.

Shaikh Mohd Zaib Zakir, SP/Churachandpur, DLOs, Staff of different offices, awardees, ex-civil servants, ex-servicemen, leaders from CSOs, Philanthropic Organizations, NGOs, parents and students attended the event.

In Kanggui, thousands of people across Kangpokpi District celebrated 78th India's Independence Day at Brig. M. Thomas Ground at the District Headquarters Kangpokpi.

The enthusiastic attitude of the public, sleepless efforts of the District Administration and determination to carry forward the people enthusiasm, the appreciable 24 x 7 alertness of the security forces and the huge contribution of various CSOs overcome all hurdles including unfavorable weather condition in successfully celebrating one of the grandest ever Independence Day celebration witnessed by the people.

People from different parts of the District started gearing up and gathered at Brig. M. Thomas Ground Kangpokpi, with gaiety and enthusiasm to enthuse for the momentous celebration.

Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, who graced the sparkling occasion as Chief Guest have the Guard of Honour and inspection of parade and set the mood by hoisting the tricolor amidst cheers and applauds from the crowd accompanied by the National Anthem in the background.

In his significantly monumental Independence Day address, Mahesh Chaudhari, IAS highlighted the various significant initiatives, achievements, functions, trainings, etc. made and conducted by the District Administration Kangpokpi District for the welfare of the people.

The Deputy Commissioner also enlightened the general public the various Government schemes including PM Vishwakarma, skill development program, etc. while assuring to facilitate in case of any difficulties faced by them.

The IAS officer proudly highlighted almost twenty five thousand India Flag were hoisted at different places under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, 2024.

Distribution of appreciation, outstanding, participation, etc. certificate to various DLOs, employees, police personnel and impressive cultural displayed marked the occasion.

The momentous celebration was also attended by Haokholal Hangshing, Caretaker Chairman ADC Sadar Hills, and other members of ADC Sadar Hills, DLOs, CSOs, Church leaders, local bodies, village chiefs, students and parents.

However, India's 78th Independence Day celebrations were overshadowed by a general strike called by militant groups in the Meitei-dominated Imphal valley. Despite the tense atmosphere, the state-level celebrations proceeded with Chief Minister N Biren Singh hoisting the national flag at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground.

However, the day was marked by a shutdown enforced by eight militant outfits. Shops, businesses, and schools remained closed, and vehicular movement was minimal.

Security forces maintained a high alert across the state, with exemptions granted for essential services such as healthcare and media.

SADAR HILLS' KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY UNITES IN POWERFUL 'FASTING PRAYER FOR INDIA' ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

In a profound display of faith and patriotism, the Kuki-Zo community in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, concluded a three-day fasting prayer on Independence Day, August 15, with a heartfelt prayer for India's prosperity and unity. Gathered at Keithelmanbi Military Colony, hundreds of congregants lifted their voices in a collective prayer for the nation's future.

The powerful spiritual gathering, initiated under the banner of the Joint Prayer Group, comprises Kuki Nampi Taona (KNT), CoTU Prayer Cell, and HP Band, began on Patriot's Day, August 13, at Saikul Hill Town, with a fervent call for the community's unity, and stability, and the well-being of India. The event carried deep significance, uniting the community in prayer as the nation celebrated its 78th year of India independence.

The three-day vigil underscored the Kuki-Zo community's strong sense of national solidarity, with participants dedicating their prayers to India's leaders, the Kuki-Zo's leaders, the protection of India's citizens, and the strengthening of Viksit Bharat.

Among the fasting prayer attendees, Thomas, a dedicated prayer-goer, called this year's Independence Day a historic moment for India and a significant occasion for the Kuki-Zo people.

"Today is a historic Independence Day for Indians," he said adding that we, the Kuki-Zo community—men, women, church leaders, village chiefs from all walks of life—have come together to pray for India's growth, prosperity, unity, and a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).

"This shows that we are also Indian, and India is our mother", he added highlighting the pivotal contributions of Kuki-Zo freedom fighters and ancestors to the struggle for India's independence, affirming the community's enduring sense of national identity.

Taking the momentous occasion of national celebration,



Thomas passionately appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, emphasizing that the Kuki-Zo people are "children of Mother India" who view the government as their parent.

"When injustice is done to children, they turn to their parents for intervention," he asserted. "Today, on this Independence Day, we, the Kuki-Zo people, call on the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister to address the injustices done to us and to deliver justice."

Despite the challenges faced, Thomas expressed faith in India's leadership, saying, "We believe in the wisdom of our Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, and our Mother India, that justice will be done."

The fasting prayer gathering underscored the Kuki-Zo community's unyielding belief in the unity of the nation, while their call for justice resonated as a powerful reminder of their hope for equitable treatment and national harmony.

As the event culminated, the spirit of unity and hope reverberated throughout the region, a testament to the community's enduring belief in the power of prayer and the strength of the nation.

RAHUL GANDHI SAYS, “TRUE FREEDOM ELUSIVE IN MANIPUR”, ONCE AGAIN URGES PM MODI TO VISIT THE STATE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on India's 78th Independence Day drew attention to the crisis in Manipur, asserting that “true freedom remains elusive” in the violence-hit state. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi voiced his concerns, highlighting the hardships faced by the people of Manipur.

Gandhi mentioned that he met with a group of Manipuri residents in Delhi, who shared their heartbreaking experiences of being separated from loved ones.

Gandhi reiterated his call for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Manipur, a state ravaged by ongoing ethnic violence.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi shared his reflections on the dire situation in Manipur, emphasizing the suffering experienced by the people there. As the nation celebrated its 78th Independence Day, Gandhi used the occasion to highlight the plight of Manipur, stressing that true freedom remains out of reach for many in the conflict-ridden state. “Today, I met with a group of Manipuri people living in Delhi who shared their heartbreaking struggles since the onset of the conflict in their region. They spoke of the pain of being separated from loved ones and the physical and mental toll the conflict has taken on their communities. As we celebrate Independence Day, let us reflect on the plight of Manipur, where true freedom remains elusive. I urge the Prime Minister once again to visit Manipur and impress upon both Central and State governments to work towards a peaceful resolution at the earliest,” Gandhi wrote on X.

Gandhi's appeal comes on the heels of his visit to Manipur last month, where he had urged Prime Minister Modi to personally assess the situation and provide solace to the affected communities. During a press



conference in Imphal, Gandhi stated, “The prime minister should have visited the state long ago. It is important that he visits Manipur. I request him to come to Manipur and try and understand what is happening here. The people of Manipur, probably the people of the entire country, want the prime minister to visit the state and listen to the victims' woes. It will comfort the people.”

The Congress leader also underscored his party's readiness to support any measures that could help restore peace and stability in Manipur. “The Congress is ready to support anything that would improve the situation,” the member of Parliament from Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh had said in Imphal.

Manipur has been in the grip of ethnic violence for several months, with reports of widespread displacement, loss of life, and a deepening humanitarian crisis.

Source: [Money Control](#)

JOINT OPERATION ALONG INDO – MYANMAR BORDER RESULTS IN APPREHENSION OF FOUR KYKL CADRES

On the eve of Independence Day of India, 4 cadres of the banned Kanglei Yaol Kanna Lup (KYKL) were arrested in Manipur.

Along with the arrest, arms, ammunition and explosives were also recovered, a defence wing press statement said on Wednesday.

Acting on specific intelligence regarding the move of Insurgents along the Taret River near the Indo-Myanmar Border (IMB), a joint operation of Assam Rifles, Border Security Forces and Manipur police launched on 14 Aug 24 resulted in the apprehension of four KYKL cadres.

Based on their information, the joint forces launched a search operation in the general area of Khopijang, Near Serou village of Kakching District, Manipur.

The team recovered two Pompi, two single-barrel rifles, one country-made rifle, grenades, ammunition and war-like stores.

The arrested persons and recovered cache have been handed over to Manipur Police.



Meanwhile, Major General Ravroop Singh, Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South), called on the Governor of Manipur, Lakshman Prasad Acharya at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday and discussed the prevailing security situation in the State.

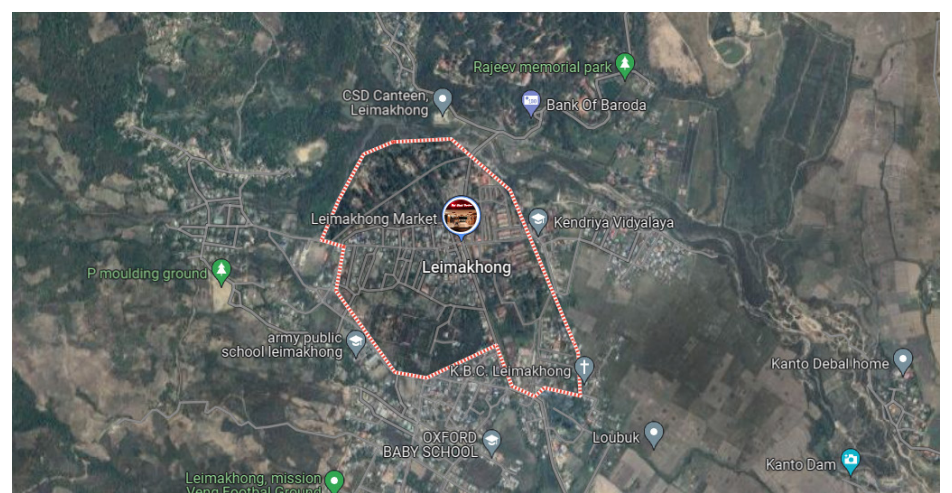
He briefed the Governor that Assam Rifles is extending fullest assistance to the administration so that peace and tranquillity prevails in the State.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 15, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 15, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

On India's Independence Day 2023, it is disheartening to learn that Meitei militants launched yet another attack on Leimakhong, an area dominated by the Kuki-Zo community. The use of bombs during the attack adds to the gravity of the situation.

Thankfully, no casualties have been reported, and central forces took necessary actions to prevent the Meiteis from advancing further



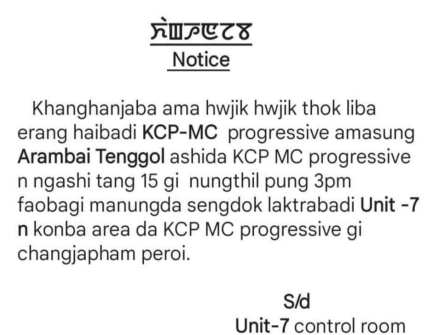
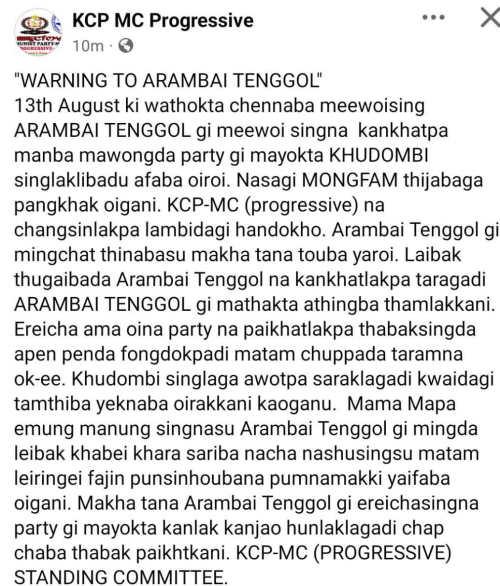
MEITEI MILITIA GROUPS AT LOGGERHEAD OVER PATRIOTS' DAY CONCERT CONTROVERSY

The recent rock concert organized by the All Manipur Football Association (AMFA) on Patriots' Day has sparked significant controversy within the Meitei community.

Following the circulation of inappropriate videos from the concert, there has been widespread backlash against the organizers, the music band, and the performing artists. Many within the Meitei community have denounced the event as disgraceful and contrary to the spirit of Patriots' Day celebrations.

In response, the KCP-MC Progressive militant group has called in all parties involved in organizing the concert for reprimand. Images of AMFA executives, band members, and attendees—some of whom were seen blindfolded—have been widely shared on social media.

This situation has escalated as reports suggest that some of those summoned by the KCP-MC have sought the protection of the Arambai Tenggol, further aggravating the KCP-MC. Consequently, the two militant groups have engaged in a public war of words on social media.



The KCP-MC has issued a warning to the Arambai Tenggol, while the Arambai Tenggol Unit-7 has announced a ban on KCP-MC activities within their jurisdiction.

This incident highlights the increasing influence of militia groups in the region, reflecting a troubling trend of threats, intimidation, ransom demands, and violence. These groups have increasingly taken on the role of 'moral police' in the valley area.

NAGALAND: SECTION OF NH-29 TO CLOSE FOR LANDSLIDE RESTORATION FROM AUGUST 16-18

A portion of National Highway-29 between Kohima and Dimapur will be closed from August 16 to 18, 2024, due to ongoing restoration work following a landslide at Dzüdza village under Sechü Zubza. The Kohima Deputy Commissioner (DC) has announced that the affected section, spanning from chainage KM 163+980 to KM 164+030 (RHS), will be inaccessible to all vehicles, including light and heavy traffic, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

during the three-day period.

To mitigate the disruption, the DC has directed that traffic be rerouted via the Peducha Bridge to Tsiesema (10 Mile Road) and Dzüdza Bridge-Mezo Basa-Sechüma-Sechü Zubza routes, with the latter being reserved for light vehicles only.

NEWS ANALYSIS: CONFUSED BIREN SINGH CALLS FOR PEACE WHILE HIS PATRONISED MILITANT GROUPS BOYCOTT INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

Confused over the way out for solving his ongoing orchestrated violence against the minority communities, the Meiteis' Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has called for unity amongst the State's 34 recognised Tribes to restore peace and tranquility.

It is nothing but an eyewash as the deep divide between the two warring communities has become beyond repairs as the hills and valleys can no longer exist under one administrative unit. Searching for an escape route for his crimes against humanity, the narcissistic Chief Minister N. Biren Singh often changes his hallowed narratives or false propaganda every time he speaks in public platforms or even inside the august house of Manipur Legislative Assembly.

As a pathological liar, he confused himself over the core issue, and no one takes his words seriously except his private militia groups of Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and some proscribed Meitei militants.

Addressing the gathering at 1st Manipur Rifles Parade ground during 78th Independence Day celebration, N. Biren Singh falsely attributed the ongoing unrest to external forces aiming to destabilize the state. He must come out in the open by pointing out those external forces that destabilize the Meiteis' Kangleipak.

As per the authentic audio recording which leaked on social media platforms, Biren admitted his well-planned violence and atrocities towards the minority Kukis so as to save the Meitei civilization. The ongoing violence is neither caused by external forces nor illegal immigrants as wrongly attributed by N. Biren Singh but a state-sponsored ethnic pogrom perpetrated by himself and his radicalised political cohorts. It is ridiculous that while acknowledging Manipur belongs to all its communities, including Thadou, Hmar, Simte, Meitei, Tangkhul, Mao, Maram, Anal, and Lamkang, etc., Biren still blame the involvement of external groups in the violence, which is baseless and false propaganda.



One must note that peace is achievable only when separate administration is granted for the Kuki-Zo people by the Government of India. There are no conspiracies or instigations for the ongoing violence but N. Biren Singh's orchestrated violence to grab tribal lands in the hills.

Also, the Meitei government's celebration of India's Independence Day is also only for namesakes as the state government is hand-in-glove with the proscribed Meitei militants for separatist movement from India Union. The banned militant groups have declared a boycott of Independence Day celebrations on August 15, announcing a state-wide shutdown in protest against what they describe as the oppressive integration of Manipur into the Indian Union.

The call for a boycott has been spearheaded by the Coordination Committee (CorCom), an umbrella organization representing six banned Meitei militant groups, which has urged the Meitei people to abstain from participating in any Independence Day activities.

The Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK) also joined the movement, urging residents of Manipur to hoist black flags in place of the national tricolor, symbolically designating the day as a "black day" to express their dissent.

**NEWS ANALYSIS****PM Modi Must Walk the Talk in Bringing Justice to Serious Crimes Against Women Including Kuki-Zo Women**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said there is a need to widely publicise punishments given for atrocities against women so that there is a fear of consequences.

Indeed, serious crimes against women are rampant in the country, and Prime Minister Modi must walk the talk in tackling these heinous crimes against women, including those cases of inhumane treatment of Kuki women perpetrated by the Meitei radicals and armed militia groups.

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort on the 78th Independence Day, Modi said his government has worked on a “women-led development model,” but he was still concerned over incidents of rape and violence against women.

The Government of India must take serious cognisance of the state-sponsored violence and atrocities meted out to the Kukis, particularly the Kuki women, as a result of the Meiteis’ terrorism. PM Modi should remember the scene of three Kuki women who were paraded naked by a thousand Meitei men in the presence of Manipur Police, which, according to right-thinkers, was the death of humanity.

Over a thousand Meitei men paraded three Kuki women naked, molested and thereafter gang-raped them on May 3 last year. They made videos of the incident and

let it go viral on social media. It shook not just India but the entire world. It shows humanity’s death and cruelty’s birth in its ugliest form. The noteworthy thing is that none, except for a boy, is arrested in the case. The victims of such heinous crimes still await justice.

The state-sponsored violence in Manipur broke out on May 3 last year and it is continuing even after more than 15 months. It clearly indicates that the N. Biren Singh government is actively supporting the atrocities on Kukis in Manipur. In the ongoing ethnic pogrom, at least 50 Kuki women had to face the brunt of Meiteis’ atrocities. As per statistics, 29 Kuki women were killed and many more were raped and tortured. Eight women were bludgeoned to death, two burnt alive, five shot dead and three lynched. The status of the remaining victims remains unspecified but is believed to be the case of ‘rape and murder’.

Rape or sexual violence has been used as a weapon by the radicalised private militia groups of N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts during the ongoing conflicts. In a heart-wrenching incident, two Kuki young girls were raped and murdered at a car washing centre in Imphal by the Meitei radicals.

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Many Kuki women survivors say it was the Meitei women who handed them over to the male crowd, inciting them to rape and kill. Known as Meira Paibis (torch-bearing women), the Meitei womenfolk have been the main instigators of the Arambai Tenggol cadres to rape Kuki women. They once made headlines in the past for their courageous stance against drug mafias and social evils, but are now deeply involved in orchestrating the heinous crimes against their fellow Kuki women during the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom.

For instance, two Kuki girls, aged 19 and 20, who had stayed at a nursing institute hostel in Porompat town in Imphal, said that the Meira Paibis handed them over to an angry Meitei radical youth mob after brutally beating them. The girls said that one Meitei woman even shouted, "Why are you still keeping them alive? Rape them, cut their bodies into pieces, and burn them alive." Many crimes against women are cold-blooded.

It is important to note that the Kuki women who were the victims of the Meiteis' atrocities still await justice even after a year of sexual violence in the State. The perpetrators still walk free, deliberately protected by the narcissistic leader N. Biren Singh, the chief minister of Meiteis' Kangleipak.

During the Independence Day address, the Prime Minister said there is anger among people against such incidents of crimes against women.

"We have worked on a women-led development model. Whether it is innovation, employment, or entrepreneurship, in every sector, women are marching ahead. Look at the defence sector -- air force, army navy, space sector, we are seeing the strength of women everywhere. But on the other hand, some disturbing things also come forward," he said.

"Today from the Red Fort, I want to express my pain. As a society, we will have to think seriously about the atrocities against our mothers, sisters and daughters. There is anger among common people because of this. I can feel that rage."

The Prime Minister also said the country must take such incidents seriously and the fear of reprisal must be struck among the perpetrators.

"Crimes against women should be probed swiftly, and stringent punishment should be given to those who commit demonic acts, it is important to instil confidence in society. The need of the hour is to widely publicise punishment for atrocities against women so that there is fear of consequences," he said, adding that those who commit such sins should know that they will be hanged.



Heroism on command, senseless violence, and all the loathsome nonsense that goes by the name of patriotism - how passionately I hate them!

- Albert Einstein

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Kaushik Deka ✓
@KDscribe

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This Independence Day, take a moment to remember the 60,000 fellow Indians in Manipur who were uprooted overnight and have been languishing in relief camps for over a year, with slim chances of returning home. They deserve the freedom to go back without fear and live where they choose in their own India. #Manipur

12:27 · 15 Aug 24 · 6,976 Views



Smita Sahay
@sahaysmita

Follow

This poem appeared in the National Herald last year. Felt the need to revisit it today

∞

Smita Sahay

**B Phainom,
Kangpokpi, Manipur**



We died a day before that full moon
when the mangoes were to be harvested.

Without shrouds or coffins or a thought
of death, we went on living our collective
afterlife for 73 days until knowledge
began to peel layer upon layer off
us—clothes, skin, flesh trailing
like dirty bandages of mummies
coming undone.

18:50 · 15 Aug 24 · 204 Views



CELEBRATION AMID CHAOS



My Little Hamlet

— Moses H. Khongsai



My little hamlet,
Strong as my ancestors who built it,
They burnt, yet the ashes and charcoal
Stood unyielding, a testament to their unshakeable legacy.
What can they do? For my little hamlet is not yet done,
Its spirit remains unbroken, a phoenix waiting to rise from
the embers.

My little hamlet,
Where my father told me tales of the valiant.
Beneath the star-studded canvas of the night sky.
It bore the heat and burnt with daring ferocity,
His blazing furnace, made the cowards flee in disarray,
For the furnace was the unyielding spirit of my
forefathers.

My little hamlet,
Where freedom's wild and untamed beauty reigns,
They thought it burnt, they rejoiced, but the price paid
was a heavy toll,
From the ashes, my hamlet shall rise, reborn, renewed,
and unbroken.
For the legends and the myths shall always prevail.

My little hamlet,
Grim and daring, beacons with unyielding defiance:
"Come what may, shall meet an iron fist,
Unshakeable and strong,"
For it is the resting place of legends and brave hearts,
Where courage and honor belong.