

# Thingkho *Le* Maleha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## LHEIKHOAT LUPHENG (68 YEARS)

W/O SOLUN LUPHENG

ADDRESS: SELOIJANG, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH:SELOIJANG, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: MURDERED BY MEITEI RADICAL GROUPS





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 10.07.2024



**186**  
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.



# KUKI BODIES CONDEMN ALLEGED POLICE EXECUTION OF THREE HMAR YOUTHS IN ASSAM

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has strongly condemned what it describes as the cold-blooded murder of three Kuki-Zo individuals—Lallungawi Hmar (21), Joshua Hmar (35), and Lalbiekkung Hmar (33)—by Assam police on July 16, 2024, in Cachar district near the Assam-Manipur border. This grievous incident has shocked the Kuki-Zo community and raised serious concerns about the conduct and accountability of law enforcement agencies in the region.

Despite the Assam Police's claims of an encounter in which three Hmar militants were killed during an early morning operation, KIM asserts that the incident is a clear case of extrajudicial killing. Video footage circulating on social media shows the Assam Police stopping the three youths while they were traveling in an autorickshaw and taking them into custody. The three youths later appeared at the mortuary of Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH), their deaths allegedly the result of a staged encounter.

The incident highlights the plight of the Kuki-Zo people, who lack a Separate Administration of their own, and represents a grave violation of their rights and privileges as equal citizens of India. KIM calls on the Government of India to expedite a permanent political solution to safeguard the rights and privileges of the Kuki-Zo people. KIM mourns the tragic deaths of Lallungawi Hmar, Joshua Hmar, and Lalbiekkung Hmar and stands in solidarity with their bereaved families. The Kuki-Zo community remains resolute in its quest for truth and justice against the injustices perpetrated since the beginning of ethnic violence in the Manipur region. KIM urges all relevant agencies and stakeholders to prioritize the investigation and ensure a fair resolution to this grievous matter.



## CONDEMNATION OF THE "FAKE ENCOUNTER" BY THE ASSAM POLICE *Sadar Hills, the 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2024*

**04/KIM/PR./22-65:** The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) condemns in the strongest terms the cold-blooded murder of three Kuki-Zo individuals -Lallungawi Hmar (21 yrs), Joshua Hmar (35 yrs) and Lalbiekkung Hmar (33 yrs) by the Assam Police on July 16, 2024, in Assam's Cachar district near the Assam-Manipur border. This grievous incident has not only shocked our community but has also raised serious concerns about the conduct and accountability of law enforcement agencies in the region.

Despite the Assam Police's claims of an encounter where three Hmar militants were killed in an early morning operation, the incident is rather a clear case of extrajudicial killing. Contrary to the Assam Police's claim, video footage surfaced on social media clearly showing the Assam Police stopping the three youths while they were traveling in an auto rickshaw and taking them into custody. Regrettably, the three apprehended youths later ended up in the mortuary of Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH), becoming victims of a well-staged fake encounter.

The incident reflects the plight of the Kuki-Zo people who do not have a Separate Administration of their own. It is as well a grave violation of the rights and privileges of the Kuki-Zo people as equal citizens of the country. The incident therefore is an earnest call to the Government of India to expedite a permanent political solution for the Kuki-Zo people to safeguard our rights and privileges.

Kuki Inpi mourns the tragic death of our beloved brethren and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families. The Kuki-Zo people will remain resolute in our quest for truth and in the fight against the injustices perpetrated against our community since the beginning of the ethnic violence in the Manipur region. We also urge all relevant agencies and stakeholders to prioritize the investigation and ensure a fair resolution to this grievous matter..

*Janghaolun Haokip*  
(JANGHAOLUN HAOKIP)  
Secretary, Information & Publicity  
Kuki Inpi Manipur



Meanwhile, the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) also condemns the alleged encounter. According to the circulated video, it is clear that the three Kuki-Zo youths were arrested by Assam police while traveling in an autorickshaw and wearing casual dress. However, they were later found dead in combat attire at SMCH.

KWOHR calls upon the National Commission for Human Rights to intervene, seeking justice and suo-motu action against the Assam Police. The organization warns that it will initiate a judicial inquiry if necessary to ensure accountability in this matter.

# KSO-GHQ REBUKES SHIV SENA MANIPUR UNIT PRESIDENT'S ALLEGATIONS; CONDEMNS EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING BY ASSAM POLICE

The Kuki Students' Organisation General Headquarters (KSO-GHQ) has expressed astonishment and strong opposition to recent statements by the Shiv Sena Manipur Unit advocating for the removal of Assam Rifles from Manipur and their replacement by a so-called "neutral force." The KSO-GHQ emphasized the critical role of Assam Rifles, part of the central security agencies, in maintaining law and order in the state.

The KSO-GHQ refutes the allegations made by the president of Shiv Sena Manipur Unit, who claimed that Kuki militants have been killing security personnel. They described these accusations as baseless and incendiary, warning that such statements could exacerbate ethnic tensions. The KSO-GHQ reminded the public of past attacks by Meitei Terrorist PLA, including the November 13, 2021 ambush resulting in the deaths of Colonel Viplav Tripathi, his family, and four paramilitary force jawans, as well as the 2015 attack on the 6 Dogra Regiment in Chandel district, which claimed the lives of 20 security personnel.

The KSO-GHQ stated that the Assam Rifles operate without bias towards any ethnic community in Manipur and have worked tirelessly to maintain law and order across the state. They called for the restoration of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the valley and Imphal city to ensure stability, given that state forces, along with Meitei militants and radical groups, have allegedly targeted Kuki communities.

The KSO-GHQ questioned why the Shiv Sena Manipur Unit singled out Assam Rifles, suggesting it might be because Assam Rifles are known as "Friends of the Hills." They accused the Shiv Sena Manipur Unit President of attempting to please Meitei terrorist and radical groups with his statement. The KSO-GHQ called for increased deployment of Assam Rifles in the state rather than their removal.



In light of the recent incident in Assam, the KSO-GHQ also strongly condemned the alleged extrajudicial killing of Lallungawi Hmar, Lalbiekkung Hmar, and Joshua Lalrinsang by Assam police on July 16, 2024, in Cachar district. According to the KSO-GHQ, the three individuals were apprehended while traveling in an autorickshaw and taken to a police station for interrogation. However, video evidence circulating on social media depicts the victims in casual attire, contradicting the official account, which showed them in combat dress after their deaths.

Another video shows an Assam police officer discreetly placing a weapon inside one of the victim's bags, raising further questions about the legitimacy of the police's account. The KSO-GHQ has called upon the National Commission for Human Rights to intervene, seeking justice and a suo-motu action against the Assam police in this matter.



# INDIGENOUS TRIBAL LEADERS FORUM CONDEMNS ALLEGED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF THREE HMAR YOUTHS BY ASSAM POLICE

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) has issued a vehement condemnation in response to what it describes as the “cold-blooded murder” of three Hmar youths by Assam police in a fake encounter. The victims—Lallungawi Hmar, Lalbiekkung Hmar, and Joshua Lalrinsang—were allegedly killed after being taken into police custody in Cachar district on July 16, 2024.

According to the ITLF, a video shot by police clearly shows the three victims being apprehended without resistance while traveling in an autorickshaw. Subsequent videos, which have gone viral on social media, depict the youths bound with ropes and taken to a forested area. Their bullet-riddled bodies were later discovered at the Silchar Medical College Hospital (SMCH) morgue.

The police version of events is rife with inconsistencies. Cachar SP’s statement claims that the youths were arrested on July 16 at around 4:30 p.m. on Krishnapur Road. During interrogation, the police allege the youths revealed information leading to a special operation in Bhuban Hills on July 17. The police narrative states that the three were injured in a crossfire while wearing bulletproof jackets and helmets and were later pronounced dead at SMCH.

However, the ITLF points out a glaring inconsistency: the three dead militants, one of whom was photographed



wearing a bulletproof vest, were the same youths already in police custody the previous evening. This discrepancy strongly suggests that the killings were extrajudicial.

The ITLF is calling for the policemen involved to be tried in court for the murder of three Indian citizens. Furthermore, the Forum has criticized Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma for lauding the killings on social media.

In light of the video evidence and the inconsistencies in the police account, the ITLF demands an impartial investigation by the state government and urges the National Human Rights Commission to take suo motu cognizance of the deaths and issue notices to the Assam government to open an investigation into the killings.



**A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation.**

*- James Freeman Clarke*

# KANGCHUP AREA PROTECTION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CONDEMNS BRUTAL MURDER OF CHIRU MAN BY MEITEI MILITANTS

The Kangchup Area Protection and Development Committee (KAPDC) has strongly condemned the brutal murder of Mr. Marangngir (45), son of a retired Pastor Som-Eng of Kangchup Chiru village, Kangpokpi district, Manipur, by Arambai Tenggol on 15 July 2024.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, KAPDC stated that Merangngir was a theologian, a devout Christian, and a former leader of the Kangchup Tribal Youth Organisation (the apex body of Kuki and Naga tribal youth organisations in the Kangchup area), who had no connection with the ongoing ethnic clash between Kuki-Zo and Meitei. However, the Arambai Tenggol forced him to falsely confess to being a “Kuki-Zo informer” on the pretext of sparing his life before he was mercilessly killed.

In the viral video surfaced across social media platforms, the victim was seen apprehended and blindfolded inside a vehicle, forcefully made to answer questions intended to put him in a bad light before being brutally murdered. In the said video, he had been forced to admit that he took twenty thousand to be an informer to the Kuki-Zo. “Such an inhumane act is nothing but a ploy to instill fear among the minority tribals to grab their land,” it alleged.

“As fellow Christians and tribal, we share a strong bond with the villagers of Kangchup Chiru. However, for their safety, we have refrained from involving them in any activities since the Kuki-Zo and Meitei conflict began on May 3, 2023. Our age-old relationships even extend to the Phayeng Meiteis who are officially classified as Scheduled Castes (SC),” the Committee said, adding that it was primarily the radicalized General Meiteis, such as the Arambai Tenggols, who terrorize the SC community.

Notably, more than ten Meitei families from Kangchup area have found a safe haven in Kangpokpi relief centres



with the Kuki-Zo community. Even after one and a half year of conflict, the Kuki-Zo people have not disclosed their identities for their safety. A tragic example is that of Mr. L. Naoton Singh, the husband of the late Lydia Lourembam who was burned alive along with an eight-year-old Tongsing on June 4, 2023, who is still staying with his family at a relief camp with the Kuki-Zo in Kangpokpi district.

In this regard, the Kangchup Area Protection and Development Committee has invited the national and international media to witness the facts with evidence.

The Kuki-Zo tribal Committee of Kangchup area, therefore, appealed to the Central Government and all the right-thinking people of India to hear the plight of the minority tribals and to save them from the demonic majority Meiteis who don't even spare the lives of the neutral tribes.

It also urged the Central Government to speed up the process of separation for the Kuki-Zo community by creating a Union Territory with a Legislature as that would be the only means available for their survival.



# WEAPONS ALONG WITH TWO VEHICLES RECOVERED FROM A HIDEOUT IN MANIPUR

Continuing its effort to curb anti-social and militant activities, a joint team of the central and state forces recovered two four-wheelers along with weapons in a raid at a secluded location in Imphal West district, the police said on Thursday.

According to a police report, based on specific information of the presence of arms and ammunition, Manipur police and central paramilitary personnel, using explosive detection dogs raided a secluded Sanjenbam village in Imphal West district on Wednesday night.

Though no one was arrested, the raid successfully ended with the recovery of various items which are significant in the context of maintaining security and controlling potentially dangerous situations in the area. The recoveries include two four-wheelers, 72 live case ammunitions, 10 empty case ammunition, two 51mm mortar shells, two 2-inch Para shells (illumination shells), one Digital Video Recorder marked as PRAMA, two Hand Sets (Baofeng), an extra Battery (Baofeng), one empty Bren Magazine, one Pistol Holster, one pair of black BP vests and other miscellaneous items.



The impounded vehicles, captured arms, ammunition, and war-like stores have been handed over to Manipur Police for further investigation.



## TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN HEROES







ANALYSIS

## Former BSF ADG PK Mishra's Statement Shows Disconnect from Logical Reasoning and Ground Reality in Manipur

In a recent viral video, former ADG BSF, Shri PK Mishra, was seen putting the entire blame of failure of law and order on one agency, indirectly targeting the Assam Rifles. He further accused them of having links with Kuki militants. He however contradicts himself, as he also made an allegation that Manipur police sought the help of militant groups like the UNLF. What was interesting was, not only that Mr. PK Mishra shied away from taking the name of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, but he also didn't hold Manipur police responsible, while still indirectly putting the blame on Assam Rifles for not curbing militancy. What goes between him and Assam Rifles is unknown, but he should not have involved Kukis unnecessarily when his speech established the fact that he has zero awareness of the ground reality. The Kukis are presently suffering from the misinformation and hate spewed against them by the media fraternity of Manipur - he should not have made them suffer the same from the national media.

The former director made an allegation that there is lack of co-operation and co-ordination amongst the state forces and the para military forces in the state of Manipur. He however forgets that it is he who himself said that Manipur police sought the help of the UNLF, although intentionally omitting Arambai Tenggol. As a so-called expert, who confidently gave the solution on the Manipur issue, why is he unaware of the allegation

by the Kukis regarding the co-operation and co-ordination of para-military forces and Manipur Police in the presence of Arambai Tenggol and the UNLF in Saikul, Sugnu and now in Jiribam when the para-military forces' in-charge in this bordering region belongs to the Meitei community which resulted in the displacement of Kukis and the arsoning of their villages. These allegations are based upon patterns replicated and implemented against the Kukis when a Meitei official is posted in the region. He also seemed to miss the striking similarity of what happened in Jiribam today to what happened in Sugnu last year where peace and stability in the region was disturbed with the help of the Meitei military official there too and the deployment of Akash Oinam in Saikul, Major Singh from 37 Assam Rifles and Premjit Huidrom of CRPF in Jiribam. As far as Pallel and Moreh are concerned, Biren's heartthrob SSP Nectar takes the credit. So the question is, does he want the annihilation of the Kukis like the Meiteis do?

He also seems to be unaware of the division of jurisdiction between Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and the chief minister of Manipur which the chief minister himself declared to the world after his

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*Contd.*

meeting with Amit Shah in June last year. One of the reasons for the failure to bring normalcy in the state of Manipur is the disrespect and complete disregard of this arrangement by Biren and his government. With attacks coming 99% of the time from the valley to the hills or in Kuki villages that lie within the disputed jurisdiction of the valley district, I think he should not have misled Indians by placing the blame on Assam Rifles alone. One can also ask that if we question the Assam Rifles, what are the other para-military forces deploying in the valley district deployed for if they could not tackle the menace of not only law and order but also in their failure to stop the militants from the valley from attacking Kuki villages? As opposed to his claim, I say, no central agency can bring normalcy in the state of Manipur if they are not given the powers to maintain and control law and order in the valley districts of Manipur.

With those who commit the heinous crimes to ethnically cleanse the Kukis still called 'village volunteers' even by the chief minister and with their historical records of attacking and arsoning of Kuki villages with the help of their security forces, it is by compulsion that Kukis have weaponised to defend themselves against the atrocious attacks. Once organisations like them are recognised as terrorist organisations and when paramilitary forces can have free hand to tackle them militarily in any event of their attacks, it won't take the Assam Rifles even a week to de-militarise the Kukis. The Kukis best know if they are soft on them or not when insurgency and militancy becomes the issue.

If Assam Rifles is in collaboration with Kuki militants, why did they warn the volunteers guarding the borders that they must face the Assam Rifles first if they try to attack the Meitei villages nearby? Why are real bullets used to disperse angry mobs protesting against government and administrative policies? A good number of Kukis have been injured and more than 4 protestors have succumbed to death from their bullets amidst their attempt to bring law and order in the hill districts. Would any other para-military

forces deployed in the valley dare use the same undemocratic means of mob handling on the Meiteis? Had this approach adopted in the hills been adopted in the valley too, stoppage of outright attacks and confrontations would have been a done deal by now. The irony is that despite looted armoury causing chaos to law and order in the valley and despite those weapons being deployed in the hills for illegal and terrorist activities, the state government thinks AFSPA in the valley is not a necessity despite the same being implemented in the hills where there is better law and order.

Myanmar shares international boundaries with at least 4 states of India, and it has a porous border across. Drugs and weapons trafficking is an issue across the bordering region. The porous boundary is what makes Myanmar the safe heaven for terrorists. Different tribes and ethnic clans reside across these borders and many insurgents wage a separatist movement from the country. However Kukis are scapegoated and singled out alone for the entire crimes happening across the borders, when separatist movements against India is the least concern for Kuki insurgent groups in Myanmar as defeating the Junta and establishing a democracy is their priority at the moment. If Assam Rifles is accused today of giving weapons to the Kukis, should they not be accused of supplying weapons to all insurgents operating in the North East? Or does he think that all other insurgents groups are capable of acquiring illegal weapons except for the Kukis using the weak spot across the borders? How can a former military officer be so out of touch from ground reality and logical reasoning? Thus the question is does he have any personal vendetta against the Assam Rifles or the Kukis?

And if the public and politicians' opinions are the basis on which central armed forces should be removed from the state, by his analogy, should they not be removed from the state of J&K too?

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*Contd.*

We should trust our armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir, and we should trust them in Manipur too. Yes, there can be human rights violations and misuse of power by the officials, but they should be dealt with accordingly at their personal level and reforms should be introduced to curb the menace of such officers. But as Indians we should never put the blame on the entire agencies for the misdeeds of unethical officers. The Kukis adopt this approach towards our central forces. Despite the atrocity and displacement we had to undergo when Meitei military officers are placed in sensitive jurisdictions, we demand for the removal of the officer(s), not the entire military bases in the district. Thus as a former military officer himself, his comments are uncalled for and unnecessary.

Manipur needs both military intervention and political solutions. As long as political and military support by the state government exist, long term peace and

normalcy is a far cry. Manipur today, despite the deployment of other central military forces like BSF, CRPF, Gorkha Regiment and others, could not instill peace and normalcy since the culprits have the backing of the political power in the state. If we want peace, then military wise, what applies in the hills should apply in the valley and politically, the central government should handover to itself the responsibility, power and duties of the government until a political solution is found. Thus, experts who are clueless of the ground reality but rather pick up their entire knowledge of the Manipur problems today from propagandist national, regional and state owned media should stop themselves from giving opinions and solutions. Their illogical and out of touch reality opinions and solutions can worsen the already dire situation the Kukis are living in today.

## TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JULY 18, 2023

### A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JULY 18, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

**18th July, 2023:**

Today in last year 2023, the Meitei radical groups attacked Phaileng village in Kangpokpi at around 5:00 PM. Heavy firing was reported. Explosions were also used by the Meitei terror groups. No casualties were reported.

A deeply distressing and tragic incident had occurred as Mr. Emmanuela Hmar, who was traveling to Kerala, met a horrifying fate at the hands of his co-passengers, identified as Meiteis. In his final phone call to his wife, Mr. Hmar expressed that he was surrounded by



around 13 Meitei individuals. Tragically, he was later discovered dead.



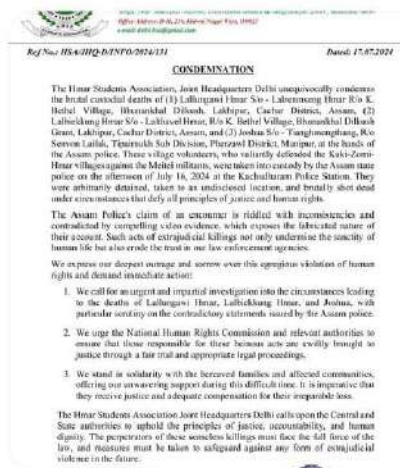
SOCIAL MEDIA  
**THE BUZZ**



Rokibuz Zaman  
@ROKIBUZZAMAN2

Manipur tribal groups seek inquiry into the custodial death of three Hmar people in Cachar.

"The Assam Police's claim of an encounter is riddled with inconsistencies and contradicted by compelling video evidence, which exposes the fabricated nature of their account": HSA



1:08 · 18 Jul 24 · 7,952 Views



Vijaita Singh  
@vijaita

Follow

Assam CM says three Hmar "militants" from Assam and Manipur killed in an encounter with Cachar Police in the early hours on July 17.

A video has surfaced, where they are intercepted by the police on July 16 in an auto rickshaw, hours before the alleged encounter. Cachar is close to Jiribam in Manipur, where ethnic violence erupted recently.



7:59 · 18 Jul 24 · 88.1K Views



**THE  
MASTERMIND  
OF FAKE  
ENCOUNTER**







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# O' MANIPUR

## -A WHISPERS OF A WOUNDED LAND

O' Manipur, a land of strife and woe,  
Where ancient hills and valleys flow,  
The fields that once knew harvest gold,  
The laughter of our children's play,  
Now shadows fall, the silence broken,  
By cries and weeps that never cease.

While justice turned a blindfolded eye,  
As innocence deprived.

The Tahchapas were beheaded, cruelly chopped,  
And a Tahchanu's wails, with a haunting sound,  
Paraded naked, shamed, in daylight's glare,  
Their dreams extinguished, lost in air.

Once the sacred church, where prayers and  
worshipped were heard,  
Now ashes in the air, all things blurred,  
The songs of hope, the hymns of peace,  
Have fallen silent, sorrow's lease.  
Our homes in valleys, reduced to cinders, grey,  
Where dreams were built with care.

O' Manipur, where once love and unity,  
Is but a ghostly trace,  
How long before your valleys weep  
For those you can't replace?  
In silent nights, the whispers tell  
Of horror's grip, a living hell.

May the Almighty God bring solace, and justice  
find its way,  
To heal the wounds of Manipur, and bring a  
brighter day.

~ Thongminthang Lhungdim