

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



KUKI MARTYRS

In Defence of OUR ANCESTRAL LAND AND FREEDOM

STATUS OF KUKI MARTYRS*

■ Lamka Morgue	- 46	■ Buried (Prior to 14.12.2023)	- 41
■ Brought from Imphal to Lamka	- 41	■ Missing	- 11
■ Brought from Imphal to Kanggui	- 19	■ Total	- 158

*As per ITLF's data



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.12.2023



158
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.

MEITEI LEEPUN CHIEF PRAMOT AND HIS COHORTS SEEN TERRORIZING MAINLAND INDIANS AT IMPHAL

The Meitei radicalized groups' atrocities against the general populace of Imphal have been rampant in the Imphal valley each new day. The Naga tribals, on many occasions, have been at the receiving end of their brutality. New cases of Meitei atrocities against the Naga tribals have been reported on a daily basis in the past few months. This includes cases of kidnapping, extortion, threat, assault and reprimands. The Meitei radical groups now seems to set sight on a new prey – this time, the mainland Indians settling at Imphal valley have also been the victim of their savagery.

On Sunday, several snippets of video footage from a CCTV camera captured the daring daylight antics of Meitei Leepun Chief Pramot Singh and his cohorts, all dressed up in battle-gear openly carrying weapons. A clip of CCTV video footage shows the Meitei Leepun Chief brandishing a pistol and aiming at a particular area. The incident took place at Telipati in Imphal east District which is an area mostly settled by mainland Indians – businessmen, manual workers etc. Another clip shows him picking up a stick and handing it over to one of his goons – one among several in the area – who then uses the stick to beat a man who is clearly identified as being from mainland India. This follows what appears to be an altercation between the Meitei Leepun Chief and the mainland Indian man. Although the cause of the issue has not yet been ascertained, it can very well be deduced that the issue may be related to monetary demands made by the outfit upon the mainlander as such cases of extortion have seen a rise in Imphal where armed men have been kidnapping civilians from their business establishments in order to demand a ransom. The Meitei Leepun goon is seen hitting the man with the stick. The man appears helpless and seems to be pleading. However, he continues to be hit with the stick by the Meitei Leepun goon.

The arrival of police did not seem to diffuse the situation. Instead, the police who arrived in a gypsy are seen simply standing around and watching the incident unfold until they eventually left. No action was taken upon the Meitei Leepun Chief and his goons who were openly carrying arms and threatening and beating civilians. The incident



Pic: CCTV footage of self-style Chief of Meitei Leepun with pistol threatening a non-local resident (Above) and Imphal East Police Commando at the spot (Below).

highlights the alarming rise of lawlessness in the Imphal valley area which the state chief minister has bold-facedly called “undisturbed”. Armed militias roaming around freely in vehicles were a sight once but now it has become the rule. The law enforcement agencies – the police and the police commandoes – are giving a free pass to such groups who now seem to be the de-facto rulers of the valley. Recently, news of the UNLF collecting taxes on vehicles belonging to Nagas and few instances of armed miscreants striking business establishments of people belonging to several Naga tribes have come forth. And the incident today at a place settled mostly by mainland Indians shows that the Imphal valley is no longer safe for any member of the community, be it Kukis, Nagas and now, mainland Indians.

TWO ZUF MILITANTS KILLED, ONE NSCN-IM REBEL SUCCUMBS TO INJURY IN A GUNFIGHT

Three militants were killed in a clash between two Naga extremist outfits in Manipur's Noney district on Sunday, police said.

A police official said that a gun fight broke out between suspected Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF) and National Socialist Council of Nagalim-Isak-Muivah faction (NSCN-IM) cadres in Lamdangmei village in Noney district, resulting in death of two ZUF and one NSCN-IM cadre.

A police team from Khoupum police station rushed to the area to obtain further details of the incident. Police suspect that the clash might have taken place over the domination of their respective areas.

Two ZUF cadres from Jenchui faction were killed by NSCN IM at Noney district, one Kiakpou from Luangchum village and the other Rachunlung from Namdailong village. Both are S/S Officers of the military department.

NSCN IM sergeant major Ramreikan alias Akan from ukhrul near Siroi Village also succumbed to his injury. He was said to be the commander of their team.



Pic: Slained ZUF Cadres (Above) and NSCN-IM Cadre (below)

ARAMBAI TENGGOL GOONS BEAT UP MAINLAND INDIAN SHOPKEEPER AT PALLEN, ROB HIM OF CASH, MOBILE HANDSET

After launching numerous scathing attacks on the Kukis, the Arambai Tenggol, famous for their notorious activities, has now started targeting mainland Indians who have resided in Manipur for business purposes.

The Arambai Tenggol goons on Sunday beat up a non-Manipuri shopkeeper in Pallen village, an area close to the buffer zone, and robbed him of Rs. 40,000 in cash and also snatched a mobile handset from him.

According to inputs received from reliable sources, the Arambai Tenggol goons took away the man to a nearby jungle and demanded ransom from him. Before that, they took his mobile handset to check his contacts. After checking his Google Pay transaction history, the Arambai Tenggol goons found that the transaction history had many Kukis on the list. They beat him up, alleging that he

had sold goods to Kukis. The man, who runs a simple grocery items was beaten up for selling goods to Kukis. After thrashing him black and blue, the man was robbed of Rs. 40,000 in cash and his mobile handset.

The man, in fear of future reprimands by the radical group, has refused to lodge an FIR.

It is rather baffling that the incident occurred along the buffer zone, a militarized zone, where state police and central security personnel man the area day and night. How a crime of such intensity could occur within a heavily protected area raises serious questions as to the efficacy of security forces stationed in the area. Or are the Arambai Tenggols given a free hand and license to carry out crimes by the state police?

NAGA GIRLS KIDNAPPED AND HARASSED IN MEITEI VALLEY, NAGAS LIVING IN IMPHAL AND VALLEY AREAS OF MANIPUR ARE NOT SAFE, SAYS NAGA PEOPLE UNION IMPHAL

Despite the tall claims made by the Meitei populace and their leaders that there is no law and order in the Kuki dominated areas, assaults and monetary demands by unknown miscreants on the common people are on the rise in Meitei dominated valley areas.

Since the beginning of the violence in Manipur there have been various incidents in valley areas wherein people from the Naga community have been threatened and harassed supposedly by the members of the Meitei community.

Few of the cases have been settled with the help of the civil voluntary organisations from both the communities in which the victims' family are compensated by the other parties.

With such cases happening on different occasions, it is questionable whether the Naga communities in the valley areas are feeling safe and secure under the Meitei dominated valley.

There has also been many comments on social media wherein the social media users, especially the Meiteis, have been seen commenting that the same treatment which has been meted out to the Kuki-Zo in Imphal must be done to the Nagas in the valley also.

In the latest incident, as per a release issued by Naga People Union, Imphal, it is learnt that some armed miscreants had forcibly kidnapped four Naga girls belonging to Anal, Lamkang and Aimol tribes from Chandel district on December 12 and even physically assaulted one of the girls.

The girls are said to be working in a beauty parlour located at Khongnang ani Karak near India bazar which is owned by an Anal lady.

On 12 December in Imphal, 10-12 armed miscreants came in two vehicles demanding 3-4 lakhs from the beauty parlour. The miscreants picked up three of the girls along with the proprietor of the parlour at around 12 noon and took them to Sawombung and Sekta area

hill side, threatening them with death on the spot if they could not arrange or provide the 3-4 lakhs.

Later, when some of the local friends of the girls intervened and spoke to some elders and leaders of the area, the four Naga girls were released at around 6 pm from Sekta.

NPUI stated that one of the victims who is said to be Aimol was physically assaulted and beaten up black and blue and that she is presently undergoing medical treatment.

Even after the girls were released, the said armed personnel kept calling them on the phone, especially the proprietor, to arrange the said amount within 2-3 days, failing which they would come to the parlour and kill them.

And as such the parlour has been closed for fear of these threats to their lives, stated the release. NPUI further stated that a similar incident had taken place on the same fateful day between 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm, wherein seven Naga girls from Tangkhul, Maring, Mao and Kabui tribes were kidnapped by some unknown armed miscreants.

The miscreants including three females and five males in full arms came up to the beauty parlour located at Chingmeirong near Vishal Mall, Imphal and suddenly pulled out a pistol and collected all mobile phones, Aadhaar Cards. They also took photos and videos and the mobile numbers of the seven staff members.

The staff including the manager and proprietor were forced to move inside a gypsy vehicle at gun point and they were taken to the jungles of Sekta Imphal East District.

NPUI claimed that upon reaching the jungle, the unknown armed miscreants started

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physically assaulting and thrashing/ beating the proprietor and manager using gun butts, sticks and then threatening to shoot their legs or kill them.

The armed miscreants demanded a sum of Rs. 5 (five) lakhs to the Beauty Parlour of Chingmeirong and took Rs. Two Lakhs from them.

The Naga Peoples' Union Imphal in its release strongly condemned the criminal activities and ransom demands carried out upon innocent Naga girls who were running a beauty parlour.

The NPUI claimed that such similar incidents have been happening in Imphal city to many Beauty Parlours run by Naga ladies and that they have been threatened for ransom and some have been forced to pay amounts ranging from thousands up to lakhs of rupees.

The NPUI humbly appealed to those armed miscreants to kindly stop harassing Naga girls who are running Beauty Parlours in Imphal and in the valley areas and to avoid creating up of any kind of misunderstanding between Nagas and non - Naga communities in Imphal and Manipur.

NPUI also urged the state government, the governor of Manipur and the Union Home Ministry to seriously and immediately look into the incidents at the

earliest possible by implementing a proper Law and Order to protect innocent lives and properties and not to harm Naga girls in future.

NPUI stated that any Naga who runs shops, beauty parlours, hotels, vendors or any kinds of small or large business are not safe in Imphal and in valley areas of Manipur due to such kinds of forced ransoms, forced demands, forced taxes, forced donations and other kinds of monetary demands, aside from being kidnapped by armed miscreants frequently.

Naga people living in Imphal and valley areas of Manipur are not safe and secure, the NPUI stated and appealed to all to be vigilant and alert.

The Nagas see and find that such harassment, torture, discrimination etc. on Nagas may be an indirect warning to Naga people as a threat to their lives in Imphal and valley areas of Manipur, stated the release.

NSUI further appealed to all non-naga CSOs to extend help and support to live in peaceful co-existence in the upcoming future with mutual understanding and kindness to each other.



There is no better test of a man's integrity than his behavior when he is wrong.

— Marvin Williams

LIST OF MISSING MARTYRS

(As per data compiled by ITLF)



#1 Ningngaihchiin

Female | Age: 53 | DOD: 6 May 2023 | D/O (L) Thongdoupau
Address: Sangakpham, Imphal

Note:

Married to a Meitei. Killed at Langjing CRPF Gate. Husband claimed the body.



#2 Hatbem Kipgen

Female | Age: 45 | DOD: 31 May 2023 | W/O Kenedy Meitei
Address: Sugnu Napat, Chandel

Note:

Tortured, Raped and Killed from Meiteis' relief center in Sugnu. She is married to a Meitei.



#3 Thangsamir

Male | Age: 25 | DOD: 5 June 2023 | S/O Ginminlun (Inau)
Address: Mercylane, Mantripukhri. Imphal West.

Note:

Killed by meitei Mob at Mercyland, Mantripukhri, Imphal. Body not found.



#4 Lalkhohao Khongsai

Male | Age: 26 | DOD: 9 June 2023 | S/O Dongkam Khongsai
Address: Mongbung, Kangpokpi.

Note:

Killed by Meitei. Body chopped to pieces. Body parts not found.



#5 Ching jaluang

Female | Age: 65 | DOD: 9 June 2023 | W/O Pauzathang Samte
Address: Zouveng, Sugnu

Note:

Burnt alive with her house in Zouveng, Sugnu. Charred body. Body unrecoverable.

Contd.

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#6 Lalboilen Haokip

Male | Age: 36 | DOD: 14 June 2023 |
Address: Songphal, Ukhrul

Note:
Abducted near Hotel Classic, Imphal. Body not found.



#7 M. Letminthang Haokip

Male | Age: 34 | DOD: 4 August 2023 | S/O Lhunlim Haokip
Address: Phaichambung, Tengnoupal.

Note:
Missing since 4th August morning 8.30 am.



#8 Joseph Haokip

Male | Age: 28 | DOD: 4 August 2023 | S/O M Lunkhopao Haokip
Address: Motjang, Tengnoupal.

Note:
Missing since 4th August morning 8.30 am.



#9 Niengleidi

Female | Age: 21 | DOD: 5 Aug 2023 | D/O Jangkhongam; W/O Rotenka Nan- ao
Address: V. Haipijang, Sugnu

Note:
Married to Meitei. Killed by Meitei mob at Loitang Khunou, Sekmai.



#10 Nengkim Haokip

Female | Age: 60 | DOD: 7 November 2023 | W/O Manglun Haokip
Address: Bolkot, Lamka

Note:
Abducted and Killed by Meitei when they went for a marriage program.



#11 John Thangzalam Haokip

Male | Age: 25 | DOD: 7 November 2023 | S/O Paokhohang Haokip
Address: Bolkot, Lamka.

Note:
Abducted and Killed by Meitei when they went for a marriage program.
Body not found.



FEATURED ARTICLE

How Politics of Scheduled Tribe Status Has Played Out in Manipur For Two Decades

Thongkhola Haokip

In the last two decades many demands for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status were made by different socio-cultural groups in various parts of India. In the northeastern region the contentious ones were the demands made by Adivasis of Assam and Meiteis of Manipur. The Scheduled Tribe Demand Committee of Manipur (STDCM) has been demanding ST status for the Meiteis since the latter part of 2012. Within a year the STDCM claimed to have been assured by the Indian prime minister in July 2013 for examining the demand provided the Manipur state cabinet takes a decision in favour of the committee's demand.

In response to the demand made by the STDCM, Manipur legislator Irengbam Ibohalbi moved a Calling Attention Motion in the State Assembly in this regard on 25 February 2014, and was assured by the Deputy Chief Minister Gaikhangam Gangmei, who also holds the Tribal Affairs and Hills portfolio, that the issue will be discussed with the Central Government after a thorough study. There has never been such a hasty positive gesture, whether it is propagandistic or real, made by the central government on any contentious demand made in the northeastern region. This led to a series of protests by the hill tribes of Manipur in the form of press releases and threatening more intensive protests.

The STDCM argued that the Meiteis' mongoloid physical features, the practice of animism (Sanamahi faith) by most of the population (Sangai Express, 2013), and being partial Hinduised and the first settler of the Imphal valley fulfil the criteria of being categorised as ST. It blamed

the Government of India for the present rift and misunderstanding between the hills and valley people, resulting from the recognition of hill people as tribes and the Meiteis as mainly general category, and stressed on the non-existence of adversarial discord before India's independence.

To them the demand is to recover the cohesive, harmonious and peaceful society before the merger of Manipur into India on 21 September 1949 (Imphal Free Press, 2013). They also emphasised the need to protect their endangered culture and identity by way of being listed as ST under the power vested to the president by Article 342(1) of the Indian Constitution. However, the movement is largely restricted to periodic press releases without street protest and mass movement or violence in any form.

The Hills Perspective

To the tribes in the hills of Manipur the main reason for the Meiteis seeking ST status is to avail the opportunity of job reservation (Hueiyen Lanpao 2013). However, when this apprehension is being examined carefully the Meiteis in places such as Sekmai, Phayeng, Khurkhul, Koutruk, Laimaram, Kwatha, Laimaram Khunou and Andro, and other weaker sections have already been given SC and Other Backward Class (OBC) statuses.

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If the remaining Meitei community further needs reservation, they can either be listed into the SC or OBC category which has more reservations for jobs in public sectors and in educational institutions than ST. But it bewilders and agitates many in the hills as to why an ST status is sought. When delved into this demand there are tacit objectives behind this. The hills-valley divide is so deep that peaceful coexistence and stability in Manipur is now a far cry and in the process of disintegrating the state. To the STDCM, if ST status is given to the Meiteis the wedge between the hills and valley people could be reduced to a certain extent and the integrity of the state can be preserved.

The assertion that animism is being practiced by most of the Meitei population is misleading. According to the Census of India, Hindu Meiteis constitute about 80 per cent of the total Meitei population, and the rest are mainly Meitei Pangal/Muslim (about 19 per cent) and negligible Sanamahi faith. The Meitei Pangal and Meiteis with Sanamahi faith are already categorised in the OBC category. Again, the claim that Meiteis need ST status to protect their culture and identity is self-defeating. The Meiteis are a dominant group controlling the state and its apparatuses. The state has been protecting their cultural, political and economic rights. As such, their culture and identity are in no way endangered.

For many decades the Meiteis, through the instrument of their dominated state legislative assembly, have been attempting to remove the restriction imposed on the Meiteis in acquiring lands in the hills through certain legislative acts but without much success.¹¹ In a public meeting organised on 22 October 2011 at Imphal by Manipur Land Revenue & Land Reforms Act (MLR & LR Act, 1960) Demand Committee which discussed the possible means and ways of extending the MLR & LR Act to the hill areas of Manipur, a remark by one participant conveys the extent of seriousness of the issue.

The participant said ‘...that a civil war may break out in Manipur if the MLR & LR Act is not enforced uniformly all over Manipur’ (Sangai Express, 2011). On the other hand, ST status to Meiteis will automatically remove this restriction and, therefore, be able to acquire lands in the hills with their sheer purchasing power. Through this they can expand their occupied territory beyond the Imphal valley. This attempt can be observed in the systematic administrative expansions of the Imphal districts into the foothills of Sadar Hills.

To the hill tribal people of Manipur, the demand for ST status by STDCM is a ploy to attenuate the fervent political demands of the Kukis and Nagas, as well as a tacit strategy of the dominant valley dwellers to make inroads into the hill areas of the state.

The Way Out

Contemporary Manipur is filled with demands and counter-demands, protests and anti-protests, and bandhs and counter-bandhs. The three communities are intractably interwoven over different issues. In recent years the fervent demands by the hill people for separate administrative arrangements posed an enduring challenge to the Meiteidominated state politics. It has led to the sporadic formation of Meitei pressure groups which some of them even specialised in hurling communal expressions and the others formulating strategies to dilute and counter the hill’s demands.

The demand for ST status by STDCM not only generated a debate between the hills and valley people but also within the Meitei community, with equally strong objection and opposition from different sections. This contradiction within the Meiteis points to the demand as evolving from a small section of the Meiteis without any prior consultation or consensus. The demand, seemingly, has become very much ‘political’ rather than ‘sociological’ or ‘anthropological’.

As such, the way out lies not on the ST status for Meiteis but on managing and paying attention to the apprehensions and misunderstandings among the state’s people. Here arises the management of diversity. This key-issue has to be handled carefully by the state government. The best policy is to carefully and seriously manage these apprehensions and looming misunderstandings among the people.

(Courtesy of Sage Publications)

Published with the consent of the author.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

Bad headline because the first factor he highlighted was the availability of a large number of weapons. These arms were from armouries in Imphal and are mostly with Meitei groups.

Myanmar instability contributing to violence in Manipur: Lt Gen Kalita

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 16

THE SITUATION in Manipur would require some more time to return to normal, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita said on Saturday. He cited the "availability of a large number of weapons" and the "instability" in neighbouring Myanmar as factors contributing to the "sporadic incidents of violence" in the Northeastern state.

Kalita was speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of a programme organised to mark Vijay Diwas in Kolkata. "Everyone is aware of the situation in Manipur



Lt Gen RP Kalita, GOC-in-C of Eastern Command, in Kolkata, Saturday, Partha Paul

that developed after the violence on May 3. Thereafter, when we were called to help the Manipur Police and the CRPF to ensure law and order, the Army tried its best. Working together with the state government and all other stakeholders, we were able to bring

the law and order situation under control in 7-10 days. Some sporadic incidents have led to certain escalations but dialogues are on at different levels..." said Kalita.

"The availability of a large number of weapons with both communities, as also the instability in Myanmar across the border, has certain implications for the situation in Manipur," Kalita said.

He said the Army and the Assam Rifles, in concert with the state police and the CAPF deployed, have been able to control the violence to a large extent in Manipur, where the Meitei and the Kuki communities are at loggerheads with each other.

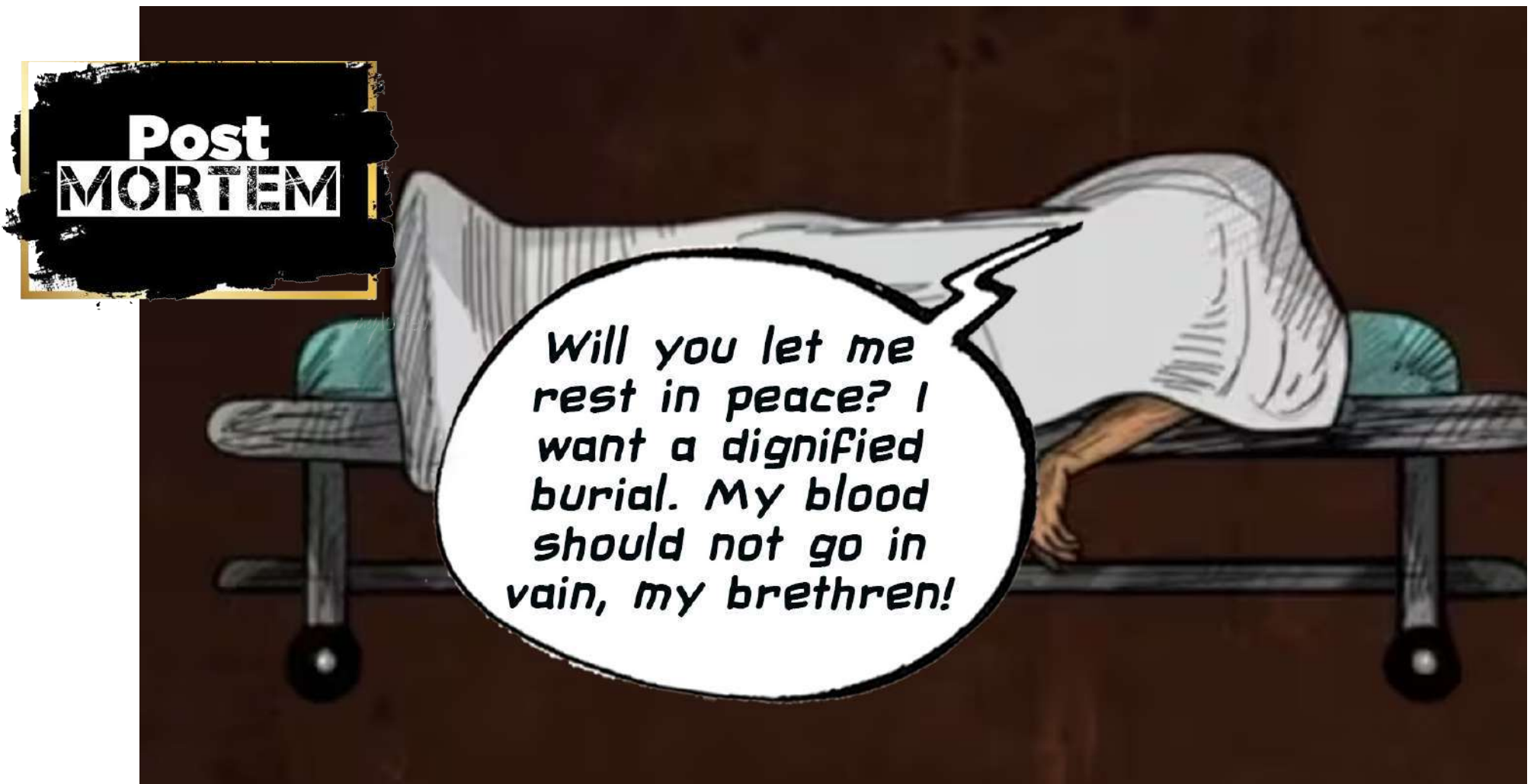
—WITH PTI INPUTS

9:27 AM • Dec 17, 2023 • 12.3K Views

srisathya @sathyashrii · 11h
Indian Greta who protested at COP28, welcomed in Manipur and did a road show in "Diesel (Fossil Fuel) vehicle" and her name printed in "Plastic Banner" 🙄🙄🙄



41 125 161 3.2K



THE TALKING MARTYR



The Clarion Call

In the heart of Kuki Zo, a call resounds,
A plea for unity, that in harmony we may be found.
Let our voices sing with strength and pride,
United we stand, side by side.

Oh, sons and daughters of Kuki Zo,
Let us embrace our collective glow.
From green hills to valleys wide,
Let unity be our unwavering guide.

In diversity, our true strength lies,
Through our differences, our spirit does rise.
Like rivers that converge, our paths entwined,
Together we shall flourish, hand in hand aligned.

Oh Kuki Zo, land of vibrant cultures,
Let us bridge the gaps, binding our futures.
With respect, understanding, and peace,
May unity among us never cease.

All sister tribes, of the same blood
Let us break down walls and embrace solidarity.
For in our togetherness, we find our way,
A harmonious symphony, a brighter day.

- Moses Khongsai