

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Joujang RELIEF CENTRE

Joujang Community Hall, Sadar Hills

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 165**



## 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.

# “UNLF ESTABLISHED CAMPS NEAR KUKI-DOMINATED AREAS TO TARGET KUKIS, CADRES INVOLVED IN MANIPUR VIOLENCE”

Security agencies have voiced concerns over the escalating violence in Manipur perpetrated by the banned United National Liberation Front (UNLF) despite the armed group signing a ceasefire agreement with the Union government last November, officials said on Sunday.

Led by Kh Pambei, the UNLF (P) became on November 29, 2023 the first Meitei armed group in the Imphal Valley to enter into a ceasefire agreement with the government and agreed to renounce violence.

However, officials said the group has failed to disclose the number of its cadres who were supposed to be kept in a secure area, and they have not surrendered their weapons either.

Reports also indicate the group's members have been setting up camps in the outskirts of areas predominantly inhabited by the Kuki population with an aim to target the tribal, the officials said. They said that based on the ground reports, security agencies have observed the UNLF (P) cadres have been engaging in violent activities against both security forces and the general public.

The officials said the cadres were involved in looting arms and ammunition from the 5th India Reserve Battalion (IRB) at Chingarel in Manipur East on February 13.

Following this incident, the police arrested six individuals, including two UNLF cadre and the case is now likely to be transferred to the CBI for further investigation.

The recent sightings of UNLF (P) cadres in various areas such as Moirangpurel, Tumukhong and Itham have raised concerns, with reports indicating they were carrying reconnaissance activities for



establishing camps in Moirangpurel and Itham.

On February 7, 2024, UNLF (P) cadre allegedly opened fire at Moirangpurel on vehicles heading towards Churachandpur, a district dominated by the Kuki community.

The unrest escalated when reports claimed that a shooting incident in Maphou village, predominantly inhabited by the people of the Kuki ethnicity, was carried out by individuals allegedly associated with the Arambai Tenggol and UNLF (P) cadres.

These cadres of UNLF (P) were reportedly providing live updates on social media while claiming to target the Kuki community.

Despite the ceasefire agreement aimed at ending hostilities between UNLF(P) and security forces, the recent incidents show that UNLF (P) cadres have been moving freely with their automatic weapons, seemingly immune to arrest by security forces.

Quoting an instance, the officials said armed UNLF (P) cadres were stopped by the central security

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forces and handed over to the local authorities but within no time they were out on the pretext that their organisation had entered into a ceasefire agreement.

Ahead of recent unrest in Churachandpur in the hills of the Manipur states, the officials said that UNLF (P) cadres in uniform were sighted near Terakhongsangbi in their vehicles marked with UNLF insignia.

Ethnic clashes between the Meitei and tribal Kuki communities in Manipur since May last year have resulted in the loss of over 180 lives.

The ceasefire agreement was expected to bring an end to hostilities between UNLF and security forces which have claimed precious lives on both sides over the last more than half a century and

also provide an opportunity to address the longstanding concerns of the community.

The UNLF, established in 1964, has been active both within and outside Indian Territory. Since 2014, the Centre has signed agreements with several armed groups in the Northeast to quell militancy and foster development.

Additionally, a Suspension of Operations (SoO) with 21 Kuki-dominated groups has been ongoing since 2008 to ensure peace in Manipur's hilly regions. The Manipur government's unilateral withdrawal from the SoO in March due to allegations of encroachment on forest land by two Kuki-dominated insurgent groups, has not been endorsed by the Centre.

## ANSAM HAS NO RIGHT TO COMMENT ON MEITEI ST DEMAND, SAYS ARAMBAI TENGGOL SELF-STYLED LEADER

Robin Mangang, one of the self-styled Arambai Tenggol's leaders has said that an organisation like All Naga Students Association Manipur has no right to comment whether the ST status can be granted to Meiteis.

The AT leader was reacting to the recent press release issued by ANSAM which stated various factors why the Meiteis cannot be granted the ST status.

Robin made the statement through his personal Facebook account on Sunday. In the Facebook post, he wrote, "after war with Kukis, there are many more to come."

"Since it is vital to protect the culture, identity and history of the Meiteis, any enemy must be confronted next by next either through war or other means,"

In another post, he questioned the Nagas as to what benefit they have received by helping the Kukis whom



**Robin Mangang Khwairakpam**

10 h · 🌐

Kuki Lan loiraga mathang2 yam watkhini Mabuk faruba Meitei ni Goura Dharma da ngaojaruba singsu wakhal tabiro. ANSAM gumba hapu gi group Amana Meitei da ST piba yai yade leppagi right leite. Upai leite Meitei gi Culture, Identity, History khudingmak kallamdaba yadaba ni na Lan tougera ama tougera mathang mathang adumak thengnaba tabani yeknaba khudingmak 🤔

he said have killed and raped the Nagas in the past. There is no harm if the Nagas think that helping the Kukis will be good for them. However, the Meiteis may also change their mindset, he added.

Probably referring to the Nagas, Robin said he is not afraid of anybody but he is showing respect as they have lived together since the past.

# MANIPUR STATE GOVERNMENT MANDATES 'NO WORK NO PAY' POLICY AMID ITLF ULTIMATUM FOR CLOSURE OF GOVT OFFICES

The Manipur government has ordered all state government offices/ institutions to enforce 'No work, No pay' against those employees who do not attend their official duty without authorized leave.

The order comes days after the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum issued a public notice that all state government offices will be closed from February 19.

The order issued by Manipur Chief Secretary, Dr. Vineet Joshi on Sunday stated that the Governor of Manipur is pleased to order that no one shall or attempt to make any deliberate effort to follow or enforce the notice at any cost. In case of any violation of the orders issued by the government, the person(s) concerned without any exception shall be booked and prosecuted under relevant provision of law of land for the time being in force.

It also advised all central and state government authorities and management authorities of institutions/ establishment/autonomous bodies to ensure strict attendance of staff and students as usual.

The chief secretary advised the District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of all districts to take up necessary action to enforce the orders and they shall also readily address the genuine grievances of any citizen of their district.

As per the order, the State Government has seen a public notice issued by ITLF on february 17 stating that all State Government offices will be closed from February 19 until further notice.

It also directs employees not to attend office along with a general threat to all concerned and they would be responsible for consequences if not followed. The notice had been spreading virally in different media including social media platform like different WhatsApp Groups etc. which is totally illegal, stated the order.

The order stated that the State Government views the matter very seriously with utmost sensitivity as

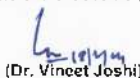
GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR  
SECRETARIAT: HOME DEPARTMENT

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR: MANIPUR  
Imphal, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

No.H-3608/212023-HD-HD-Part(1): The State Government has seen a public notice dated 17.02.2024 issued by ITLF (Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum), Churachandpur stating that all State Government offices will be closed from Monday 19.02.2024 until further notice. It also directs employees not to attend office along with a general threat to all concerned and they would be responsible for consequences if not followed; the same had been spreading virally in different media including social media platform like different WhatsApp Groups etc. which is totally illegal;

2. Whereas, the State Government views the matter very seriously with utmost sensitivity as the same act is illegal and the notice so issued is without any Authority;
3. A large number of Relief Camps are operating in the Districts where many children, old aged persons, pregnant & lactating mothers, specially abled persons are residing, and their regular care is being taken.
4. Disbursement of third assistance for purchase of clothing & personal belongings @Rs.1000 per person is scheduled to start for the residents of Relief Camps.
5. Examinations of CBSE Board have started and State Boards are due from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 for which preparations are in full swing.
6. Therefore, in view of above and the importance of upholding the integrity of the Government Institutions and Establishments, the Governor of Manipur is pleased to order that no one shall or attempt to make any deliberate effort to follow or enforce the above notice at any cost. In case of any violation of the above orders, the person(s) concerned without any exception shall be booked and prosecuted under relevant provision of law of land for the time being in force.
7. 'No work, No pay' shall also be enforced by all the State Government Offices/Institutions against those employees who do not attend their official duty without authorised leave.
8. All Central and State Government Authorities and Management Authorities of institutions/ establishment/Autonomous bodies are also advised to ensure strict attendance of staff and students as usual.
9. All District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of all Districts shall take up necessary action to enforce the above orders. They shall also readily address the genuine grievances of any citizen of their district.

By orders and in the name of the Governor,

  
(Dr. Vineet Joshi)  
Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur

the same act is illegal and the notice so issued is without any authority.

As per the order, all District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police of all Districts shall take up necessary action to enforce the above orders and they shall also readily address the genuine grievances of any citizen of their district.

Notably, despite the lapse of the 24-hour ultimatum issued by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), no action has been taken to rescind the suspension of Head Constable Siamlalpaol or replace key officials in Lamka district, Manipur.

In response to the lack of compliance with their demands, the ITLF has declared a shutdown of all state government offices across Lamka district, effective from Monday, February 19, 2024, until further notice. Employees have been instructed to refrain from attending work during this period, with potential repercussions for those who do not adhere to the directive.

# ASSAM RIFLES, PHAIKOH VA ISSUES CLARIFICATION ON NSCN-IM'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST KNA-(B)

The Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) on Sunday issued clarification on the allegation of the NSCN-IM's statement on KNA-(B), stating "false allegations necessitate a clarification in bringing out the facts.

The NSCN (Isak-Muivah) group in its statement on February 17, 2024 alleging involvement of Assam Rifles based at Phaikoh collaborating with KNA (B) in the killing of Honpam Chithung on February 10, 2024 in Myanmar, stated, "We cannot rule out the involvement of Assam Rifles based at Phaikoh to collaborate with KNA(B) in killing Honpam Chithung."

The Assam Rifles stated that the "individual named Honpam Chithung, resident of Harkui Kathe Tang, Ngapurum, Kumrum under Phungyar Police Station, in Ukhrul District, Manipur figures in the list of 'Most Wanted' of National Investigation Agency (NIA) and was wanted in NIA case No. RC-05/2018/NIA/GUW (State Police FIR No 11(5)2018 dated 22.05.2018 of Ukhrul Police Station, Manipur. Assam Rifles added that Honpam Chithung, "as per credible inputs, the individual was also an arms supplier of NSCN-IM and was killed inside Myanmar on 10 February 2024."

Further, AR stating that the killing of Honpam "in a foreign territory on communal affinity reflects clear ulterior motive to malign the image of Indian Security Forces. "It is a matter of great concern that an Indian citizen who was in the wanted list of NIA was found in foreign territory (Myanmar)."

Terming the allegation of the NSCN-IM "irresponsible," the AR stated that "the circumstances clearly show that NSCN-IM wants to create an environment of distrust in Ukhrul and Kamjong areas." It also added that the "irresponsible allegations clearly indicate towards NSCN-IM harbouring and abetting anti-national elements. Assam Rifles is committed to ensuring peace and harmony and will work with unified determination to achieve it," added the statement.

Meanwhile, the Phaikoh village authority has issued



clarification on the same, stating that Honpam Chithung was killed inside Aungzayya military camp during Junta operation carried out on 10th Feb 2024 by the Military Region-1 under the Ministry of Defense, National Unity Govt. of Myanmar as stated by the Press Release of KNA(B).

"Therefore, Phaikoh villagers have no involvement in this incident whatsoever. Instead, the village authority as a mark of solidarity and maintaining peaceful co-existence have not only cooperated but had also rendered seamless logistics in recovering the mortal remains of the victim while Eastern Kuki Chiefs Association (EKCA) has also participated in the funeral service today which was successfully concluded at Kamjong."

"It is highly astonishing and inconceivable that the Meitei community from the valley spread fake news to suit their narrative over the incident at the expense of the Kuki-Zo sentiments by claiming that the victim was killed by the Kukis inside Phaikoh village which is totally uncalled for & deserve outright condemnation." said the clarification.

The Phaikoh village authority appealed to the Meitei community to stop indulging in such cheap tactics which can threaten the stability and prosperity of the region amidst the ongoing bloody conflict and unnecessarily drag different communities into the violence.

# AFTER MEETING SHAH, CM LALDUHOMA CONFIDENT MIZORAM SECTOR OF INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER WON'T BE FENCED

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma Saturday asked the Narendra Modi government to leave out the state from the proposed India-Myanmar border fencing. This demand comes at a time when the state's NGO Coordination Committee (NGOCC) has announced its intentions to go ahead with its protests planned against the move.

"The state government is opposed to erecting a fence along the Mizoram-Myanmar border and also wants the FMR to stay," a statement from the Chief Minister's Officer quoted Lalduhoma, whose Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) was voted to power in the assembly election held last November, as saying at a meeting the NGOCC. FMR refers to the Free Movement Regime (FMR) — an arrangement introduced by the Modi government during its first term, which allows tribes living along the border on either side to travel up to 16 km inside the other country without a visa.

The proposed border fencing will effectively halt this free movement.

"The present international border is demarcated by the colonial British government under the policy of divide and rule (and therefore is) an imposed border," Lalduhoma further said. "The brothers are divided in order to ensure that we will never be a large nation.

Our undying dream is to reunite under a single administrative unit".

While announcing a border fencing along the entire 1,643 km India-Myanmar border earlier this month, Home Minister Shah said the move was aimed at enhancing security. The move comes at a time when there are allegations that insurgent groups from across the border are fuelling ethnic violence between Manipur's Valley-based Meiteis, a non-tribal group, and the hills-based Kuki tribes.

The NGOCC, which wields considerable political influence in Mizoram, has announced protests against the proposed border at Aizawl on 21 February.

An NGOCC delegation led by its chairman Lalhmachhuana — president of the central committee of the Young Mizo Association — announced at the meeting Saturday that it would go ahead with its plans.

The group had been coordinating with the civil societies of Nagaland and had written to the Centre and the state government about their stance on the issue, the CMO statement quoted chairman Lalhmachhuana as having said.



**We cannot be sure of having something to live for unless we are willing to die for it.**

*– Che Guevera*

# KSO KERALA MEETS CHIEF MINISTER, SEEKS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR KUKI STUDENTS

The Education Secretary of the Kuki Students' Organization Kerala, Goulungmon Haokip, along with three other KSO members, participated in a direct meeting with the Chief Minister of Kerala at Malabar Christian College in Calicut district.

During this session, the KSO had the opportunity to pose a query to the CM, who responded positively, affirming his party's ongoing support for Kuki students pursuing their studies in Kerala. This assurance rekindled hope among the Kuki student community.

In appreciation, the KSO Kerala presented a memorandum to the Kerala government and the CM. As the Kuki community continues its quest for a political solution, the KSO requested the Kerala government to sustain its support for the Kuki people. Additionally, the



Education Secretary of KSO Kerala held discussions with Dr. Bindu, the Honourable Education Minister, focusing on the educational needs of youth from the Kuki community studying in the state.

## THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



BJP's idea of "law and order". Wield the stick on the Kukis and suck up to militias in Imphal.

Pauboi Kuki\_Zo @pbkhuptong · Feb 17



8:23 PM · Feb 18, 2024 · 1,973 Views



When the Radical Meitei mobs attack the DC office in Imphal and raise their Salai Taret flag, there is silence. No media coverage, no live bullets, no tear gas. Why this discrimination?

@manipur\_police @adgpi @ndtvfeed @PTI\_News @easterncomd @UN @EastMojo @HMOIndia @PMOIndia



10:26 PM · Feb 17, 2024 · 3,357 Views

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OPINION

## Shifting Narratives of Meitei Community vis-à-vis Manipur Violence

Prior to 3rd May 2023, the focus was Go to Hills, Go to Village, Meeyamgi Numit, War on Drugs, Reserved Forest, Protected Forest, Wetland conservations and inclusion of Meitei/Meitei in the Scheduled Tribe list of the Constitution of India. There were meetings after meetings held for these welfare projects while the pot was slowly heating up. These projects led to the logic of 'Where there is smoke, there is fire'. Smoke and fire came from the Anglo-Kuki War Memorial gate in Lamka on that fatal day. Then narratives began pouring in. Illegal immigrant narrative

On the 3rd of May 2023, the All Tribal Students' Union, Manipur (ATSUM) took out a rally in opposition to the inclusion of Meitei/Meitei in the Scheduled Tribe list fearing that their Schedule Tribe rights and privileges will be compromised. That evening and the following day, about 100 innocent Kuki-Zo people were molested, raped and killed in Imphal valley because they were alleged to be illegal immigrants.

The Honorable Supreme Court of India directed the Manipur government for the decent burial of hundreds of people who were in the mortuaries of Manipur. It was done. Today, they all are buried as citizens of India within the territory of India. The first narrative (reason) for killing Kuki-Zo people failed miserably.

### Narco-terrorists

The second narrative was killing of 'narco-terrorists' – but they have no names (narco-terrorists) and proof after killing so many people. Killing began first before identifying narco-terrorists. Two right thinking persons (Brinda Thounaojam & Babloo Loitongbam) spoke the truth and they were targeted and silenced by the militia. Records show that the largest drug cartels are in the valley of Manipur, then comes some sections of Kuk-Zo and then some sections of Naga areas. Because of few individuals, it is illogical to generalize the whole community.

### Village volunteer narrative

Village volunteers are supposed to guard their own villages. But in reality, most of the valley men who died were persons who went to attack Kuki-Zo villages at the peripheries and died there in Kukiland. Which villages were they guarding? Village volunteers became aggressive volunteers. The village volunteer narrative was also defeated. Now, they are openly going around with the terrorists declared by the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India.

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*Contd.*

### **Control Moreh narrative**

Moreh being the gateway of India to Southeast Asia (through the Look East Policy) is a strategic place. There have been many struggles to control Moreh way back in 1990s up till now. There were skirmishes between communities and the rest is history. Manipur (Meitei) Police Commandos carried out arson and destruction on the houses, schools and property of Moreh, thereby causing fear and insecurity. The incumbent Arambai led Biren's government must have shelled out the public money in transporting valley based insurgent groups disguised as state forces. There was another twist in trying to control Moreh town. The militia commander-in-chief alleged that there were foreign militants attacking the Police commandos, but the Security Advisor (Mr Kuldiep Singh) said, it is not confirmed. The foreign militants attacking Manipur (Meitei) Police Commandos narrative is also debunked.

### **Seeking elder brother's help**

Biren went to Ukhrul district headquarter and declared that the Lairum phi was the common property of Tangkhuls and Meiteis. Mr David K Shimrey, the TNL President said that TNL and the Tangkhul community are competent enough to know own history. TNL also believe in their destiny as an integral part of the Naga nation and do not wish their land to become a Summer Capital of Manipur. Elder-younger brother narrative was snubbed at its bud.

### **Removal of Kuki-Zo from Scheduled Tribe list narrative**

They are trying to shift the ball to the Government of India. To their desperation, they are now asking the Government of India to remove the Kuk-Zo tribes from ST list so that they can be included in the ST list. They are haphazardly led by self-style leaders like Pramot Singh, Koroungaba Khuman, etc, who have no civil, social, religious and scientific acumen and far from being well-read. Any right-thinking person will be baffled at the various shifting narratives these tabula rasa group of people are pursuing. They don't

even have the same colours in their high voltage propagandist salai-taret flag.

### **Hiding deaths narratives**

In many of the cases, the number of deaths is not revealed, lest the militia will be disowned by the masses. The poor people at the periphery are dying and suffering a lot while the rich and influencers are churning the pot hot and maintaining turmoil. Few rich people who died were given solemn burial while the poor, illiterate and voiceless indoctrinated guys who died are just hidden; perhaps will never appear again and may be listed as 'missing' in the history of Kangleipak.

### **Patriotism narrative**

The constitutionally elected Meitei MLAs have taken an oath under the Arambai Tenggol to safeguard their territory as patriots. Fear and compulsion must have let those spineless legislatures to sign and be subservient to the militia. They know what they are doing is not right, but they need to survive and protect their properties anyhow. Anyway, Manipur's territory cannot be safeguarded by only one community. Even if all the communities try to safeguard also, it may not be easily achieved. Let the train reach Imphal; we shall see what happens. Let's see which patriotic persons can protect the valley areas of Kangleipak.

### **Being tribal narrative**

The majority group has been at a crossroads for about a decade now. The Sanamahism group wants revival while the affluent Meiteis need wealth and fame and their adopted religion (Vaisnavite Hinduism). To showcase their tribalness, they have recently invented some mufflers with salai-taret

*Contd.*

Contd.

colour and lairum phi design. They are now inventing waistcoats with lairum phi design on the front and the snake symbol (lairen-pakhangba) at the back. These are recent things. Now they are burying their dead – maybe to claim that they are tribals or to occupy those hills and mountains near the valley area. Which sensible human beings can trust all these?

### FMR and border fencing narrative

They are now objecting the Free Movement Regime (FMR) of the Government of India which has been taken up as an initiative for Look East Policy bilateral ties. They are now betting for border fencing for the whole Northeast. Nagaland and Mizoram people are tooth and nail against this idea as it would completely disconnect their kith and kin who are living at the

other side of the border. The narrative and ripple effect is getting bigger day by day.

The Meitei must be totally confused. Their children and younger generation may be thinking, 'kya hua?'. Wat started with a demand for inclusion of Meetei/Meitei in the Scheduled Tribe list, they are now busy with border fencing narrative between India and Myanmar. The narratives are changing as I write this piece and as you are reading it.

One may ask, 'Whose strategy is this?' This is an important question. All right-thinking people should ask and find the answer as early as possible. If not, there will be more enmity, separation, deaths and of course perpetual trust deficit and imminent total separation.



## THE UNOFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON OF COCOMI





# “TAHCHANU”

## A Brave Village Mother

In a village nestled by hills high,  
Lived TAHCHANU, with courage nigh,  
A mother strong, with heart to bold,  
Her tale of bravery, forever told.

When conflict's dark clouds shown near,  
TAHCHANU banished all her fear.  
With decide secure, she stood tall,  
Ready to answer the battles call.

Through fields of turmoil, she marched ahead,  
With valour and strength, her path she led.  
TAHCHANU voice a beacon, her eyes afire,  
Guiding her people through riotous times.

Amidst the clash of weapons and strife,  
TAHCHANU fought for her way of life.  
Her love for kin, her village dear,  
Fuelled her spirit, banishing fear.

Through wounds may mark her body and soul,  
Her bravery and sacrifice make her whole.  
A village mother, a warrior true,  
TAHCHANU's tale, forever anew.

- Thongminthang Lungdim

