

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



KAMLALLIAN VAIPHEI (35 YEARS)

H/O SARAH NIANGDOIHTING

ADDRESS: KANGVAI, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.06.2024



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 INPI CALLS FOR CENTRE'S INTERVENTION OVER CONTINUOUS DISRUPTION OF SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO KUKI AREAS

In a disturbing turn of events, tensions have escalated in Manipur following the torching of trucks carrying bridge construction materials by Meitei mobs at Tronglaobi Village, Bishnupur District. The incident, which occurred on June 15, 2024, targeted trucks belonging to Bharat Infra Project Limited (BIPL) intended for the development of the Churachandpur-Tuivai road section of NH-102.

Despite a heavy deployment of security forces, the mobs managed to burn two out of four trucks with minimal resistance from the police, dealing a severe blow to security efforts in the region. The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), apex body of the Kukis, has strongly condemned the attack, labeling it as an act of aggression orchestrated by Meitei groups, including the infamous Meira Paibi groups (Meitei Womenfolk).

KIM highlighted the ongoing tensions between Meitei and Kuki communities, particularly concerning the blockade of essential commodities destined for hill districts where Kuki tribes reside. They emphasized that despite assurances from the Ministry of Home Affairs



and their own restraint since July 2023, Meitei groups from valley districts persist in obstructing these vital supplies.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur issued a stern warning, asserting that their patience should not be mistaken for weakness. They called upon the Government of India to intervene promptly to ensure the uninterrupted flow of essential goods to the hill districts. They also hinted at potential reconsideration of their stance on economic blockades if discriminatory practices against Kuki people by the state government and radical Meitei groups persist.

ASSAM RIFLES REJECT NAGA BODY'S CLAIM ABOUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN MANIPUR

Assam Rifles has strongly refuted the allegations by Naga civil bodies and organisations of the presence of illegal immigrants in Manipur.

Civil bodies and organisations from Nagaland had earlier submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking repatriation of illegal migrants/fugitives from Myanmar to their country. They also sought withdrawal of Assam Rifles along the Indo-Myanmar borders in and around Kamjong areas in Manipur.



The United Naga Council (UNC), Naga Women's Union (NWU), All Naga Students Association

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Manipur (ANSAM) and Naga People's Movement for Human Rights (NPM-HR) together submitted the memorandum to the Home Minister.

Refuting the allegations, Assam Rifles in a letter stated, "In the said area, extending from BP 82 to 89, some refugees have indeed taken shelter due to warlike situation in Myanmar, however they are immediately repatriated as the security situation improves across the IMB. The accommodation arrangements for the refugees comprise of self-help, bare essential thatched huts with polythene covers"

Assam Rifles further adds, "The State Administration is fully aware of the presence of refugees in the area and have also collected the biometric data of the refugees. Proper coordination in terms of security exists between the Security Forces and the State Administration. Security Forces maintain a vigilant presence and are actively managing the border area to prevent any unlawful activities".

Source: [India Today NE](#)

MANIPUR GUV BRIEFED BY IGAR ON JIRIBAM SECURITY SITUATION

Major General Ravroop Singh, Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South), met with the Manipur Governor on Wednesday to discuss the security situation in Jiribam.

He detailed the various security measures implemented by the Assam Rifles along the Assam border.

On June 15, 2024, police officers from Assam and Manipur held a joint night meeting in Jiribam to address the current regional scenario.

Enhanced patrolling and area domination efforts have been intensified along the riverine stretches of the Barak and Jiri rivers.

According to a Raj Bhavan communique issued on Wednesday, the Governor instructed IGAR (South) to support the people of Jiribam and to implement additional security measures to prevent further incidents.

During the meeting, the Governor informed the delegation of her recent visit to the National Capital,



where she briefed the President, Home Minister, and Finance Minister on the situation.

She requested immediate action to halt all forms of violence, mend the rift between communities, and establish long-lasting peace in the state.

The Governor highlighted the plight of displaced individuals in relief camps to the Home Minister and discussed the state's economic challenges with the Finance Minister, seeking financial assistance. (NE Now)

BIREN MAY BE CALLED TO DELHI FOR MEETING ON MANIPUR SITUATION

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh will likely be called to New Delhi later this week or early next week for a discussion on the security situation in his state — roiled by ethnic clashes for over a year now — The Indian Express has learnt.

Singh was not present at the security meeting chaired Monday by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at North Block.

Sources said the agenda of the meeting will likely revolve around finding a political solution to the ethnic conflict. “The next step is to initiate a comprehensive dialogue with both Meiteis and Kukis to find a lasting solution agreeable to all stakeholders. Discussions with the CM will take place in this regard. Steps will be taken to initiate dialogue with Kuki representatives too,” said a senior Union government official.

Sources said the initial focus would be to arrive at a ceasefire agreement between the two groups and then thrash out a framework under which further negotiations can go forward. “The idea is to achieve these things in the next few months at least,” the official said.



The North Block meeting was attended by members of the security establishment — including the Army chief — and key administration officials from Manipur and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Manipur has witnessed a fresh spurt in violence earlier this month with reports of murder and arson in Jiribam district.

The meeting came days after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat urged the Union government to deal with the problem on priority.

Source: [Indian Express](#)



If you're a true warrior, competition doesn't scare you. It makes you better.

- Andrew Whitworth

10 POLITICAL PARTIES SUBMIT MEMORANDUM TO GOV, CM SEEKING END TO CRISIS

A delegation of 10 political parties, including the Congress, submitted a memorandum to Manipur governor Anusuiya Uikey at Raj Bhavan and chief minister N Biren Singh at the CM's residence in Imphal on Wednesday to seek steps by the government to put an end to the cycle of violence in the state.

Communist Party of India (CPI) executive committee member, Moirangthem Nara, who was part of the delegation, said the governor assured them that the security situation in the state would improve within 10 days. The governor also cited her recent meeting with Union home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi in this context in which she was told the Centre would take some more steps to improve the situation.

The 10 like-minded parties comprised the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee; Janata Dal (United), Manipur; All India Forward Bloc, Manipur; Nationalist Congress Party (SP), Manipur; All India Trinamool Congress, Manipur Pradesh; Shiv Sena (UBT), Manipur; Revolutionary Socialist Party, Manipur; Manipur State Council, Communist Party of India; Communist Party of India (Marxist), Manipur; and Aam Aadmi Party, Manipur.

Nara said the memorandum highlighted disappointment and unhappiness with the protracted crisis and conflict which has been continuing since May 3 last year. The memorandum claimed the fresh violence in Jiribam district, which erupted on June 6, occurred due to security lapses while central security forces deployed in the districts were withdrawn for duty during the recent Lok Sabha elections. It said the violence in Jiribam has led to killing, burning of houses, and internal displacement of about 1,000 people in the district.

The memorandum demanded adequate security in the district to protect the displaced people when they return to their homes. It demanded necessary legal



action against those miscreants involved in the ambush carried out against the security of chief minister N Biren Singh on June 17 along NH-37 (Imphal-Silchar via Jiribam).

Nara further said they also demanded the immediate deployment of state security personnel in villages in Jiribam district from where villagers have fled for fear of attack and loss of lives so that they can return to their homes from the relief camps. They also demanded similar arrangements for other districts of Manipur, including Churachandpur, Imphal, Kangpokpi, and Moreh.

The representatives of the group also demanded the deployment of adequate security along NH-37 (Imphal-Silchar via Jiribam) and NH-2 (Imphal-Dimapur) as traffic on NH-37 has been disrupted for over 10 days due to insecurity. The government should provide adequate escort for the movement of passenger vehicles, goods trucks, and oil tankers carrying essential commodities on NH-37 and NH-2 to ensure the uninterrupted flow of goods to the state. They further demanded that both the Union and State governments should take immediate necessary action to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur.

Source: [Deccan Herald](#)

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JUNE 19, 2023**A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JUNE 19, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO**

Meitei radical groups Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun led by state forces attacked Leimakhong at around 12:30 AM. 1 AR personnel was reported injured in the leg.

On the 14th of June, 2023 Lunkhosat Dounyel (36) was brought in to Motbung PHC from Thingsat village. His condition has stabilized after doctors removed a bullet from his skull. Dounyel's reveals a sad story of how he and his friends escaped from Restorer Home, a rehabilitation centre in Lambal Makha Leikai near Heibongpokpi. The inmates did not have access to mobile phones and were unaware of the outside news. However, they were alarmed by the continuing threats they received from the local populace. The owner of the home allowed them to escape as he feared something might happen to the five Kukis but didn't provide them anything apart from helping them leave their campus.

The five Kuki youths decided to reach for Kangchup, a nearby hill dominated by the Kuki groups. But seeing the road covered by the Meitei mob and the Meira Paibis, they then decided to try their luck by going towards Imphal and moving on to their respective villages. They could somehow sneak into the Imphal valley but could see no opportunity to get out of the capital. They hide themselves around Zomi Villa for some days surviving on whatever eatables they could pick from the roadside. Dounyel said that they were also fed by some people belonging to a community other than the Meileis. They have nothing except the clothes they wore. They made several attempts to get out of the capital during the night, but never got the opportunity. They were scared of approaching the state or central forces, and unsure who to trust, so they kept their trust in themselves. One of them, Mr. Thangtinlien was unfortunately caught by the Arambai Tenggol cadres in front of Classic Hotel, the others managed to hide but their hide-out have been exposed that Mr. Dounyel was also caught by the Arambais.



Pic: Screenshot from a viral video showing the brutal killing of Mr. Thangtinlen Khongsai

Dounyel was taken to a hilltop near Koirengai. According to him, they made him kneel and shot him from the back. The killers left him, believing him to be dead, but the incessant rain pour brings him back to consciousness severely injured in the head, he managed to reach Mapao, a Naga village, who helped contact the villagers of Thingsat. Dounyel feared for the lives of his three other friends who he says were much younger than him. He also overheard his captors discussing the threat that needed to be picked up. As of filing this story, the whereabouts of the other three remain unknown, but they are believed been killed.

The victims:

1. Lunkhosat Dounyel (36) of N Chaljang
2. Lalboilen Haokip (36) of Songphal
3. Haopu (31) of Twisomjang
4. Thangtinlien Khongsai (32) of Khongtah
5. Letminthang (28) of Songphal

It must be noted that Lunkhosat Dounyel could not remember the exact day and date they escaped. He claimed they had been hiding in Imphal for more than a week before they were captured.

**NEWS ANALYSIS****After Declaring War Against Kuki Community Last Year, COCOMI Now Shifts the Blames to State Government**

Reacting strongly against the high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah on June 17, COCOMI spokesperson Khuraijam Athouba has stated that the Home Minister is trying to evade the core issues causing the Manipur crisis.

He added that Amit Shah's decision to address the issue through talks between the Kuki and Meitei communities is contextually incorrect.

According to Athouba, the real issue lies between Chin Kuki narco-terrorist armed groups and the Manipur government, in concurrence with the Government of India.

Earlier on June 17, Amit Shah announced on Monday (June 17) that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will initiate discussions with both the Meitei and Kuki communities to address the ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur. This move aims to bridge the divide and restore harmony in the restive region, he said.

During a review of the security situation in Manipur, Shah emphasized the need for strategic deployment of central forces to maintain peace and order. He assured that the number of central forces in the state would be increased if necessary.

According to an official statement, Shah directed

authorities to take strict legal action against those responsible for the violence, underscoring the government's commitment to restoring tranquility in the northeastern state.

However, to the dismay of many, the COCOMI's spokesperson is now trying to downplay the grievous situation by looking for an escape route. If according to the COCOMI spokesperson, the conflict is not between the Kuki and Meitei community, the question arising here is why the Meiteis set-up volunteers and loots a cache of weapons and ammos from state armories. All these looted weapons have been used in waging war against the Kukis.

Mr. Athouba should be reminded of the 'People's Convention' organized by the COCOMI June last year where they declared Manipuri National War against the Kuki community. The Convention which was held at Iboyaima Sumang Leela Shanglen, Palace compound, Imphal, also resolved that indigenous people of Manipur should unitedly join hands to defeat the war against the Kuki community.

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One year after declaring war against the Kuki community, the COCOMI spokesperson is making illogical statement to which contradict him. The statement is also a justification of the general perception that the ongoing violence is a state engineered ethnic cleansing against the Kuki community. The words of COCOMI is also an indication that the Meiteis don't want peace and that they don't want to live in harmony with other community, which is why the Kukis demand for separation from the Meiteis a justifiable case.

If Athouba's words are to be taken in a serious manner, the general public has to ponder many baffling questions – why do the Meiteis retaliate by imposing counter blockade on the eve of ATSUM's Solidarity Rally. The Rally was aimed at raising grievances against the state government, and not to the Meitei community. Why do the Meiteis have to burned down all Kuki localities in Imphal valley, if the violence was not between the Kukis and Meiteis, why do the Meiteis resorted gruesome torture, murder and molestation of Kuki civilians during the initial stage of violence. If

at all the conflicting violence was not between the Kukis and the Meiteis – it is foolish on the part of Meiteis to raise an armed radical groups, which itself is troublesome for some section of the Meiteis.

Athouba's statement also proved the involvement of state machineries in waging war against the Kuki community. The accusation of Kukis that the ongoing violence is a state sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kukis has been once again justified. How can a state government waged war against its own citizens. The state government closed link with the Meitei armed radical group – the Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, who are responsible in carrying out attack against the Kukis, is an undeniable fact, known by all.

If a state government is waging war against its own citizens, it is prudent on the part of oppressed community to demand separation from such oppressive government.

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**FEATURED ARTICLE****Recovery of Looted Weapons, Action Against Meira Paibis
— Takeaways From Amit Shah's Meeting on Manipur****JAIDEEP MAZUMDAR**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting on Monday afternoon to review the security situation in Manipur.

The meeting, held at Raisina Hill's North Block (which houses the Ministry of Home Affairs), was attended by Army Chief General Manoj Pande, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Intelligence Bureau (IB) Director Tapan Kumar Deka, among others.

The glaring omission from this list was Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh. Or, for that matter, any Manipuri.

A meeting on Manipur in which no Manipuri — Meitei, Kuki, Naga or Pangal — was present, obviously because no Manipuri was invited, underlines the basic problem with the Union government's approach to solving the raging ethnic conflict in the northeastern state.

The MHA has, over the past one year since ethnic clashes erupted in the state on 3 May 2023, tried and failed to curb the violence that has claimed 225 lives so far and displaced over 50,000 people.

The primary reason for this is that the MHA has viewed the issue only as a law and order one, whereas it is anything but that. Monday's meeting in New Delhi also,

unfortunately, adopted the same failed approach.

Soon after Manipur was engulfed in ethnic turmoil last year, the then DGP, P DOUNGEL (a Kuki) was unceremoniously removed and replaced by a Tripura cadre IPS officer, Rajiv Singh, who had no experience in Manipur.

Another retired IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre who retired as the DG of the CRPF, Kuldeip Singh, was pulled out of retirement and made the security advisor to the Manipur government. He, too, had no experience in Manipur and his only qualification for the job was that he was trusted by Home Minister Amit Shah.

Kuldeip Singh had caught Shah's attention for successfully leading the offensive against Maoists in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh while he was the DG of CRPF from March 2021 to September 2022.

But the ethnic issue in Manipur is vastly different from the Maoist issue that is being successfully resolved through a combination of intelligent anti-insurgency tactics and a development push in the Maoist-infested areas.

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Manipur's current troubles are not just a law and order issue, but a much deeper one with multiple players, some of them based outside India, involved in a sinister, high-stakes game.

That's why Kuldeip Singh, who is in charge of the security apparatus in Manipur and frequently overrides the Chief Minister, has failed to end the violence. As has his protege — Rajiv Singh — who was brought in from Tripura at Kuldeip Singh's behest.

A lasting solution to the Manipur issue can only happen with the deep involvement of all stakeholders — all the ethnic groups in the state — as well as the state's elected representatives, all its political parties and civil society groups.

According to this handout by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Home Minister Shah "directed (the security forces) to ensure that no further incident of violence takes place in Manipur". Nothing could be more inane; were security forces awaiting such a directive from the Home Minister to bring an end to violence in the state?

Another directive by Shah (as per the PIB handout) was to "take strict action as per law against the perpetrators of violence". "Does this mean that till now, the security forces were lax in acting against perpetrators of violence?" asked former chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh.

The security forces deployed in Manipur — the Manipur police, Assam Rifles, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and even the army — face a crisis of credibility among the warring Meiteis and Kukis.

While the Meiteis acutely distrust the Assam Rifles, CAPFs and the army and accuse them of siding with the Kukis, the Kukis harbour a strong dislike for the Manipur Police which they accuse of helping the Meiteis.

The distrust among the Kukis and Meiteis runs very deep and has only become more acute over the last 13 months. In fact, this ethnic schism is widening with each passing day.

The MHA has failed to get the Meiteis and Kukis to sit across the table to talk peace. Intermittent and half-hearted efforts made towards this end by senior IB officer A K Mishra have, expectedly, not yielded any results.

That's because the country's political leadership has not had the time, and perhaps even the inclination, to get the two warring ethnic groups to start talking to each other. Even Meitei and Kuki MLAs belonging to the BJP have sat across a table to start a dialogue.

"It is quite surprising that our central leadership never took the initiative to get prominent MLAs of both the communities to start a dialogue with each other. The Union government ought to have made serious efforts to get not only politicians, but also prominent NGOs and civil society organisations as well as prominent individuals of both the communities to start talking to each other," said a BJP leader who belongs to the Tangkhul Naga community that is concentrated in the Ukhrul district of Manipur.

A number of civil society leaders, academics, retired bureaucrats and politicians from both the Meitei and Kuki communities who spoke to Swarajya said that the Union government did little over the past 13 months to get all stakeholders on board and set the process of resolving the ethnic crisis to an end.

"It would not have been difficult for the Union government to get prominent people from the two communities to start talking to each other. The Nagas and Pangals (Meitei Muslims) should also have been roped in to facilitate this dialogue between the Kukis and Meiteis and broker peace between them. This should have been initiated at multiple levels involving all stake-holders and that would have led to rebuilding trust between the two communities. Had this exercise been

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pushed seriously by the Union government, ethnic violence would have ended by now,” a former IPS officer who belongs to the Tangkhul Naga community told Swarajya.

A senior BJP leader who is also a cabinet minister told Swarajya that Monday’s meeting, where the security situation in Manipur was discussed without the presence of the Chief Minister, “is nothing new”.

“The Chief Minister has been kept out of the security loop ever since the appointment of the security advisor. The Chief Minister does not have much say in security operations in the state, especially in the hill districts. The army, Assam Rifles and CAPFs follow instructions of the security advisor, and not the Chief Minister,” he revealed.

This has led to acute resentment among Meiteis. “Everyone knows that the Union government is not giving any importance to the Chief Minister, and this has become a major grouse among the people of the (Imphal) Valley,” the minister said.

A BJP MLA belonging to the Meitei community told Swarajya that “keeping people’s representatives out of the security loop has been counterproductive and has failed miserably”.

“That is also why Meiteis voted against the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections,” he added.

“One would have expected the Union government to realise that its handling of the Manipur crisis has been a complete failure and has only deepened the ethnic divide. The security forces under the command of the security advisor and the state police under the command of the advisor’s protege have failed to end violence. Hence, the Union government ought to have tried a new approach by involving all stakeholders. Monday’s meeting has proved that the Union government will continue with its old approach,” said the former IPS officer.

Kuki community leaders also harbour similar feelings. A former IAS officer belonging to the Kuki community told Swarajya that there are many among the Kukis who desire an end to the bloodshed.

“I would have expected the Union government to seek out these voices which are prominent within the community and prevail on them to start a dialogue, maybe away from the public gaze, with the Meiteis. That has not happened, at least not in a serious manner. So far all such efforts have been perfunctory and half-hearted. And the continuing violence is making the chances of a reconciliation more and more difficult,” said the officer who retired as additional chief secretary.

Leaders of both the communities say that the first priority of the security forces should be to disarm all groups — militant outfits as well as community militia and resistance groups — simultaneously and without any bias.

Also, the security grid needs to be strengthened and all security forces should demonstrate their impartiality while dealing with both the communities in an even-handed manner.

The biggest task, however, is to get all sides to start talking immediately. All stakeholders, including elected representatives, have to be involved, and the Nagas and Pangals should be motivated to play the role of peace brokers.

Above all, people with little knowledge and understanding of the complex issues in Manipur should be kept at bay.

First published by [Swarajya](#)



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin



For over 400 days, the weak BJP central leader has been unable to remove him from the post. These gimmicks of calling him and meetings will achieve little. The sacking of the state government has to be the starting point.

Biren may be called to Delhi for meeting on Manipur situation

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18



Biren Singh was not present at meet held on Monday

MANIPUR CHIEF Minister N Biren Singh will likely be called to New Delhi later this week or early next week for a discussion on the security situation in his state — roiled by ethnic clashes for over a year now — *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Singh was not present at the security meeting chaired Monday by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at North Block.

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11:20 am · 19 Jun 24 · 11.7K Views



Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert

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The few days blockade in the hills of Manipur is a grave concern; but the blockade imposed by Meirapaibis in the past 1 year on essential items, life-saving medicines and school books meant for Churachandpur, Tengnoupal and Moreh has never been a concern.

YouTube



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Home Minister Amit Shah announced that MHA will talk to both Meiteis and Kukis to bridge the ethnic divide at the earliest. It is being reported that CM Bire...

9:01 pm · 19 Jun 24 · 130 Views



**REALITY
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Solidarity's Triumph: Forging a Unified Path

- Ch Roberth Mate

In the hills where shadows loom,
The Kuki people face a dire gloom.
Violence rages, tearing land and kin,
Yet, in disunity, we cannot win.

Look to history's lessons, etched in time,
Where divided forces paid a heavy fine.
In ancient Greece, proud cities fell,
When rivalries rang like a death knell.

In Europe's heart, where kingdoms stood alone,
Invasions crushed what pride had grown.
But when they united, hand in hand,
They reclaimed their freedom,
reclaimed their land.

Kuki brothers, sisters, hear this call,
In unity lies strength, lest you fall.
Grant us, O God, a leader pure,
Not driven by greed, but visions sure.

A leader wise, who guides with care,
Beyond despair, with vision rare.
Not one who chases wealth's deceit,
But one who stands on virtue's feet.

In unity, there's a path to victory,
Where hatred and conflict cease to be.
Stand together, let old wounds mend,
For united hearts will always transcend.

The enemy is fierce, the struggle real,
But united, no force can steal
The spirit strong within your breast,
Together, you will stand the test.

So rise, O Kuki people, with voices clear,
In unity, cast aside your fear.
With true leadership, united we'll find
Our desired separate administration in kind.

