

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



D. PAOBUL HAOKIP (53 YEARS)

S/O SOKHOLUN HAOKIP

ADDRESS: GOVAJANG, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 8TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: NONGSUM, IMPHAL EAST

CAUSE OF DEATH: MURDERED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 19.07.2024



194
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.

ASSAM POLICE'S CUSTODIAL KILLING: HMAR TRIBAL BODIES DEMAND SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION; FIR LODGED

The Hmar Inpui, the supreme house of the Hmar tribe in Assam Hills Region, and its affiliated bodies viz- Hmar Students Association Assam Hills Jt. HQs, Hmar Women Association Assam Hills Region, Hmar Youth Association, Assam Hills Jt. HQs, Hmar Literature Society, Dima Hasao, Hmar Peoples' Union Assam condemned the merciless killings of three Hmar youths by the Assam police on 17 July, 2024 under Kachudharam Police Station, Cachar.

In a press condemnation issued on Friday, Hmar civil bodies stated that such killing was a stark violation of human rights.

The three victims - Lallungawi Hmar, Lalbiekkung Hmar, and Joshua Lalrinsang - were apprehended by the Assam police while the victims were travelling in an autorickshaw and were later taken to an undisclosed location with hands tied to their backs as seen in the viral video footage.

The Cachar Superintendent of Police, in an interview with the media said that the three youths were arrested on July 16, 2024, around 4:30 p.m. at Krishnapur Road and interrogated, meaning the victims were apprehended and brought into their custody before the killing. In a bizarre twist to the incident, the three dead youths turned out to be the same victims who had been apprehended the previous evening.

“Nonetheless, the police version of the event is found to be full of inconsistencies,” said Hmar Inpui.

“Based on the inconsistency of the reports and various videos circulated on social media, it is crystal clear that the killings were extra-judicial and the policemen involved need to be tried in the court of Law for the cold murder of three Indian citizens,” it added.

In light of the evidence recorded on video and the inconsistency of the event reported in the social media outlets, the tribal bodies strongly demanded that the state government should immediately institute a special



commission to conduct an impartial investigation into their deaths.

Hmar Inpui also requested the National Human Rights Commission to take suo motu cognizance of the deaths and notify the Assam government to institute a magisterial inquiry into the killings.

“The dastardly and cowardly attacks against minorities by the brutal police forces should be stopped immediately and those involved in the alleged encounter that led to the loss of lives should not go scot-free. They should be booked and punished as per law,” a statement of Hmar civil.bodies stated.

While deeply mourning the loss of their three precious youths and standing in solidarity with the bereaved families, Hmar Tribal Bodies further demanded the Cachar Police to respect the right to live and should not covertly indulge in curbing the Rights of minorities.

The Hmar Inpui, the apex body of the Hmar tribe in Manipur, and Hmar Students' Association had also strongly condemned the “cold-blooded” killing of three members of the community in an “orchestrated” encounter by the Assam police on July 16.

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“This is a gross human rights violation and a reflection of the apathetic criminal justice system in Assam,” the organisations said in a statement issued on July 17, calling the incident a “whimsical” and “orchestrated extrajudicial” killing.

Meanwhile, parents of the three slain youth have lodged a police complaint at Lakhipur Police Station Cachar, Assam. Claiming that the three individuals were law abiding citizens with no criminal backgrounds, they requested concerned authorities for a thorough investigation for the ends of justice, as the statement given by the Cachar SP did not add up at all.

“That, based on the short video footage covered by 1 (one) unknown State Police personnel, it was clearly recorded how Mr. Lalbiekkung Hmar, Mr. Joshua Hmar,

Mr. Lallungawi Hmar friends were apprehended from the auto rickshaw without Kevlar & Helmet and were also unarmed. Another video footage covered how they were taken to an unknown forested area with their hands tied behind viciously. Then, the photograph of their lifeless bodies was seen at SMCH Cachar Morgue and circulated in different social media, it seems as if they were forced to wear the Kelvar,” the complaint letter said.

The parents said that they did file a police report late because neither any of their family members and relatives were informed about their arrest, and they came to know about the death their sons through the viral photograph on social media on the 18th of July 2024 at about 8: 00 AM, which was shown to them by relatives and some well-wishers.

MANIPUR BUDGET SESSION FROM JULY 31

The sixth session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly will commence from July 31 to August 12 and will have nine working days, according to the State Assembly’s Business Advisory Committee (BAC).

There would also be sessions on August 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12, according to a provisional calendar issued by Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretary K Meghajit.

On the opening day of the session, Demands for Excess Grants 2018-19, Budget Estimates 2024-25, and a motion for vote on accounts 2024 would be tabled.

Besides, there would also be discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor’s address.

The second day’s (August 1, 2024) businesses include questions, general discussion on Budget Estimates 2024-25, discussion and voting on Demands for Excess Grants 2018-19, discussion and voting on Vote on Accounts 2024, introduction of Manipur Appropriation (No 3) Bill 2024 and introduction of Manipur Appropriation (No 4) Bill 2024.

Sittings would feature questions, discussion, and voting on demands for grants for different departments and other agendas.

On the last day of the session, there will be an Introduction of the Manipur Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2024, Consideration and Passing of the Manipur Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2024, and Consideration and Passing of Government Bill(s).

Meanwhile, members of the opposition Congress in the state stated that the session would be stormy in the context of the prevailing crisis in the state.

The opposition is getting ready to raise various issues during the sessions. The state is passing through the trauma of woes and turmoil owing to the ongoing communal violence between two warring groups for the past 14 months thereby costing the lives of 230 individuals.

Source: [NE Now News](#)

JUDGES' PANEL CONSTITUTED BY SUPREME COURT SEEKS EXTENSION OF TERM

Senior Advocate Vibha Makhija today (July 19) requested the Supreme Court to grant an extension for the term of the Committee headed by Justice Gita Mittal which is overseeing the humanitarian aspects of the ethnic violence in Manipur.

Makhija, who had been appointed as the amicus to represent the committee mentioned before the bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud that the committee's term came to an end on July 15. She submitted that an extension is necessary for the committee to continue its important work.

The bench had agreed to consider the extension request considering the seriousness of the work undertaken by the Committee.

The Justice Gita Mittal Committee was constituted by the Top Court in August last year to address the humanitarian concerns stemming from the ethnic clashes in Manipur. The development came subsequent to the Court slamming the Manipur police investigation as "tardy" and expressing anguish at the sexual violence committed against women amidst the sectarian conflict.

The bench of CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra constituted the committee comprising - i. Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir; ii. Justice Shalini Phansalkar Joshi, former Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay; and iii. Justice Asha Menon, former Judge of the High Court of Delhi

The wide-ranging mandate of the committee includes the following key tasks : (1) Enquire into the nature



of violence against women that occurred in the State of Manipur from 4 May 2023; (2) Submit a report to the Court on the steps required to meet the needs of the survivors including measures for dealing with rape trauma, providing social, economic, and psychological support, relief and rehabilitation in a time bound manner; (3) Ensure free and comprehensive medical and psychological care to survivors; (4) Ensure conditions of dignity in relief camps set up for displaced persons including suggestions for additional camps; (5) look into the disbursements of necessary compensations to victims of sexual assault, violence and next of kin.

Source: [Live Law](#)

STAGED ENCOUNTER BY ASSAM POLICE KILLS FARMER, NOT MILITANTS, CLAIMS FAMILY MEMBERS

The family of Joshua Lalringsan, a 35-year-old farmer, claims he was wrongfully killed by Assam Police in an alleged staged encounter near the Bhuban Hills of Cachar district, Assam. Joshua, a resident of Senvon village in Manipur's Pherzawl district, was volunteering to protect his community amid ongoing ethnic conflicts when he was killed.

On June 6, ethnic violence in Manipur's Jiribam district escalated, resulting in arson and destruction in both Kuki and Meitei settlements. Joshua, a father of a 10-year-old, had recently left his village to become a volunteer in Jiribam's buffer zone.

The Assam Police identified Joshua and two others as "Hmar militants" and claimed they were killed in an early morning operation. However, Joshua's family and community members dispute this, insisting he was not a militant. Videos allegedly showing the police apprehending the individuals suggest no weapons were found initially, casting doubt on the police's account.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma praised the police's action on social media, but conflicting police statements regarding the incident have fueled suspicions.

In a note issued by the SP of Cachar Police and later posted by the DGP of Assam Police on social media, it is not made clear who killed the three apprehended individuals. The note said the police had taken three "Hmar militants" apprehended earlier in the day, including Joshua, to an alleged hideout of theirs near the Bhuban Hills. An intense gun-battle broke out between alleged militants already present in the area and the three apprehended individuals were hit and killed amidst this exchange of fire.

The police said they had apprehended 21-year-old Lallungawi Hmar and 33-year-old Laibikung Hmar, both residents of Fulartoul in Assam, along with Joshua, who was from Manipur. They said they had acted on inputs of militants moving and apprehended the three near



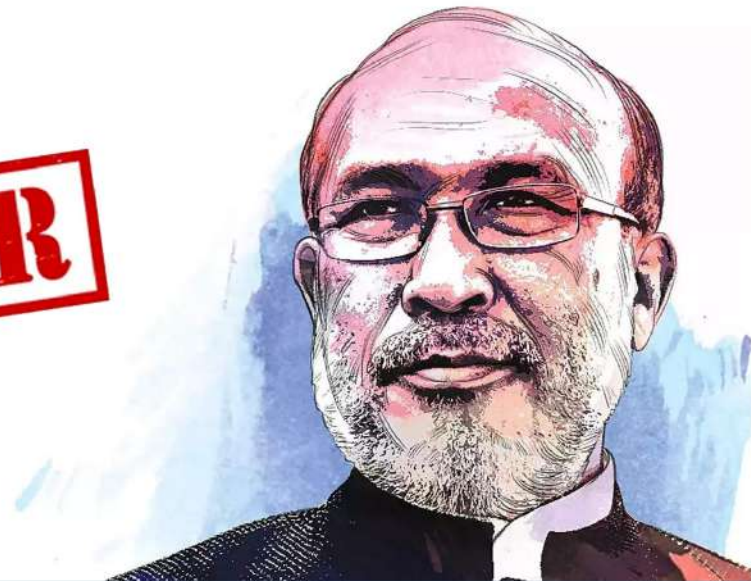
Ganganagar part VI, on the way to Bhuban Hills. The three were apprehended from an autorickshaw and the police claimed to have seized one AK rifle, a single-barrel rifle, a pistol and love ammunition from them.

Joshua's cousins said they don't know much about when Joshua was apprehended. "Joshua was last near the Mongbung village in Jiribam district as a village volunteer. Last we know, he had just crossed the Barak river into Assam over the weekend," the cousins said.

Mongbung village in Jiribam district was at the centre of another gun-battle in the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur on July 14, when a party of the Manipur Police and the CRPF had entered a village they had been asked by the Assam Rifles to "not venture into". Men identified as village volunteers by security sources and "militants" by the Manipur Police opened fire and a CRPF Constable was killed in the ensuing gun-battle.

The family has not yet received Joshua's remains and is relying on the Hmar Inpui, the community's apex body, for coordination.

This incident raises serious questions about the police's conduct and calls for a thorough investigation to ensure justice for Joshua and the other two deceased individuals.

OUT OF ORDER**OPINION****Illegal and Illegitimate: Examining Nongthombam Biren Singh's Dispensation as Chief Minister****Lalboi Haokip**

Of course, it's evident that the regime has attempted to conceal the truth and mislead the people of the State. Inevitably, the Central Security Forces have witnessed the ugly truth since its inception.

There is evidence of Nongthombam Biren Singh, Leisbemba Sananaoba, the Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, valley-based terrorist groups, and like-minded civilians, including the so-called Meira Paibis (The Torchbearers), insisting on the sinister designs, who have not hesitated to rule out crimes against the Kukis. Nonetheless, the legitimization of violence and institutionalization of hate campaigns against the Kukis by the State Chief Minister and his cohorts have turned the situation uncontrollable by its creators.

The term 'CONTESTATION' is fitting in the present context, as it reflects the geographical disputes that have led to systematic denudation on the part of Kukiland and systematic grabbing of tribal land by the majority community, the Meitei. The overall systematic setup of an ethnic cleansing campaign against the minority Kukis has reached normlessness and sparked violence since May 3, 2023.

Now it seems that Mr. Biren Singh and his private militia have legitimized violence within their empire. The degree of high-handedness from the

illegitimate Chief Minister has defined explicit and implicit boundaries for dissent, and crossing those boundaries invites reactions from society. What remains is the institutionalization of these boundaries into law.

On the question of illegitimacy, the ruling dispensation meets all criteria to be considered illegitimate at this point. The crimes committed have been used as motivational tools by Biren-led Meiteis, Meira Paibis, AT, Meitei Leepun, and terrorist groups operating in collusion with the junta in their ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kukis since the conflict's outbreak.

As citizens of India, the Kukis respect the Constitution of India. The same respect should be shown by the Biren-led majority Meiteis in the Valley (650 sq. miles).

Additionally, it raises the question of whether the Chief Minister's dispensation has lawfully authorized the use of violence as a legal instrument to annihilate the Kukis. It is clear that looted armories in the Valley indicate Biren Singh's illegitimacy and dissent as Chief Minister of the State.

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It is pertinent to note that social and historical circumstances mark important boundaries. Now, Biren's illegitimate and unacceptable pogroms against the Kukis redraw a clear line between the two warring communities. The illegitimate becomes legitimate, and the unacceptable becomes acceptable, which could even be enshrined in the laws governing India.

Now, we consider exceptions like self-defense, meant for extraordinary and rare situations. Thus, technically, every act of violence is seen as directed by the State government and a fitting reply to the circumstances. It appears that if someone assaults or murders another, the State prosecutes them for violating its monopoly on crafted legitimate violence under the illegitimate Chief Minister.

It is obvious that violence is the enemy of social order and extreme forms of CONTESTATION transgress not only the law but important social norms. Violence in society is a product of social tensions, indicating social problems, particularly in the context of Manipur. It challenges the authority of the State when it goes beyond controllable thresholds. In this sense, the failure of the regime of legitimization and consent, leading to the conflict's outbreak, proves the current Manipur regime under the dissent Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh and his cohorts to be illegal and illegitimate.

By any standards, Mr. Biren Singh's government is doubtful to be a legitimate government. The failure to contain and establish trust among both warring communities for more than a year and a half is concerning, rooted in the patently failed systematization of the State government. The situation doesn't seem likely to abate soon. Lacking constitutional and democratic legitimacy and effective control of the State, the recent attempt to orchestrate the ADC election through local media seeking legitimacy was futile and dangerous in public perception. Mr. Biren Singh's government has proven itself incapable of effectively administering the State's law and order.

The Kuki people now manifest their refusal to associate with the illegitimate government and are reluctant to accept the Manipur Government as their own. The only feasible solution for maintaining peace in the region is to recognize and accept the Kukis' demands as soon as possible, which will hopefully restore their hope and aspirations.

For the Kukis, being physically, emotionally, demographically, and geopolitically separated, the separation is complete. The only viable solution now is administration with legislature in the form of statehood or union territory.

Separate administration is the only solution!



The true statesman is the one who is willing to take risks.

- Charles de Gaulle

**OPINION**

The State of Manipur After More Than a Year of Ethnic-Cleansing Pogrom Against the Kukis

C. Kuki

The present situation in Manipur is not ok. Peace and security of lives is still at bay. Claims that peace has returned in the state is far from truth. Lives are lived at one's own peril. While the political health of the state continues to reel in disarray the search for political solution to the crisis remains grim. Attempts orchestrated by the present leadership to instill law and order and assuage the political crisis has failed time and time again. The state is heading without a goal post. Community wise population demography in the districts has overturned. It appears that the center government has alienated Manipur and nonchalantly brandished a red card to the state and its people without dispensing justice with compassion. On the other hand, the Chief Minister and his kitchen cabinets in their effort to protect their chairs appear to be applauding the stark silence of the center meted out to the state for over 400 days. The present government seems to have outlived its relevance. The pond is already very muddy and still there are no visible signs of change.

The victory of INC over BJP and its allies in the recently held parliamentary elections in Manipur is a reflection of the pent-up emotions of the people. The electorate has voted for change. In the valley, the Arambai Tenggol, the high-handed militia a.k.a unofficial soldiers of CM even at the cost of shedding lives and property fell short of their macabre target to bring back BJP to power. In

the midst of the unsettling political situation, Kuki-Zo leadership took a bold decision and abstained from contesting the election. Accordingly, not a single Kuki Zo candidate contested the election. Though mass population of Kuki Zo inhabited districts abstained from voting, some population in Churachandpur exercised their franchise. Eventually, the result of the parliamentary election has relieved and restored some faith in the hearts of many.

Now with the elections getting over and Modi/BJP coming into power for the third consecutive time what can we expect. At first, gather we must that the present Modi government has fallen short of majority which requires 272 seats in the Lok Sabha. BJP has 240 seats and along with their NDA alliance it has a total of 303 seats. The 63 seats are like temporary friends yet to establish loyalty. These newly minted friends can and probably will only stick with NDA so long as it serves their purposes. As a result of this, BJP must always keep their ventilators handy to address any casualty within the party. This constant caution, if sustained on BJP can wreck their spine and arrogance. As a result of the Nitish-Naidu Alliance (a.k.a NNA, not NDA) BJP will now have to take everyone on

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board catapulting the opposition with a greater say unlike before.

Let us study the Naga peace talk before we dive into the demand for separate administration by Kuki Zo. The Indo-Naga peace talk has been strolling for over 60 years and still there is no near sign of a political solution to this stalemate. The demand raised by the NSCN (IM) for territorial integrity and separate constitution/flag is outside the purview of the Indian constitution. The centre cannot resort to this. Still, the centre is not answering with a blatant No. Is the centre playing delaying tactics? It is also learned that many in the present NSCN leadership have grown comfortable with the status quo. IB, RAW, NIA and other intelligence agencies have gathered success in prompting the lives of IM leaders more comfortable than before. It becomes imperative to ponder whether the centre is simply waiting for the present NSCN leadership to wane away and propel a dialogue with the new breed of leaders with lesser zeal and aspirations.

The demand for Separate Administration (SA) raised by the Kuki Zo community after the eruption of communal violence in Manipur warrant heightened awareness. What is being demanded is a Union Territory with a legislature (Assembly) which will be directly governed by the centre and where Manipur government will not be involved in administration or financial matters. Article 239 entails provisions for creation of a Union Territory in the country. Out of the 9 (nine) UT's in India Delhi, Puducherry and J&K have their own legislatures. Past incidences have witnessed that a Union Territory is usually carved out of a state due to various political, ethnic and administrative compulsions. At present, it is evident that the Kuki Zo population will not venture back to their erstwhile homes in the valley where the Meiteis are residing and the Meiteis from the valley will not return to the Kuki Zo inhabited hill districts of Manipur. Displaced sheltered in the relief camps have reached saturation level. The divide is established both geographically and demographically. The hurt is too deep between the Kuki Zo and Meitei communities compounded by

loss of lives and property. Any effort for causing a dialogue can be regarded as a futile exercise now as it has since May, 2023. Therefore, the aspirations of the people of Manipur rests with the leadership at the centre.

What Manipur has witnessed since 3rd May, 2023 is an episode to behold. Mayhem, anarchy, deaths, displacement, wanton destruction of property have been the order of the day. The common man has been on the receiving end of the ethnic cleansing unleashed by the state. Despite atrocities and complete failure for restoration of law and order in the state the Prime Minister sits comfortably numb. The silence of the Prime Minister has raised serious doubts. Is the PM justified with himself or whether enjoying worldwide recognition has become a passport to neglect Manipur. Is vote above lives. Does anyone gain from this communal violence. Is the centre waiting for both communities to settle their differences on their own sans intervention of the centre. Both Naga Peace talks and demand for separate administration are placed at the table of the centre government. One is a 60 year old and still dragging while the other is a newborn demand. How the centre government addresses these demands will lean on the stakes they carry and how they are being lobbied by stakeholders.

While demands for political solution hangs in suspense, the political echelons in the state responsible for this unrest are glued to their chairs watching the unfolding of events. In the midst, the displaced and affected are left with no choice but to withstand and hope for restoration of peace and order so that one day they could return home. Meanwhile, victims of communal violence taking shelter at Relief Camps requires constant upkeep and maintenance. Manipur needs peace, security of life and freedom of movement. The centre government must initiate measures and work across party lines to restore order and balance of power. Our hopes ignite to witness a day where tears of distress now be steered into tears of unbridled joy.

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Vijaita Singh @vijaita

Follow

Family of one of the three Hmar “militants” killed by Assam Police claim the encounter was staged. According to videos of the police purportedly apprehending the three individuals from an autorickshaw, Lalompua explains, “The police first checked their sling bag and found nothing. Then another police personnel put their hand in and without taking it out said there was a weapon there. How do we know they had weapons with them?” @al_lakshman reports thehindu.com/news/national/...

9:21 · 19 Jul 24 · 33.3K Views



Saifuddin @INDIA_Saifuddin

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What is going on in Assam?

Assam CM says three Hmar “militants” from #Assam & #Manipur killed in an encounter with Cachar Police on July 17

A video has surfaced, where they are intercepted by the police on July 16 in an auto rickshaw

#FakeEncounter #ManipurViolence



9:50 · 19 Jul 24 · 1,479 Views



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TEMPEST

The tempest roars in distant skies:
Men aloof to the distant cries,
Nonchalant, bazillion heedless-
"Aporetic the gust befall thees"

Behold! Dust devils appears-plain as a pikestaff;
Still, gazillion stares but dis-affirm,
Near at hand, weighty and fortress-like
Aghast the trembling sound-the tempest roars.

The tempest roars in distant skies:
All regards the distant cries,
Stirred, depart to refuge clime-
To thwart the abrupt circs.

Behold! The tempest roars and nearer -
Though grueling-it wrecks and wrecks,
All now far beyond-out of harm.
The tempest roars in distant skies.

S THANGMINLEN HAOKIP