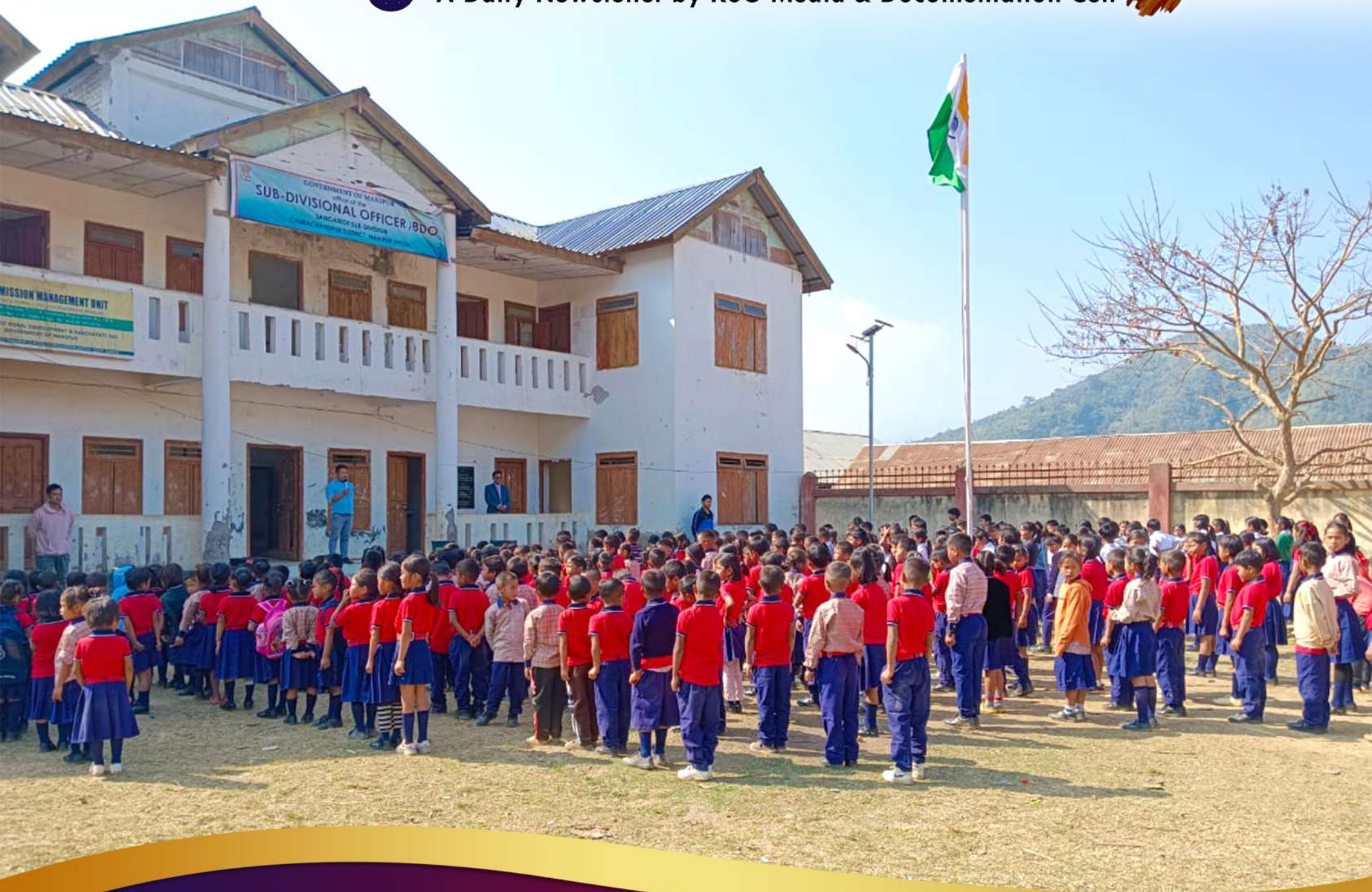


Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Kuki Students' Organisation **COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Sangaikot, Lamka

Managed by
Kuki Students' Organisation
Sangaikot Block, Lamka

Total Students Enrolled: 360



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.02.2024



162
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.

PROTEST OVER SUSPENSION OF POLICE HEAD CONSTABLE LEAVES 2 DEAD, MANY INJURED; ITLF SERVES 24-HRS DEADLINE FOR DC, SP

At least two people have been killed, and over 30 others sustained injuries during the indiscriminate firing of live bullets by the security forces upon the protestors in Lamka district on Thursday late evening.

The two deceased have been identified as Letlalkhuol Gangte, son of Kamkhomang Gangte of Nalon village, and Thanggunlen Haokip, son of Seilal Haokip of S Canaan Veng.

The incident occurred when an irate mob attempted to storm the office of the Superintendent of Police in Lamka following the suspension of a police head constable after he was allegedly seen with armed men in a viral video.

Meanwhile, as fresh tensions erupted in Lamka, one of the epicenters of the ongoing unrest in Manipur, the state government has imposed Section 144 of the Indian Penal Code and suspended mobile internet service for five days with immediate effect from 1:40 am today as a precautionary measure.

In a statement issued by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) on Friday, it stated that the new SP of Lamka, Shivanand Surve, and the Deputy Commissioner, S. Dharun Kumar should be held entirely responsible for the incident on the night of the 15 February 2024 in the district, where two persons were shot dead by security forces and at least 25 others seriously injured after civilians came out in the streets to protest against the unjust treatment of a tribal official.

"As high-ranking officials, the SP and DC are fully aware of the nature of the conflict in Manipur and the sensitivities involved on the ground. But that did not stop them from acting in a manner that would lead to tension and violence. Therefore, Shivanand Surve and S. Dharun Kumar turned out to be key instruments inserted by the communal Chief Minister N. Biren Singh



to create problems in the hill district of Lamka".

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) held an emergency meeting in the morning of the 16th February 2024 at the KKL complex, Lamka. All tribe, philanthropic, student leaders and convenors of ITLF came together for deliberations and the following decisions were taken:

1. The district administration should cancel the suspension of head constable Siamlalpaul immediately.
2. The SP of Ccpur, Shivanand Surve should leave the district within 24 hours. As the firing order on civilians was given by the District Magistrate, the DC of Ccpur, S. Dharun Kumar should also leave the district within 24 hours.
3. If the suspension of the head constable is not cancelled within 24 hours and that, if the SP and DC do not leave the district within 24 hours, all government offices shall be closed. Both the SP and DC will bear the responsibilities for any untoward incidents that may fall on them.

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4. The DC and SP should be replaced by Union Territory cadres preferably from the Kuki-Zo community by the central government.

5. ITLF Legal Cell should take up all legal procedures regarding those killed and injured by the security forces.

6. All that were killed by the security forces on the night of 15th February 2024 would be considered as Kuki-Zo martyrs and will be buried after all necessary actions, due procedures and agreements with the government are completed.

7. Inquiry should be initiated on all security force personnels, who were involved in the firing of civilians and should be punished as per the law.

8. Our MLAs should be involved in the situation and take up all the issues to the government.

9. Philanthropic organisation will look after all the

injured.

10. The 15 February 2024 public uprising and killings by the security forces will be called “The Wall of Remembrance Massacre”.

The ITLF also announced a total shutdown in the district on Friday to protest the killing of a civilian by security forces.

Views of TLM: RAF has been stationed in the Mini Secretariat, Tuibong for almost a year now, and it is very surprising that the premier crowd Control force is not equipped with sufficient rubber bullets for crowd control. A thorough Magisterial inquiry needs to be conducted to get to the bottom of this. Further, what circumstances compelled the Magistrate to order the firing of live bullets into the crowd needs proper investigation and full inquiry to hold the persons responsible for the deaths of a child and a fellow citizen.

LAMKA DC REJECTS ITLF’S ULTIMATUM, VOWS TO STAY AMIDST UNREST

Given an ultimatum by a key Kuki outfit to leave Manipur’s Lamka within 24 hours, the district’s Deputy Commissioner has told The Indian Express he “cannot abandon the people and disappear”. The Kuki-dominated Lamka district saw violence on Thursday night after a Kuki head constable was suspended over a video showing him alongside armed village volunteers from the community.

On Friday, the The Indigenous Tribal Leaders’ Forum – an influential Kuki-Zo organisation – called for a shutdown in protest against the two deaths and issued a public notice stating that it held the Superintendent of Police Shivanand Surve and DC S Dharun Kumar “entirely responsible” for the incident.

While Surve could not be reached for comment, Kumar told The Indian Express, “We will take a decision based on the situation as the SP and DC cannot abandon people of a district and disappear. We have to protect the general public come what

may, that is why we are here.. We are All India Service officers who have come from faraway places to help people and work under challenging circumstances. We have no issue in serving in any location where the government deems fit”.

Angered over the suspension, a mob of hundreds stormed the offices of the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday night. As security forces retaliated, two people – 29-year old Letlalkhuol Gangte and a youth aged 15 – were killed.

The two topmost bureaucrats of the district have failed to prevent the deaths of two innocent civilians, who were also a part of the general public, who the Deputy Commissioner claims to be serving. The DC and SP failed in their moral responsibility and even in their administrative and legal responsibilities.

LAMKA DISTRICT FACES INTERNET BLACKOUT AMIDST SUSPENSION OF MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES

The Home Department, government of Manipur on Friday issued an order, temporarily suspending internet mobile services in the whole of jurisdiction of Lamka district with immediate effect.

The suspension of mobile internet services in Lamka district took effect from 1:40 am on Friday, February 16. This move aims to ensure the smooth functioning of administrative processes and maintain public order.

Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh, Joint Secretary to the Manipur Home Department, issued an order outlining the temporary suspension or restriction of internet services. The order covers mobile data services and VPN-based internet/data services across the entire revenue jurisdiction of Lamka district.

However, what is particularly concerning about the situation is the blackout of internet services in Lamka district, including the disconnection of broadband connections. The directive issued by the Home Department only mentioned the temporary suspension of mobile data services, without addressing the disconnection of broadband services. This amounts to discriminatory treatment in terms of access to internet services.

While violence on a larger scale has been occurring in the Imphal valley compared to the incident in Lamka town last night, no internet services have been suspended or significant actions taken, despite instances of

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
SECRETARIAT : HOME DEPARTMENT

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR : MANIPUR
Imphal, the 16th February, 2024

No.H-3607/4/2022-HD-HD : Whereas, DC/ Churachandpur vide letter No.4/1/2020-DG/CCP(Pt) dated 15-02-2024 reported incidents of violence and arson in Churachandpur District;

2. Whereas, there is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, posts and video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the State of Manipur. And there is an imminent danger of loss of life and /or damage to public/private property, and wide spread disturbances to public tranquillity and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours, which might be transmitted/circulated to the public through social media/ messaging services on mobile services, SMS services and dongle services;

3. Whereas, in view of volatile law and order situation in Churachandpur District and for reasons cited above, State Government decided to temporarily suspension/curbing of mobile internet/data services, internet/data services through VPN in the whole revenue jurisdiction of Churachandpur District for 5(five) day as preventive and precautionary measure.

4. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Rule 2 of Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, having satisfied that the above situation is likely to cause serious disturbances to the peaceful coexistence and maintenance of public order, the Governor of Manipur is pleased to order temporary suspension/curbing of internet services, mobile data services and internet/data services through VPN in the whole revenue jurisdiction of Churachandpur District for 5(five) days with immediate effect from 1:40 A.M. of 16-02-2024 subject to confirmation within 24 hrs by Competent Authority.

5. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

6. All Mobile Service providers are hereby directed to ensure compliance of this order.

By orders & in the name of the Governor,



(Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh)
Joint Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur

Memo No. H-3607/4/2022-HD-HD

Imphal, the 16th February, 2024

looting government arms and ammunition happening openly. This selective response by the state government, penalizing only the residents of Lamka, reflects a discriminatory stance.

It is widely recognized that access to the internet is crucial in today's world, and it has become a fundamental right for all citizens. Denying people their basic rights in this regard constitutes a violation of human rights.



Where there is oppression, there is resistance.

– Assata Shakur

KUKI BODY DECRIES INTERPRETATION OF 'THANGTING HILL' AS SACRED PLACE FOR MEITEIS

The issue of so claimed 'Sacred Hill' by the Meiteis and wrong interpretations as 'Sacred Place' for the Meiteis who burnt down more than 200 churches in Meitei majority Imphal Valley is totally false and baseless, claims Lomlhang Som, a traditional Zo ethnic Kuki Youths Dormitory Club.

Their clarification stands as under:

INSTALLATION OF CROSS AT THANGTING:

Under the initiation of LOMLHANG SOM and escorted by Village Volunteers (VV), the public of the region installed a Cross at Historical & Traditional Kuki religion spot – THANGTING, located within Ukha-Loikhai Village of Kuki Hills, India, outer Manipur on the 25th January 2024.

LAND OWNERSHIP:

That the said spot is located within 'Kuki Hills' of 'Haokip Reserved of 1907, Land Holding Rights issued by the British Colonial Imperial Government and the Manipur Hill Durbar, acknowledged by Government of Manipur Vide Hill Misc. Matter No. 01 of 1974.

UKHA-LOIKHAI DOCUMENT SEIZED:

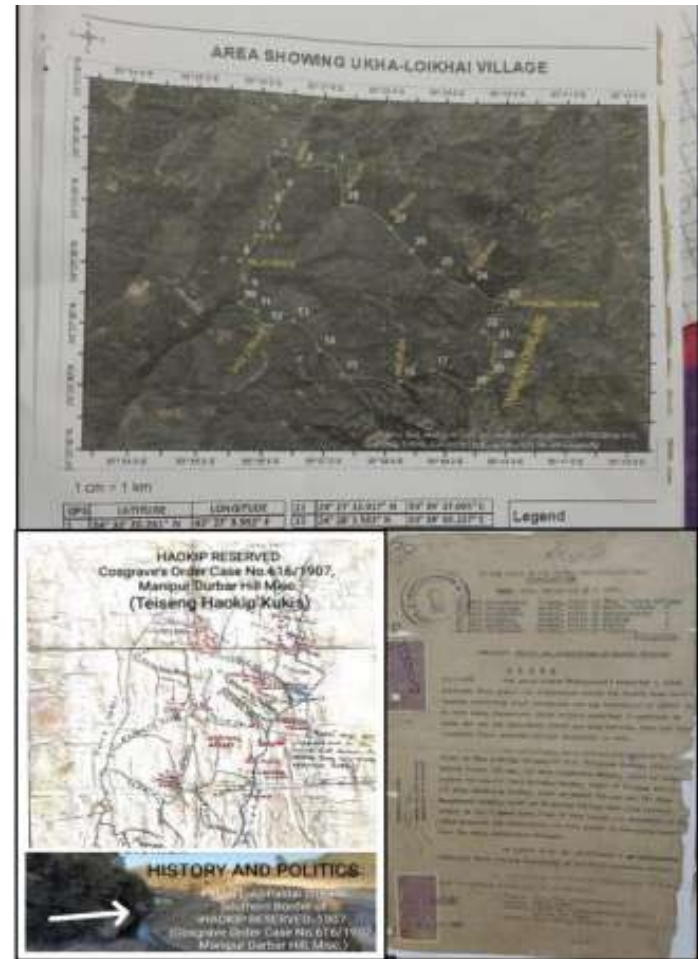
The Land holding document/ Patta of UkhaLoikhai Village under Songpi Haokip Reserved of 1907 (CCPur) is seized by the Lomlhang Som so that Govt. of Manipur should no longer disturb the Chief.

LOCATIONS:

Thangting has been the abode of Manmasi people since time immemorial later known as Kukis since 1770s, is situated and located within the Jurisdictions of 'Haokip Reserved' of Colonial Era of Ukha Loikhai Village, centuries before the creation of Manipur state in 1972.

KUKI TRADITIONAL RELIGION:

Before the advent of Christianity, the spot had been the 'Sacred Site' of Kuki traditional Religion - 'NUNGJAI PATHEN', for centuries. The Meiteis who settled in the Valley later on embraced and called as IBUDHOU THANGJING.



1907 Land Holding Document @ HAOKIP RESERVED, Thangting Range of Kuki Hills, INDIA

UNLAWFUL ACQUISITIONS:

The Government of Manipur forcefully acquired KOUBRU @ 2 Hectares from SAITU Village of Kangpokpi district and THANGTING (THANGJING) measuring 4 Hectares respectively Vide MANIPUR GAZETTE, Imphal, Tuesday, December 1, 2020, dated the 26th November 2020.

COMPLAINT/ OBJECTION:

Shri. Thenkhomang Haokip, Chief of Ukha Loikhai Village had submitted 'A Complaint Letter' addressed to the Commissioner (Arts & Culture), Government of Manipur, INDIA, dated January 1st, 2021, Vide RR. No. 54, dated 19/1/2021, and dated July 27th, 2022, Vide RR. No. 8, dated July 27th, 2022 respectively. In this regard, the owner and Chief of Ukha-Loikhai

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did not issue 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) for the same.

NATIONAL COMMISSION (ST) NOTIFICATIONS:

Regarding the Complaint of the Public through the Chief of Ukha Loikhai Village, Shri. Thenkhomang Haokip, Research Officer Shri. H.R Meena, Vide F. No. NCST/DEV-1217/MN/6/2022- ESDW, dated, the 19th July 2023, issued an Order for INVESTIGATIONS.

SANAMAHISM MEITEI RELIGION:

IBUDHOU THANGJING of Meitei SANAMAHISM who claimed Thangting (Meitei version Thangjing) as Meitei Sacred site is a unique Traditional Meitei Religion. It is neither Hinduism, nor Islam or Buddhism or Christianity.

In connection with some organization misleading the name of the hill range, the Chief of Ukha-Loikhai village issued a clarification clearing the air of confusion today.

CLARIFICATION FROM UKHA LOIKHAI CHIEF:

The village chief stated that Ukha Loikhai Haokip Kuki Village is situated within 'HAOKIP RESERVED-1907' of Colonial Kuki Hills.

The Village Chief clarifies as under:

1. That as the owner and Chief of the 'Historical Site', no individual or Organization or NGO has the right to distort my inherited 'Land & Heritage' from my forefathers.

2. That Thangting is situated within my Chiefship jurisdiction and creation of Thangting Sub-Division was initiated by the Government of Manipur on the 25 August 2014 (The Sangai Express), which was later finalized for Kangvai.

3. That the PR of ZSF in distorting the century long History of Haokip Kukis of Ukha Loikhai and Thangting in its jurisdiction is very unfortunate and derogating. A certain Student body needs to respect and not interfere in the matter beyond History and Traditions, and not repeat baseless Zogam/ Zoland or Thangching or Thangsing in the Historical HAOKIP RESERVED of a Haokip Kuki village of UKHA-LOIKHAI.

IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICT, KSO SANGAIKOT STRIVES TO ENSURE EDUCATION CONTINUES IN STRIFE-TORN AREA

The Kuki Students' Organisation Community School at Sangaikot, Churachandpur was officially opened by Pastor Ngamboi Haokip KBC Centre Church Sangaikot on Friday, February 16, 2024.

KSO Sangaikot block issued a release on Friday stating that a total of 360 students were admitted in the community school from class nursery till class 8 wherein 13 teachers and one non-teaching staff will be running the school.

Stating that uniform and text-books were given to the students at a reasonable price, quality education will be imparted in the community school and a reasonable price will be charged for the admission fee and tuition fees.

Even though Sangaikot area is a vulnerable area as it is in the frontline, the community school has been set up with support from well wishers in the interest of the students community, it added.



KSO Sangaikot also appealed to the government school headmaster under Sangaikot Sub-division to give importance to the resolution they took during a meeting held at KIC complex on January 18.

The release further stated that the door is open for any individual or philanthropic organisations who wish to extend any kind of help to the community school.



MEITEI SOCIAL MEDIA USERS MISREPRESENT PATRIOTIC ACT OF KUKI MAN AS ANTI-NATIONAL; MAINLAND MEDIA HOUSES FALL PREY TO THEIR CHEAP TACTICS

In another move to tarnish/defame the image of the Kukis in the ongoing conflict, the Meitei social media users in their usual self spread a video of a patriotic Kuki youth protecting the Indian flag from getting burnt by misrepresenting his brave actions and tagging him as anti-national.

During the protest on Thursday night over the suspension of Kuki police head constable from his job, one patriotic protester took down an Indian flag from the Mini-Secretariat building to save it from getting burned down.

However, the Meitei populace instead of spreading the patriotic and thoughtful act of the Kuki man, portrayed him as anti-national. Many media houses with no correspondents/staff in Lamka fell prey to the deception of the Meitei social media users and filed their reports based on the Meiteis narratives that the flag was forcibly removed from the government building. They were over confident of publishing a report based on a shot clip before any verification or authenticity.

IndiaTodayNE reported the incident as 'Indian National Flag was forcibly removed from government buildings in Churachandpur, Manipur, accompanied by threats that no Indian flag should fly within the district, marking a troubling escalation of tensions in the region.'

Times Now in its report assumed the act as insulting the Tiranga. One Meitei Facebook page 'Young reflects Manipur' posted the video and stated "that the act of lowering the Indian national flag at the DC complex in Churachandpur district reflects a blatant disregard for the symbol of the nation. The action not only undermines the integrity of Manipur but also challenges the unity of India as a whole. It is imperative to swiftly disseminate this video to expose the reprehensible conduct of those involved and urge the central government to take decisive measures against the Kuki community. Such behavior unmistakably portrays them as anti-national elements within India. Share this video as u can."

Another Meitei Facebook page posted, "Tri-Colour, The Indian National Flag, Pride for all Indians. No true Indian will ever show disrespect for our Tri-Colour. Here's when immigrants hurt the sentiments of every Indian, pulling down our pride." One Meitei media house, Elite TV posted the video with the



PIC: Tricolour Unscathed: Image of Tiranga Surviving Fire Surfaces Amidst Misrepresentation



PIC: Tricolor flag burnt by Meiteis as sign of protest against the lowering of 'independent Kangleipak' flag

caption "Kukis pull down and burn Indian flag."

If one watches the video, it can be clearly seen that the Kuki men who took down the flag even wave it from the building amidst the protest and that no harm was done to the flag. On Friday morning the flag was hoisted in its usual position in the office building. It is interesting to note that a community whose militants are striving for an independent country from the India union are talking about anti-national activities.

The Meiteis, unlike the Kukis, have blatant disregard for the Tiranga by burning the national flag which went viral massively a few years ago on various online platforms. On August 15, 2022, as a sign of protest against the lowering of independent Kangleipak/ Manipur's flag and replacing it with the Tricolour, members of a Meitei outfit burned the Indian national flag. The burning of the tricolour was widely shared on social media platforms by a Meitei Facebook page called 'Ningtam Paojel.'

MEITEI PANGALS DETAIN TWO MEITEI YOUTHS FOR STEALING COW

Volunteers of Anjuman Lilong detained two Meitei youths for stealing a cow at Waithou Bazar on Friday night.

As per source, volunteers of Anjuman Lilong arrested two Meitei individuals identified as Laishram Bijali Meitei s/o late L. Ratan and Naorem Chingkemba Meitei s/o N. Birban along with the cow on Friday night.

When the volunteers interrogated the two Meiteis, they revealed that they had also stolen cows earlier on three occasions in the past from Lilong Nungei Ching and Lilong Dolaithabi which were later sold at Hiyangthang.

As per a video available on social media, the volunteers did not lay hands on the two thieves. Instead, they were given counselling. In the video, the two Meiteis also agreed to not engage in such act of thievery again in the future.

Had the situation been the opposite with the Meiteis detaining a Meitei Pangal (Manipur Muslims) for stealing, the Meiteis would have beaten the thieves black and blue and the news would spread on the social media pages and few Meitei medias. However, hardly



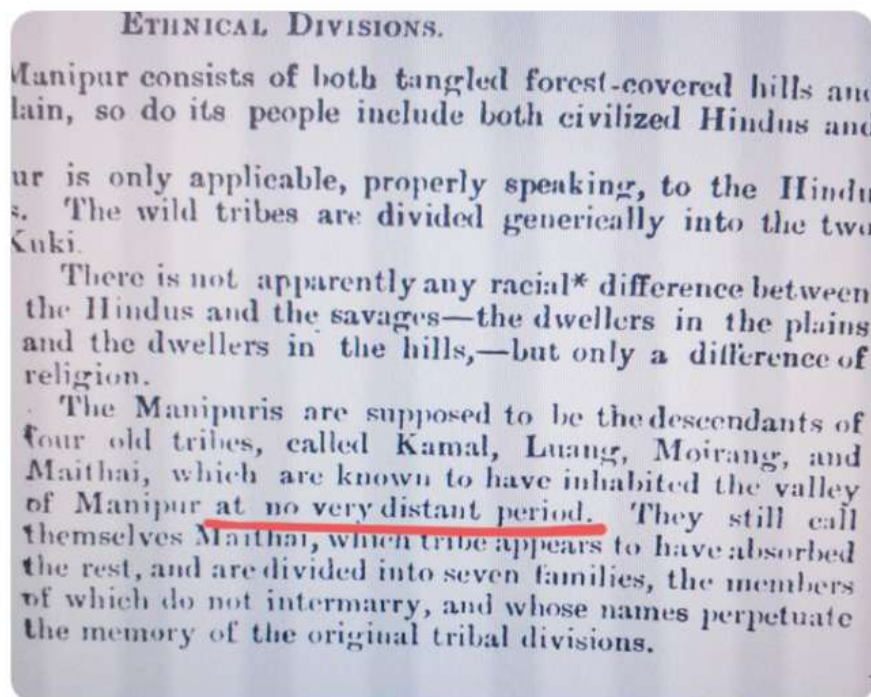
any Meitei Facebook page shared the incident as it was the meiteis who were caught in the act and no media house published the news.

If one goes through social media feeds, the Meiteis have always labelled the Meitei Pangal community as thieves and drug traders. Meitei individuals caught in the act of stealing or peddling drugs would find no mention in the Meitei media, but Muslims and a certain community caught in the same act would be made famous in an instant.

Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert



If we are to believe at whatever the colonial administrators wrote, Captain E.W. Dun in "Gazetteer of Manipur" (1886) argued that: "The Manipuris... are known to have inhabited the valley of Manipur at no very distant period".



Abdul Quadir - عبدالقادر
@Northistan

Two people were killed and over 40 injured in Manipur's Churachandpur after a mob stormed the SP office on February 15.

This followed the suspension of a head constable who was allegedly seen with armed men in a video.

Mainstream media then began propagating that the mob disrespected the national flag, but the full video shows they were actually waving it after removing it.



2:33 PM · Feb 16, 2024 · 4,205 Views

Click to Follow



EULOGY

TO OUR FALLEN HEROES

LETLALKHUOL GANGTE (29 years)

S/o Pu Kamkhomang Gangte & Pi Domkhongai Gangte
Nalon Village, Kangvai Subdivision, Lamka
[Completed B.Th from Biblical Bible College]

THANGGUNLEN HAOKIP (15 years)

S/o Pu Seilal Haokip & Pi Lhingneithem Haokip
S. Canaan Veng, Tuibong Subdivision, Lamka
[Reading Class IX from Soikholal Ideal High School]

The Wall of Remembrance Massacre

“There is no tyranny greater than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice.”

While the deeply biased, vindictive and authoritarian Meitei Government has been relentlessly carrying out a series of anti-tribal agendas, the latest took the form of suspension of a Kuki Head Constable Siamlalpaul by Mr. Shivanand Surve, SP Churachandpur for an alleged offence that thousands in the valley have been allowed to get away with for far too long.

The love of a nation runs deep, transcending all ages and genders. An injustice and oppression upon one member of the community is felt to the core by all. And in necessary protest against the injustice of the state, two young lives have fallen, and at least 25 others injured by the bullets ordered to be directed at the civilian protestors by the powers that continue to disdain and oppress us.

Our frontlines are not just the buffer zones. They exist wherever our enemy exists, wherever oppression and tyranny exists. Those who die in the name of the nation at such a time are all martyrs for the same cause, and all are heroes whose names will live on. The nation salutes our martyrs of the The Wall of Remembrance Massacre.

KSO consoles the ultimate sacrifices made by Mr. Letlalkhuol Gangte and Mr Thanggunlen Haokip to the extent of laying down their lives in protesting against the unjust suspension of Mr. Siamlalpaul, and in defense of our ancestral Kuki lands.

OUR FALLEN HEROES

IN DEFENCE OF OUR ANCESTRAL LAND & FREEDOM



LETLALKHUOL GANGTE

s/o Pu Kamkhomang Gangte

Nalon Village
Kangvai Subdivision, Lamka



THANGGUNLEN HAOKIP

s/o Pu Seilal Haokip

S. Canaan Veng
Tuibong Subdivision, Lamka

To the parents of the deceased, to their beloved brothers and sisters, to their near and dear ones, the KSO offers our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences. We will continue the fight against the evil forces.

May God now grant them eternal peace!

KSO Media & Documentation Cell

15.02.2024 (Thursday)

**NEWS ANALYSIS****The Wall of Remembrance Massacre: A Killing Spree that Woke the Slumbering Masses!**

***Our hearts melt at the extreme sacrifices
In defending our ancestral land and freedom
We salute you, the brave souls. Adios!***

What happened on the fateful night of 15 February 2024 at the district headquarter Tuibong, Lamka, was due to the abject incompetency of the district administration particularly the District Superintendent of Police (SP) and the District Magistrate (DC/DM) for failing to assess the situation on time. First it was the SP, Shri Shivanand Surve, who suspended a police personnel for a mere viral photo and also for confronting the peaceful protesters instead of trying to comprehend the depth of their sentiments, and later the DC/DM, Dr Dharun Kumar S., for giving the order to shoot at the civilians whose demand was simply to revoke the suspension order issued by the SP earlier in the day.

The failure of the two top district officers in taking the right decisions unfortunately resulted in the loss of at least two precious lives, including a minor student, and many sustaining bullet injuries. If the SP had understood the sentiments of the people, or at least made an attempt to douse the tension, and if the DC/DM had not given the order to shoot at sight, the whole incident could have been prevented without any major incident.

The hasty decisions of the two bureaucrats who are supposed to be the guardians of the people of the district exposed their unwillingness to serve the plights of the citizens for whom they are posted. The 'Boss' mentality of the Civil Servants of the country combined with their high ego led to the massacre as their only intention is to please their political boss. An old WhatsApp message which went viral where the SP termed the plight of the minority Kuki tribals as "nonsense" also shows his lack of empathy and humane touch upon those he is assigned to serve.

However, what happened on 15 February should not be seen in isolation. Rather it should be viewed from the lens of the larger ethnic cleansing campaign spearheaded by the majority Meitei community against the minority Kuki-Zo with the open support of the state government. Though the particular incident at Tuibong in Lamka district was the sole responsibility of the SP and DC/DM, it was also part of a well-orchestrated ploy to shift the goalposts.

Now, all the Meitei CSOs including COCOMI are shedding crocodile's tears for what happened in Tuibong. Surprisingly, instead of condemning the

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high-handedness of the Central Forces, they claimed that it was intentionally done to destroy their own [Kuki-Zo] documents! Anyway, if the protesters had known that they would be met with live bullets for a peaceful demonstration, they might not have even thought of it. Destruction of public properties is something the angry mobs resorted to as the last resort after their repeated pleas were turned away with a deaf ear.

It may also be noted that for five consecutive days during the last one week, the Meitei militants have attacked at least three locations in Saikul Areas of Kangpokpi district – Satang and Khamenlok hills, Saibol Kuki village of Bungpi area, about a kilometre from Yaingangpokpi, and Phailengmol area. In the ensuing uninterrupted gunfights between the two warring groups, there was casualty reported on both sides though official figures are not available. There was also an exchange of gunfire near the Kangchup-Leimakhong areas in Kangpokpi district and Sugnu area, which is the meeting point of the valley Kakching district and Chandel and Lamka, during this period.

It was after these five days of continuous gunfights that the Meitei miscreants resorted to looting of 5-IRB and MPTC/6-IRB, Pangei, both in Imphal East, in which hundreds of arms and thousands of ammunition were taken away.

Interestingly, there was also an FIR against Col. Nectar Sanjenbam on 15 February for allegedly sending life-threatening messages to a former KSO leader from Tengnoupal, Mr. H. Thangtinlen Daniel Mate. It may be recalled that Col. Nectar is a retired Army officer appointed by chief minister N. Biren Singh's government as the SSP (Combat) of the police department by defying all established norms to look after the state operations of the strategic Tengnoupal district, including Moreh town. Though the appointment of this controversial Meitei officer appears to be purely on merit, it is seen by the Kuki-Zo community as a ploy to assist the majority community's wider plan to annihilate the Kukis. And an

FIR for sending life-threatening messages against this Meitei officer was extremely a setback for his community.

It is also surprising that no flag march has been seen in the valley for months despite repeated looting of arms from police armouries and the Meitei militias moving openly with arms. But Lamka town witnessed such a flag march on 16 February which exposed the double standard of the Central Forces. For a long time, the minority Kuki-Zo people have considered the Central Forces as their saviours after completely losing trust on the Meitei State Police. But the massacre at Tuibong and the way the flag march was carried out the very next day proves otherwise. The highly disciplined Army who are supposed to be exceptionally cautious while facing civilians failed the Kuki-Zo protesters on that fateful night.

It is also interesting to note that the state government had decided to give Rupees 20 Lakhs and a suitable government job to the next of kin as ex-gratia to an armed miscreant who was shot dead at Pangei while looting arms and ammunition, but a police officer, Sub-Inspector Onkhomang Hokip, who lost his life in the line of duty was given only 10 Lakhs!

From the above facts and circumstances, it is crystal clear that the incident at Tuibong, Lamka, was carefully designed to divert the attention of the public from the looting of 5-IRB/MPTC/6-IRB, FIR against Col. Nectar, the continuous attack on the Kuki-Zo for five days, and the overall failure of the communal Meitei government headed by Mr Biren, to shift the focus on the Kuki-Zo tribals in Lamka. Keeping in view the circumstances leading to the unfortunate massacre at Tuibong, the following points may be considered as a way forward:

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First, the suspension of Head Constable Mr. Siamlalpaul should be revoked immediately as the first step to address the mounting pressure on the administration.

Second, the SP and DC/DM should be deported far away from the Kuki-Zo areas for carrying out the well-orchestrated massacre to please their political boss in Imphal. It should not be forgotten that they have muddied their hands with the blood of the innocent Kuki-Zo. From now on, the Kuki-Zo districts should be administered directly from the Centre instead of placing the state officers who are controlled from Imphal. This may be done in the form of a Chief Commissioner or any designation deemed fit as done in Manipur prior to the attainment of statehood in 1971.

Third, the way how the imposition of AFSPA in the hills should be reassessed as it has been exploited

repeatedly by the Central Forces to hunt down innocent civilians and village volunteers on multiple occasions when the same was lifted from the more disturbed valley areas.

Fourth, the Assam Rifles must come out clear that their forces are without Meitei sepoys who can take advantage of such a volatile situation to score personal agenda as alleged by the common people. In case there are any Meitei sepoys, they should be transferred immediately.

Fifth, a judicial inquiry must be carried out against the culprits including the SP, DC/DM, and Central Forces, responsible for the massacre. The SP, DC/DM and the Commanding Officer must be placed on suspension mode to conduct a fair investigation against them.



BEST EMPLOYEE AT THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP



A TALE OF A MASSACRE

The Wall of Remembrance Massacre

Like the governance was the night dimly
The crescent moon appears indifferent
Crowds hustling and bustling in a hurry
Wretched things to unfold inapparent.

Then against mistreatment and injustice
There gathered the fearless-valorous men
For their discredited rights and justice
Unarmed and innocent versus armed men.

Lo! Down they go my fellow countrymen
Taking the bullets to the ground helpless
Shot by their stupid fellow countrymen
A heartbreaking massacre to witness.

Closed His eyes were I think the Almighty
Eyeing at His people's spilt-dribbled blood
Hearing the outcries of them in plenty
Now we pray that in vain it goes no blood.

B'long to books only Tales of Massacre
Thought but now in my heart this Massacre.

- Letginmang Singsit