

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



HONORING THEIR VALIANT SACRIFICES
IN DEFENCE OF OUR ANCESTRAL LAND AND FREEDOM

KUKI MARTYRS OF KANGGUI PUT TO REST



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 15.12.2023



154
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.

MORTAL REMAINS OF KUKI-ZO MARTYRS INCLUDING A MEITEI WOMAN LAID TO REST IN KANGGUI

Manipur's Kanggui district witnessed a 12-hour total shutdown, alongside hoisting up of black flags and mass mourning during the burial ceremony of the Kuki-Zo dead bodies who were victims of Meitei atrocities in the ongoing ethnic violence which the state has been witnessing since May 3.

Twenty-three dead bodies including four untraceable/missing dead bodies were given a decent and honorable burial today at Martyrs' Cemetery at Phaijang village in Kanggui district.

Altogether, 58 Kuki-Zo people from Kanggui district have been killed in ongoing Manipur violence till date out of which 22 dead bodies had already been buried earlier, four dead bodies are still untraceable/missing, 13 dead bodies had been transferred to Churachandpur district as requested by their families while 19 dead bodies were flown home yesterday from Imphal.

The twenty-three dead bodies buried today includes four untraceable dead bodies who were given ceremonial coffins and includes the dead bodies of a 7-year-old, Tonsing Hangshing and his mother Meena Hangshing who were burnt alive inside an ambulance.

The dead body of a Meitei woman, Lydia Lourembam, wife of Lourembam Inaoton, who was burnt alive along with Tonsing Hangshing and Meena Hangshing was also among the dead bodies buried today.

The dead bodies of Florence Nempichong Hangshing and Olivia Lhingneithem Chongloi, who were raped and brutally murdered, were also among the dead bodies buried today.

The decent and honorable mass burial ceremony under the theme, "You Sacrifice Your Today For Our Tomorrow" conducted under the aegis of the Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills at the Martyrs' Cemetery at Phaijang village was attended by more than ten thousand people across the district.

Kuki Inpi Manipur, Sadar Hills Chiefs' Association,



various other civil society organizations, prominent Kuki-Zo leaders across the district and state also attended the mass burial ceremony. While CoTU Chairman Thanglen Kipgen gave the welcome speech, CoTU General Secretary, Lamminlun Singsit gave a brief report of the victims from the district.

Condolence and gun salute to the martyrs was conducted by the Kuki-Zo volunteers under the aegis of the CoTU Defence Department.

Apart from the CSOs leaders, the victims' family members also spoke on the occasion.

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Dr. Satkhokai Chongloi, who attended the Mass Burial Ceremony as Minister led the burial ceremony after a mass prayer with all the Church leaders. The coffins were carried by the Kuki-Zo volunteers while one church leader each carried a cross for each coffin and led the funeral procession to the burial site.

Joshua Hangshing, father of Tonsing Hangshing and husband of Meena Hangshing said, “Till I received the dead bodies of my son and wife, I could not have a normal life thinking that they would come back home anytime from somewhere”.

“The day I came to know that their dead bodies will be flown home, I could not sleep the whole night longing to meet them though they would not be able to talk to me like before”, he added.

He also said that now he was relieved as they could have a decent and honorable burial.

Lourembam Inaoton, a Meitei by ethnicity, and husband of Lydia Lourembam said that he had been leading a miserable life till he received the dead body of his wife.

“It’s very difficult to explain how my life was before her lifeless body reached me, but, now, I am fine as she got a decent and honorable burial today”, he added.

Lourembam Inaoton also conveyed his heartfelt gratitude

to the leaders of CoTU, KIM, KSO, and other CSOs for their exemplary humanitarian gestures in giving a decent and honorable burial to his wife’s dead body.

CoTU’s Information and Publicity Secretary, Thangtinlen Haokip once again thanked the Supreme Court as the Kuki-Zo victims could be finally put to rest.

He said that the Kuki-Zo people appreciated the Supreme Court in directing the state to hand over the mortal remains of our fallen brethren to us.

He also thanked the IGAR South and the 22 AR on behalf of the Kuki-Zo people of Kanggui for the transportation of the dead bodies.

Thangtinlen Haokip also said that CoTU was extremely thankful to the public for their support in times of grief by adhering to the 12-hour total shutdown which ended this afternoon at 5:00 p.m.

“May our departed souls rest in peace and their sacrifices will never be lost in our quest for freedom from the oppressive administration”, he added.

All business establishments, schools, and institutions apart from vehicular movement came to a standstill today in Kangpokpi district during CoTU’s 12-hour total shutdown.

SUPREME COURT ASKS STATE TO REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN TO RESTORE PLACES OF WORSHIP TO COURT APPOINTED COMMITTEE

The Supreme Court today (15.5.2023) directed the State of Manipur to furnish to the court appointed committee steps it had taken to restore the places of worship which had been destroyed in the ethnic violence. The bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala, and Justice Manoj Misra also recorded the assurance given by Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta that necessary steps would be taken so that all those in relief camps could celebrate the upcoming festival of Christmas.

Senior Advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for Meitei Christian Churches Council, submitted that the court-appointed committee for rehabilitation in the State headed by Justice Gita Mittal had made certain recommendations to restore the places of worship and requested the court to accept the same. Ahmadi clarified that the relief was sought regarding places of worship of all communities and not confined to any particular religion.

The CJI asked–

“What is being done by State to protect the places of worship that were vandalised? What is the state doing to restore?”

To this, ASG Bhati submitted that the State of Manipur had filed a detailed affidavit as per which the process of identification of destroyed places of worship and subsequent securing of the same had already been done. At this juncture, Ahmadi submitted that with the festival of Christmas approaching, steps should be taken to ensure its celebration. He said–

“The reason why I’m pressing is that Christmas is approaching. Let them have a place to congregate. We are a religious society, that is important for them.”

Passing directions in the matter, the CJI remarked– “Today is the last working day for us. But we’ll issue certain directions to the committee. But at the same time, work of restoration takes time. But these things should move forward.”

In order to further facilitate the exercise being carried out by the committee, the following directions were passed–

“1. The Government of Manipur within two weeks shall furnish to the court-appointed committee, the identification carried out of destructed places of worship. We clarify that the identification shall be across all religious denominations and of all sorts of religious places.

2. The State of Manipur shall tell the court-appointed committee of steps taken to secure the places of worship.

3. Based on the exercise of identification, we permit the committee to prepare a comprehensive proposal for a way forward in regard to restoration of places of worship.”

The bench added that the committee would be at liberty to take a comprehensive view of the matter including supervening events of encroachment/occupation of places of worship. The bench added–

“Large number of persons belonging to various communities would presently be in relief camps across Manipur. In view of the impending approach of Christmas, SG and ASG Bhati assure the court that necessary steps will be taken so that all those in relief camps can celebrate.”

Further, the remit of committee was extended to 6 months.

Senior Advocate Jaideep Gupta submitted that the State of Manipur shall also make a policy for rehabilitation of the houses that were destroyed in the violence. In this regard, he filed two affidavits. Taking the same into account, the bench held–

“The State of Manipur shall, after evaluating the situation, and after independently carrying out an investigation bring out a comprehensive proposal or response as the case may be for restoration of houses destroyed in the violence.”

Source: [Live Law](#)

MORE SITs TO PROBE VIOLENCE INCIDENTS, CRIME IN MANIPUR

Special Investigation Teams (SITs), constituted after SC ordered to probe the incidents of violence, murder, rape and various other crimes during the ethnic violence in Manipur, started their inquiry and the remaining would soon start their tasks, officials said on Friday.

The officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and SITs are facing protests by the local organisations as the protesters alleged that the probe is not being done in a balanced manner.

A Manipur Home Department official said that the apex court earlier ordered the formation of 42 SITs. One headed by a Superintendent of Police rank officer to look at FIRs related to murder and other heinous crimes. And another, including a female inspector, for FIRs related to rape, outraging of modesty and such other sexual offences.

Other FIRs will be investigated by SITs headed by the officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.

As per the order of the SC nine SITs will look after the cases in the districts of Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Kakching, Thoubal and Tengnoupal districts.

These nine SITs would be supervised on a weekly basis by an officer of the rank of Deputy Inspector General

of police, Inspector General of Police or Additional Director General.

Manipur Director General of Police Rajiv Singh would monitor the cases, being probed by the SITs, on a fortnightly basis.

The SITs comprising women officers would oversee the investigation of crimes involving sexual violence.

Assam cadre IPS officer Anand Mishra has been deputed to the SIT, which is to investigate the cases of violence in Manipur while another officer of Assam Police Service Randip Kumar Barua has also been included into the SIT.

Assam's Commissioner Home and Political Department Deba Prasad Misra in an order earlier this week placed both Mishra and Barua at the disposal of the Manipur government to take charge of the SITs.

Former Deputy National Security Adviser D.D. Padsalgikar has been appointed by the SC to monitor and supervise cases handed over to CBI and those of SITs.

Padsalgikar recently met Manipur governor Anusuiya Uikey and discussed the probe related aspects.

ANOTHER DEATH IN MANIPUR ON THE DAY WHEN BODIES LYING IN MORGUES WERE FINALLY RETURNED TO KIN

India's sensitive border state which has been riven with violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May 3, saw another death on Thursday, December 14, when a 26-year-old Kuki volunteer was killed in the Haolenphai Tengnoupal district of the state.

Khaitinmang Baite was killed on the day when the bodies of both communities (Meitei and Kuki), which were lying in the morgues of different districts of Manipur, were finally sent to their respective districts. Speaking to The Wire, Baite's aunt Hoilhing said, "He was a final year student doing his master's degree. He has three children and the youngest is just a week old."



She said that he received "four, five bullet injuries before finally succumbing to his injuries in the Churachandpur district hospital."

KSO HOLDS “LENKHOM-CUM-CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL” FOR DEPARTED SOULS



Under the aegis of the Kuki Students’ Organisation, Lamka, the denizens of the district tonight held a candle light vigil cum condolence gathering in honour of Kuki-Zo martyrs and innocent victims of Meiteis’ pogrom in front of CMC, District Hospital, Lamka, where 87 dead bodies are kept in the morgue.

People from different parts of the district took part in the candle light vigil and the condolence gathering, wherein the Joint Artists’ Assoiation, Lamka, led the mourners in singing gospel songs.

Speaking on the occassion, the President of a philanthropic organisation, Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi (KKL), Kamthang Haokip, informed the gathering about the initiatives they along with other CSOs had taken during the past seven months to make sure that the bodies of Kuki-Zo reach their families so that the families could hold the last rites.

The KKL president said that the steps taken to bring back the Kuki-Zo dead bodies from Imphal was given as one of the Joint Philanthropic Organisations’ (JPO) priorities as they could understand and feel the pain and sufferings of the families who could not receive the bodies of their sons, daughters, fathers, brothers and family members.

As practiced in the Kuki-Zo tradition wherein relatives, friends and localities of the deceased persons gather at the deceased’s house before the burial, the KKL president also informed and appealed to the people to gather every evening at the same venue every evening until the burial ceremony is performed on December 20.

He also said that the bodies will be buried at Martyrs’ Park near Khuga Dam on December 20 and urged the support and cooperation of the public so that a decent mass burial could be completed.

Reverend Onkho Haokip delivered encouragement speech during the gathering for the bereaved families.



ANALYSIS

Licipriya Kangujam: A Pawn in the Hands of an Unscrupulous, Fraudster Father

A few years back, a young child named Licipriya Kangujam rose to fame overnight when his fraudster father Karnajit Kangujam posted a video of his daughter crying by a tree felled by her father. Little did the world know that the act was beautifully staged by Licy's father, a con man by profession, to make a name for Licipriya so that he could swindle money through her.

Licipriya's rise to fame as a Climate Change activist was also by means of deception. All her initial awards were awarded by fake organizations and conclaves run by her father Karnajit Kangujam so that she could have the credentials to get international limelight.

When the Delhi and Manipur police jointly arrested Kangujam Karnajit for alleged forgery and cheating, following a complaint from a Nepalese student, it marked a major turn in a long-running saga of similar charges leveled against him by students from many countries since 2018. It threw the spotlight on the activities of his nine-year-old daughter Licipriya Kangujam — a young girl who has been in the global limelight as an activist warring against climate change and has rubbed shoulders with the likes of Sweden's Greta Thunberg.

The swindler Karnajit Kangujam was arrested on 31st May 2021 for duping several self-help groups, hotels and individuals of money for a Global Youth Meet that he organized in Imphal. A Nepali youth from Kathmandu had also written to the Indian Embassy in

Kathmandu sometime back in 2020 about Karnajit Kangujam defrauding him of Rs. 30,000/- in the name of Europe Youth Exchange Programme.

The fraudster is known to have founded an organization called International Youth Committee (IYC) through which he defrauded many national and international International students to the tune of Rs. 3 Crores on the pretext of International Youth Exchange Programs between 2018-2019.

Karnajit, more commonly known as K.K. Singh, keeps a low profile even as his daughter has gained fame. But activists have pointed out that several of the awards Licipriya has received in the past have been from organisations her father was associated with, raising concerns that her credentials may not be authentic, and that he might be using her as a front to further his own ambitions.

Licipriya's social media accounts, where calls to raise money are emphatic, are not controlled by her directly, and require parental consent to operate, creating suspicion about K.K. Singh using her as a front.

Several activists and students who have complained against K.K. Singh have also

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expressed worries that he could be using his daughter as a front for his own ambitions. She is said to have wilfully “dropped out” of school for at least one year to protest against climate change.

Interestingly, Licipriya’s rise as an activist, which first hit national headlines in 2019, coincided with the IYC’s decline, which hasn’t conducted any workshops, summits, or events since then.

Licipriya Kanggujam is a brilliant and obedient child who speaks what the fraudster teaches her and asks of her. Her X (Formerly Twitter) account is also handled by her father who at times posts controversial lines.

After the State of Manipur and Meitei terror organizations launched a genocide/ethnic cleansing against the Kukis in Manipur on the 3rd of May 2023, the X (Formerly Twitter) and Facebook page of the so called Child Climate Activist was seen spreading fake news, hatred and provocative statements, all directed at the minority Kuki people. There is also a certain post in which she advocated for the annihilation of all the Kuki people.

Her recent protest to end fossil fuel at the COP28 Submit is also nothing but staged-managed by her father to promote his ends. Had it been successfully staged it would have been the best play he had directed and would ultimately be used again to further his swindling of money and attacks on the Kuki Christian minority in Manipur.



The use of Licipriya’s various social media accounts by her father in attacking Kukis, spreading fake news etc is aimed at appeasing the Meitei organisations and CSOs with whom he has had an estranged relation because of his fraudulent activities. Karnajit’s plan to use Licipriya as a means of swindling money and re-integrating himself into the Meitei society have backfired during the last drama he directed at COP28 . Furthermore, everything, including the image that he had built with lies and deception for his daughter, may also soon come to an end.

**You can’t truly call yourself “peaceful” unless you’re capable of great violence.
If you’re not capable of violence, you’re not peaceful.
You’re harmless.
Important distinction.**

– Anonymous

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

COTU @COTU_Kangpokpi

THE DEAR DEPARTED, SLAIN IN IMPHAL VALLEY UNDER THE NOSE OF MANIPUR GOVERNMENT.

The nineteen mortal remains are laid to rest in martyr cemetery at phaijang, Motbung. One individual from the meitei community Lydia lourembam is included in the mass burial. She along with her friend took the courage of getting treatment for her son in a hospital in Imphal. They were burnt in an ambulance by mobs on the fateful night of 6th june.

Village volunteers pay homage with gun salute to the departed souls. The mass burial marks the beginning of a new chapter in the prolonged ethnic conflict in Manipur.

H S Benjamin Mate @BenjaminMate1

These innocent Kuki-Zo civilians, mostly women & children who were brutally murdered in d heart of Manipur's Capital Imphal, ll never b forgotten @NBirenSingh, may d cries of these innocent souls, pains & suffering of their families hunt u & forever. Adieu! Bros & Sisters 🥺



1:08 PM · Dec 15, 2023 · 1,833 Views



THE CRUCIAL TEAM DISCUSSION





Lhahna Chibai

- Letginmang Singsit

Unhappy the sun seems this morning
Loses the sky its blue colour glooming
For the land is sufficed with mourning
Deprived of jovial singing and dancing.

Lo! Comes in caskets the martyrs there
Weeps and cries and salutes everywhere
Their beloved ones follow here and there
A parade of seen and unseen tears here.

Each coffin I believe has a story to tell
Their untold sufferings felt by each cell
Into those dreadful hands how they fell
Countless tales of tears they would yell.

Blessed the soil that coated their bodies
Shawls for wrapping 'em by the families
Flowers lauded to 'em by their buddies
Honoured you are gone gents and ladies.

Counts every bloodshed come what may
Zero to go in vain before and since 3 May
Etched in our hearts thy names everyday
Adios! See you on the other side someday.



REST WELL , BRAVE SOULS

After seven long months
of longing and despair,
Our Kuki martyrs return, borne by heavy air.
Their lifeless bodies finally comes home,
Our ancestral land, where their spirits will roam.

Forever in our hearts, they shall reside,
Honored and cherished, with love as our guide,
Their bravery, their sacrifice, an eternal flame,
Admiration and gratitude forever in our name.

Tonight, under the stars, they will find their sleep,
In sacred soil, where ancestors' memories seep.
A solemn ceremony, hearts heavy with pain,
As we bid farewell, our tears flowing like rain.

But fear not, dear martyrs, for you shall not be alone,
Under the cold soil, together you will find your own.
United in death, just as you were in life,
Keeping each other company, free from strife.

No more horrors shall haunt your eternal sleep,
Your souls now soar high, in heavens deep.
Goodnight, dear martyrs, find tranquil dreams,
In your sacred slumber, beneath moonlit beams.

- Seimonlal Singsit



Long Awaited Farewell

~N. Neicy Khongsai

*The air is filled with sounds
Not of laughter, not of joy!
A loud echo unheard by others
Burning deep in my heart.
Echoes of lost and a sigh of relief
Relief! Not the kind I wish for.
As tears rolled down our cheeks,
Some waiting with warm clothes
To clothe the cold dead bodies of our dear ones.
Scared to have a last glimpse of them
For I knew what they went through
As I take a step closure
I look up at the sky
With a heavy heart I thank God
For they reached their Father's land
To take rest in the soils of their own
Embraced and cradled by the soils of our
forefathers forever
With a heavy heart
Bidding a proper farewell
In the bosom of your loved ones.*