WEDNESDAY | JULY 17, 2024





AMAITICE JUSTICE



CHINGHOIHKIM (63 YEARS)

W/O (L) THIENKHOMANG TOUTHANG

ADDRESS: HMAR VENG, LAMKA DATE OF DEATH: 7TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: MURDERED BY MEITEI RADICAL GROUPS





KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 10.07.2024



DEATHS



VILLAGES BURNT



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.

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KUKI INPI CONDEMNS BRUTAL MURDER OF KANGCHUP CHIRU VILLAGER BY SUSPECTED MEITEI MILITIAS

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has vehemently condemned the brutal murder of Mr. Mirangngir Chiru, a resident of Kangchup Chiru village in Kangpokpi district, allegedly at the hands of radical armed Meitei militias suspected to be part of the Arambai Tenggol. The incident occurred on July 15, 2024.

A shocking video that went viral on social media shows Mr. Chiru being tortured and interrogated by his captors, who accused him of being an informer for the Kuki-Zo tribal community. The captors forced him to confess to accepting Rs. 20,000 as a service charge from the Kuki-Zo under duress.

Mr. Marangngir, a former leader of the Kangchup Tribal Youth Organisation, a theologian, and a devout Christian, had no connections to the ongoing Kuki-Zo and Meitei conflict. KIM has denounced the accusations against him as baseless propaganda, intended to justify the inhuman acts of the Arambai Tenggol.

This is not the first instance of violence against minority tribals by the Arambai Tenggol and other Meitei terrorists. In September 2023, Serto Thangthang Kom, a soldier in the Defence Service Corps, was abducted from his residence in Imphal and killed. In July 2023, Lucy Maring, a mentally ill woman, was shot dead by armed Meitei terrorists. These incidents highlight a disturbing pattern of violence aimed at creating a climate of fear among minority tribals.

As fellow Christians and tribals, KIM expresses strong solidarity with the villagers of Kangchup Chiru and other tribal communities in the area. Despite their



Press Release

Lamka, the 17th July, 2024

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) vehemently condemns the brutal murder of Mr. Mirangge Chiru a residence of Kangchup Chiru village, Kangpokpi district on 15th July, 2024 by radical armed Meitei militias suspected to be the Arambai Tenggol. In a shocking video that went viral on social media of Mr. Chiru being tortured and interrogated by his captors suggest that he was charged of being an informer of the Kuki-Zo tribal and made to confess under duress of taking Rs. 20,000/- as service charge from the Kuki-Zo.

Mr. Marangngir, a former leader of the Kangchup Tribal Youth Organisation (the apex body of Kuki and Naga Tribal Youth Organizations in the Kangchup area), theologian, and devout Christian, had no connection at all to the present Kuki-Zo and Meitei conflict. The accusations purported against him by the Arambai Tenggol are baseless and timorous propaganda just to cover their inhuman and disingenuous acts only.

In fact, this is not the first time the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei terrorists have threatened the minority tribals to create a climate of fear. On September 16, 2023, one Serto Thangthang Kom (41), a soldier in the Defence Service Corps (DSC) on leave, was abducted from his residence at Tarung in Imphal and was shot dead by Meitei terrorists. Again, on July 15, 2023, Lucy Maring, a 55-year-old woman with mental illness, was also shot dead by armed Meitei terrorists. The list goes on.

As fellow Christians and tribals, we share a strong bond with the villagers of not only Kangchup Chiru but also with all the tribals in the area. So, despite having close affinities with them, we respect the identity and feelings of these minority tribes while they choose to maintain neutrality in the ongoing conflict.

(KHAIKHOHAUH GANGTE)
General Secretary
Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM)

close affinities, KIM respects the decision of these minority tribes to maintain neutrality in the ongoing conflict.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur calls for justice and urges the authorities to take swift action against the perpetrators to prevent further violence and ensure the safety of all tribal communities in the region.



KUKI INPI SOUTH-WEST SADAR HILLS CONDEMNS BRUTAL KILLING OF MARANGNGIR BY ARAMBAI TENGGOL

The Kuki Inpi South-West Sadar Hills expressed profound sorrow and condemnation following the tragic killing of Mr. Marangngir (45), son of Ex-Pastor Som-Eng of Kangchup Chiru village, by the militant group Arambai Tenggol.

Mr. Marangngir, a respected former leader of the Kangchup Tribal Youth Organisation, theologian, and devout Christian, was wrongfully accused of being a Kuki-Zo informer. The militants forced him to falsely confess under the pretext of sparing his life. A viral video circulating on social media shows Mr. Marangngir apprehended, blindfolded inside a vehicle, and coerced into answering questions meant to malign his reputation before being brutally murdered. He was compelled to admit to receiving twenty thousand rupees to act as an informer for the Kuki-Zo, a baseless accusation aimed at justifying the militants' inhumane actions.

The Kuki Inpi emphasized that Mr. Marangngir had no involvement in the ongoing Kuki-Zo and Meitei conflict. They denounced the accusations as baseless propaganda designed to mask the militants' heinous acts.

The incident highlights the broader pattern of harassment faced by minority tribals in Imphal. Meitei militants frequently check Aadhaar cards, verbally abuse, and harass minority tribals, often restricting them to carrying minimal food items for survival. The Kuki Inpi underscored their solidarity with all tribal communities in the area, emphasizing their efforts to protect them from involvement in the conflict since its outbreak on May 3, 2023.

This is not an isolated incident. On September 16, 2023, Serto Thangthang Kom (41), a soldier in the Defence Service Corps (DSC) on leave, was abducted from his residence in Tarung, Imphal, and shot dead by Meitei terrorists. Similarly, on July 15, 2023, Lucy Maring, a



55-year-old woman with mental illness, was also shot dead by armed Meitei terrorists. The pattern of violence and intimidation has created a climate of fear among minority tribals.

The late Naga historian Prof. Gangmumei Kamei noted that some minorities, including the Chirus, are culturally and linguistically Kuki but politically Naga. Despite these close affinities, the Kuki Inpi respects their choice to maintain neutrality in the ongoing conflict.

The Kuki Inpi South-West Sadar Hills stressed that such brutal acts, harassment, and instilling fear among minority tribals will only exacerbate the situation in the state. They urged the authorities to apprehend and prosecute those responsible for Mr. Marangngir's murder and take appropriate legal action against all culprits involved, in accordance with the law of the country.

In conclusion, the Kuki Inpi South-West Sadar Hills earnestly appealed to all communities, whether minority or majority, to refrain from being dragged into this abhorrent and unprofitable conflict.



ASSAM RIFLES CHIEF BRIEFS MANIPUR GOVERNOR ON STATE SECURITY AMIDST ONGOING CONFLICT

Despite persistent vilification by the Meitei community, the Director General of Assam Rifles, Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair, along with Maj. Gen. Ravroop Singh, IGAR (South), met with the Governor of Manipur, Ms. Anusuiya Uikey, at Raj Bhavan to discuss the prevailing security situation in the state.

The meeting, which took place today, was highlighted by the officers briefing the Governor on the deployments of Assam Rifles personnel in response to the ongoing ethnic conflict, which has persisted since May of last year. They assured the Governor of the force's readiness to handle any eventualities.

"This visit marks the farewell of Gen. Nair as the Director General of Assam Rifles to Manipur," a Raj Bhavan source revealed. The Governor expressed her appreciation for the efforts made by the Assam Rifles to restore peace and normalcy in the state and urged them to continue their diligent work in maintaining security.



In a separate meeting, Govind Prasad Uniyal, Commandant of the 109 Bn CRPF, called on Governor Uikey at Raj Bhavan. This was Commandant Uniyal's first meeting with the Governor since assuming office. The 109 Bn CRPF is responsible for the security of the Governor and Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

Governor Uikey acknowledged the efforts of both the Assam Rifles and CRPF in ensuring the state's security and stability, reiterating her support and appreciation for their continued commitment.

THREE ARRESTED KUKI-ZO INSURGENTS KILLED IN ALLEGED ENCOUNTER

Three members of a Kuki-Zo insurgent group in Manipur who were arrested with small arms at Ganganagar in Dholai constituency of Cachar district in Assam on Tuesday evening were killed in an alleged encounter in the wee hours of Wednesday.

The viral videos of the incident resembled that of "fake encounter" being carried out by the Cachar Police. A video footage of them being arrested and the subsequent incident videos of encounter with the Police has raised serious question. Proper investigation is needed as the incident was suspicious.

Police said the three were killed after they tried to flee following the arrest. It may be mentioned that apart from the arrest of these militants, the police claimed that a number of sophisticated weapons were seized fromtheautorickshawinwhichtheyhadtraveled.

Sources informed that the insurgent cadres reserved an auto rickshaw from Krishnapur in the foothills of the Bhuban hills and were on their way towards Amraghat-Matinagar road at approximately 4:00 PM.

The Kachudaram police team stopped the auto rickshaw and searched for it. The police allegedly found a pistol, an AK series rifle, daggers, and other items. The auto driver was also arrested along with them.





BABLOO LOITONGBAM HIGHLIGHTS EVILS OF AFSPA IN ADDRESS TO UN COMMITTEE

Babloo Loitongbam, representing the Extrajudicial Execution Victim Families Association (EEVFAM) and Human Rights Alert (HRA), delivered a formal briefing to the UN Human Rights Committee on July 15, focusing on ongoing human rights concerns in Manipur, India.

Loitongbam highlighted the 20th anniversary of Manipur's Anti-Repression Day, which commemorates a protest against the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA). He criticized the continued use of AFSPA, stating, "Even when clear prosecutable evidence is laid out by the premier investigating agency, the Union Home Ministry always denies prosecution sanctions."

The activist also addressed the violence in Manipur, which has resulted in at least 230 deaths and displaced 60,000 people since May 2023. Loitongbam expressed concern over the government's response, saying, "The indifference of the armed forces actively increased the death toll of civilians and the cycles of raids and counter raids against the civilian population."

He called for the UN committee to declare AFSPA "incompatible with the Covenant both in law as well as in practice" and urged for recommendations aligned with India's obligations under international law.

"Individual citizens of Manipur -- irrespective of gender, age, religion or ethnicity -- have been robbed of their most basic human rights, as the Government of India



systematically abdicated its Responsibility to Protect the population," Loitongbam said.

The briefing brings international attention to the ongoing crisis in Manipur and calls for accountability in addressing human rights violations in the region.

It is important to note that the state government, in September 2023, extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state excluding 19 police station areas, including Imphal, from October 1, 2023, onwards. This means that while Imphal Valley is excluded from the purview of the draconian law, the hills continue to suffer under the drastic control of the Army.



The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal

- Erich Fromm









More than four hundred days since the start of ethnic violence between the dominant Meitei community and the minority Kuki and other tribal hill communities, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Indian government and Manipur state government have utterly failed to end the violence and displacement and protect human rights in the state, said Amnesty International.

Since 3 May 2023, at least 200 people have been killed and more than 60,000 displaced, while homes, business, villages and places of worship have been burnt down, attacked, looted and vandalised. Authorities have continued to crackdown on those who have dared to speak out against this.

"The state and central governments' blatant failure to end abuses, protect people and hold suspected perpetrators to account in Manipur have left communities terrified and devastated. The authorities' 14-month long course of inaction and impunity must end immediately," said Aakar Patel, chair of board at Amnesty International India.

Impunity of vigilante groups: "Raped women, burnt down villages, slaughtered people... with no consequences."

Vigilante groups such as Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Lippun that support the dominant Meitei community in Manipur have gained notoriety due to the authorities failing to end the violence by the groups and bring those suspected to be involved to justice. The groups have recruited thousands of volunteers, who are often armed with military-grade weapons allegedly looted from state police armouries, as in the case of Arambai Tenggol's.

Since the start of the conflict, Amnesty International found at least 32 reported incidents of members of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Lippun committing gender-based violence against those belonging to the ethnic tribal communities and at least two incidents of abducting Manipur police personnel. Yet, neither Arambai Tenggol's nor Meitei Lippun's members have faced prosecution in the past year.

Their members routinely make discriminatory remarks against ethnic tribal groups, referring to them as 'outsiders' and 'illegal' and calling for their annihilation and killing. Yet no concrete measures have been taken to curb such hateful rhetoric in the last year.

Greeshma Kuthar, an independent journalist who has been reporting about the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, alleged: "The Arambai Tenggol have led mobs to Kuki-Zo villages that were then

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burnt down, killed people and slaughtered them. There are FIR's which name them as the accused in sexual assault of Kuki-Zo women. There are viral videos of their members beheading people... with no consequences. For any kind of reparations to begin, they should be prosecuted for their crimes."

In January 2024, the Arambai Tenggol summoned a 'meeting' of elected Meitei representatives of both state and central legislatures (including the state Chief Minister). These representatives had unilaterally pledged to fulfil the Arambai Tenggol's demands that were discriminatory towards the tribal communities. The group also claimed that the Chief Minister agreed to fulfil the demands although he did not attend the meeting. Amnesty International could not find any public condemnation or clarification by the Chief Minister of the claims made by the Arambai Tenggol group.

Failure of Police: 'The mob abducted my mother... (the police) just kept watching.'

Amnesty International documented at least three instances of members of tribal communities facing barriers in getting their complaints officially registered by Manipur police since November 2023. In all three cases, the Kuki groups were either assaulted or intimidated or had their belongings confiscated without protocol by Meitei members of the Manipur police.

Haokip*, a Kuki lawyer, whose 23-year-old family-run school in Imphal was burnt down by a Meitei mob in May 2023, said: "My mother tried calling the police booth which was approximately 30 metres away but there was no response. The mob abducted her and 25 others who were seeking shelter in the school right in front of the police. They did nothing. They just kept watching."

Guite*, a Kuki survivor whose family home was burnt down, said: "We somehow fled and filed a police report but a year later, there has been no outcome... (no) information if any investigation has taken place or not." The Supreme Court of India has criticized the Manipur police for delays in filing First Information Reports (FIRs) and investigating cases of violence terming the situation as an "absolute breakdown of law and order in the state". Unlike the action of the Central Bureau of Investigation taking over the emblematic case of gang-rape of two Kuki women in May 2023 after a video of the ordeal went viral and finding the Manipur police complicit – many lesser-known cases continue to struggle for attention of the state and central government machinery.

The Chief minister of Manipur, Biren Singh, has denounced calls for accountability in cases of gender-based violence as "attempts to defame the BJP government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi". Meanwhile, he too has reportedly labelled the Kuki tribal community as "illegal immigrants", "terrorists" and "drug peddlers", a narrative parroted by the members of the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Lippun.

"From the impunity afforded to vigilante groups and the chief minister's divisive rhetoric to the failure of policing in the state, the Indian central and state government have continued to fail to prevent and end violence against ethnic communities and to bring to justice suspected perpetrators, thus perpetuating impunity," said Aakar Patel.

Attack on dissent: 'They threatened if I don't apologize, they will come (back) and burn down my house.'

Since the beginning of the violence, the Manipur state authorities have resorted to various methods to suppress the civil society including harassing human rights activists and journalists by filing bogus criminal cases and refusing to investigate cases of intimidation by vigilante groups in a timely manner.

Babloo Loitongbam, a renowned human rights

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activist whose home was vandalized in October 2023, said: "My house was attacked after I spoke to the media about the ongoing violence in Manipur and the role of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Lippun and failure of the Chief Minister to control the violence. This triggered the Chief Minister's militia."

When he was at work, 15 armed men entered Babloo's house and started 'destroying' it while demanding a public apology. "My father's car got destroyed. My mother got hit... she is in her 70s. They threatened if I don't apologize, they will come (back) and burn down my house," he said.

Other prominent voices who have been critical of the authorities have been similarly intimidated including Manipuri musician Akhu Chingangbam, and former police officer Brinda Thounaojam.

In September 2023, Manipur Police filed FIRs against three journalists from the Editors Guild of India fact-finding team on the violence in Manipur. They also filed an FIR against Makepeace Sitlhou, an independent journalist and Fulbright Fellow, for posting remarks critical of the ruling BJP government on social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). Sitlhou, who has since been granted protection from arrest by the Supreme Court of India, said: "The authorities don't want you to do stories that challenge their narrative. I believe the authorities may bring up (the case against me) as and when it suits their interests."

Humanitarian Crisis: 'The state government has not helped at all.'

Amnesty International conducted interviews with health workers, residents, humanitarian organizations and journalists at shelter camps in Manipur, where more than 50,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently living. They revealed a picture of a state missing-in-action, despite the claims of "timely intervention" of the central and state government and promise of financial aid package by Prime Minister Modi in April 2024.

Kim Zou* of Fieldnotes, an independent digital media

platform that has been reporting on the ground in Manipur, said, "The state has utterly failed in providing adequate relief. In February 2024, the government deliberately stopped supplying relief materials. (Those) in Lamka relief camp held a protest demanding basic sustenance. NGOs, churches and other civil society groups have come together to support the internally displaced persons."

A member* of a civil society organization working to provide relief and rehabilitation, said that due to various road blockades and poor road conditions, it takes as long as 15 hours for their staff to reach affected areas, particularly those located in the minority Kuki-dominated hill region of Manipur. "All development, infrastructure and institutions are concentrated in the valley (which) is just 10% of Manipur. The state and central government initiatives have unfortunately not completely materialized (for the rest)," he said.

Describing the additional restrictions the organization now faces in accessing foreign funding, another member* said, "We had never faced this problem before the violence hit. The Intelligence Bureau (India's internal security and counter-intelligence agency) asked us funny questions such as 'How many AK47s have you purchased from this money? How many bullets have you purchased?' But despite submitting all the documentation, they sent back the money."

Amnesty International has previously documented the Indian government's weaponization of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, India's primary foreign funding regulation law to crack down on independent civil society organizations.

Gangte*, a health activist describing the worsening conditions in relief camps in Moreh, said, "There is no staff left at the primary healthcare centre.

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Many people with no past medical background are volunteering. We are just surviving. The state government has not helped at all."

After the conflict began, most of the tribal students either relocated out of the state or moved to the hill areas whereas the Meitei students moved to the valley region. In November 2023, the Manipur University administration selectively debarred the displaced Kuki medical students from writing their exams leading to protests from the students.

Reports of a lack of adequate relief and rehabilitation measures, including adequate shelter, sanitation, food, water, medical care and access to education opportunities suggest that authorities' efforts to respect and protect the human rights of internally displaced persons do not conform to standards contained in the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Amnesty International is calling on the Indian central and state authorities to coordinate with each other and with local groups to respond adequately to the situation's scale and gravity. They must ensure that basic necessities are accessible to all those who have been forced to flee their homes from fear of violence. Authorities must facilitate the rights of those displaced to voluntarily return to their homes and rebuild their lives by ensuring safe resettlement,

"Authorities in the State of Manipur and the Central Government in India have an obligation to uphold human rights and protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. Amnesty International calls on the Indian government to urgently end the violence and to ensure that the victims, including those of gender-based violence in Manipur, are provided with access to justice and effective remedies. They cannot choose to continue to look away," said Aakar Patel.

* Name changed/hidden to protect identity

Published by: **Amnesty International**

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JULY 17, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JULY 17, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

17th July, 2023:

On this day of last year, the Meitei radical groups had launched another attack on Kuki-Zo-occupied areas around Langza in Lamka District at approximately 10:30 AM.

It was deeply concerning that Langza village had become a frequent target of such attacks, with bullets fired towards Kuki-Zo volunteers daily.

The troubling situation escalated with another attack occurring at around 4:40 PM on that day. Fortunately,



there had been no reported casualties in those incidents.





South Asian Chronicles @SAChroniclesX



Why are #Kuki villages in #Jiribam still under attack by #Meitei militants and state forces after a year? The government's silence is alarming. Isn't #UnionTerritory4KukiZo a fair solution for peace and protection? #Manipur #JusticeNow



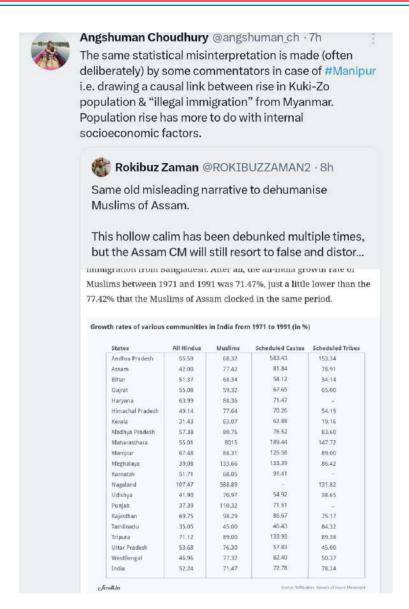
📷 South Asian Files 🤣 @saNewsDaily · 5h

Why are #Kuki villages in #JIRIBAM still facing assaults from #Meitei m!litants & state forces after a year? The government's inaction is alarming. If justice can't be ensured, isn't #UnionTerritory4KukiZo a fair solution for peace & protection? #Manipur



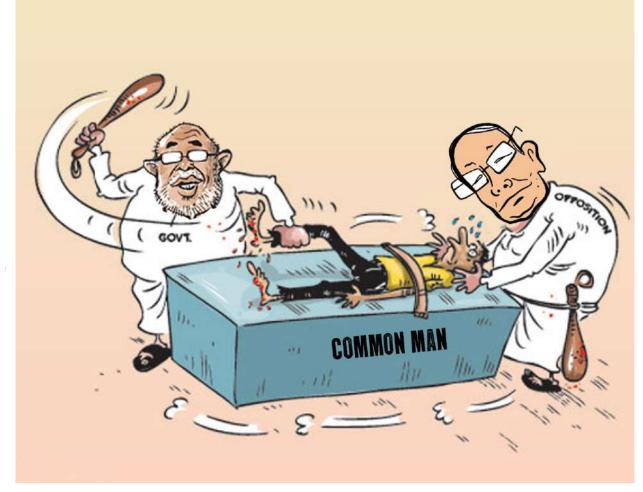


20:27 - 17 Jul 24 - 23 Views





THE **UNATTENDED** COMMON MAN















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DRUG'S DELETERIOUS GRIP

In society's fabric, a pernicious stain,
Drugs' insidious grasp, a deadly refrain.
A scourge that ravages body and mind,
Leaving destruction in its wake, behind.

With sirens' calls, it lures unsuspecting prey Into a quagmire of addiction's sway. A downward spiral of despair and pain, As lives are ravaged, and futures remain vain.

Like a hydra-headed beast, it grows and thrives, Resistant to cure, it survives and strives.

To ensnare the vulnerable in its deadly vice,
A constant threat to our social fabric's device.

Let us unite to combat this dire menace,
With education, awareness, and love's sweet fire.
To free the entrapped and shatter the chains
Of drugs' deleterious grip and its destructive reign.

K. SHONGRENG Gen. Secy. KSO Sadar Hills

