

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



Saikul RELIEF CENTRE

Saikul Sadbhavna Mandap & CC Hall
Saikul Sub-Division, Sadar Hills

Managed by
District Administration &
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

Total Inmates Registered: 405



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13.03.2024



167
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.

MIZORAM: NO VOTING PLAN FOR DISPLACED KUKI-ZO FROM MANIPUR

As the nation prepares for the Lok Sabha elections next month, hundreds of Kuki-Zo people from Manipur who have been uprooted by ethnic violence and are seeking refuge in Mizoram may be unable to vote in the next elections.

A Mizoram election official said that currently no voting arrangement has been made for the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from Manipur, who are currently taking shelter in Mizoram.

Election Commission Officials are discussing ways to help Manipuris displaced in various parts of the country vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

However, no written order has allowed them to vote from their host states, including Mizoram.

As per data from the Mizoram Home Department, 9,196 adults and children from Manipur have sought shelter in various parts of Mizoram.

Out of the 9,196 people, 1,340 are residing in 26 relief camps, while the remaining 7,856 are living outside the campus.

Meanwhile, Manipur will vote for two Lok Sabha seats in two phases, on April 19 and April 26.

The Manipuri people mainly, from the minority Kuki-Zo community have taken shelter in Mizoram. They have ethnic connections with the Mizos and have been living in the northeastern state since May last year after the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar recently announced that the Election Commission has devised a plan to enable displaced individuals in Manipur to vote from their respective camps.

Manipur's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pradeep Kumar Jha, told reporters that the voting scheme applies only within the state's borders. He also noted that no one has contacted them regarding the Manipuris sheltering in Mizoram.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) based in Churachandpur reported that Kuki-Zo people from Manipur are displaced not only in Mizoram but also in Delhi and various other cities across the country.

In previous instances, the Election Commission had permitted Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to vote from their host states.

PRINCIPAL, TEACHERS ARRESTED FOR LEAKING CLASS-X SCIENCE EXAM PAPER

The Cybercrime unit of Manipur Police arrested a principal of a school and his two assistant teachers in connection with the leaking and sharing of the Science question paper of the ongoing High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) Examination 2024.

After producing them before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West on Tuesday, all three were remanded into judicial custody till March 22, 2024, the police said on Wednesday.

Officials said the arrests were made under the Manipur Prevention of Malpractices in High School Leaving Certificate and Higher Secondary Examination Act 2024, IPC, and Cyber Crime Act.

This Act states, "Individuals involved in activities such as leaking question papers, whether in their custody or during transportation, printing, or evaluation, could face imprisonment ranging from five to ten years, along with hefty fines ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 10 crore." At the court processes, it established that Mutum Bijen (61), the Principal of the Pishak Macha Bidya Mandir, Mayang Imphal, and his assistant teachers, namely Chirom Somendro (46) Chongtham Naoba (28) shared the science subject question paper on mobile Apps.

Later, the teachers shared the same on social media platforms a few hours before the commencement of the examination on March 15. The class 10 exams conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur (BOSEM) commenced on March 15, 2024.

It will continue till April 8, next month. 37,715 students appear in the examinations at 154 centres across the state.



This undermines the integrity of the examination process, compromises the fairness of assessment, and can confer unfair advantages to certain individuals, particularly students in the valley where the question paper was first leaked. Moreover, it has the potential to tarnish the reputation of educational institutions and diminish public trust in the examination system. When an examination paper is leaked, it typically necessitates either a re-examination or the cancellation of the affected paper. However, the Board of Secondary Examination Manipur (BOSEM) has yet to issue any statement addressing the matter or indicating any decisions made regarding the leaked question paper. Consequently, this situation has significantly damaged the image of BOSEM, raising doubts about their credibility as a governing body.

FOUR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN DROWN IN TUITHA RIVER

Four internally displaced children died following an incident where they drowned in the Tuitha River in Churachandpur district on Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Thongkhohao (aged 6), son of Ngamginthang; Thanggouhao (aged 4), son of Thangminjang; Lallenchung Lupho (aged 6), son of Lunkholal; and Hathoithem (aged 9), daughter of Lunkholal.

Yesterday, the four children went to bathe at the bank of the Tuitha River. However, as they failed to return until late evening, various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) initiated a massive search operation to locate them. After an extensive search, the bodies of the missing children were recovered early this morning from the Tuitha River.

According to sources, the four children were residing



at the ECA Relief Centre in Cannan Veng, Churachandpur.

Following post-mortem examinations, a condolence program for the deceased was held at the KKL Complex, after which they were laid to rest at the KKL Cemetery this afternoon.

NAGA COUNCIL CONDEMNS AR'S ALLEGED FIRING ON CIVILIANS

The United Naga Council (UNC) expressed deep concern over a recent incident involving what it termed as “belligerent provocation” by the 6th Assam Rifles, alleging indiscriminate firing of live bullets on Naga civilians, particularly women, at Chingkao (Makuai) village in Tamenglong district on March 14. In a statement released today, the UNC vehemently condemned the actions of the Assam Rifles, stating that such acts disrupted the peaceful atmosphere in the area.

The UNC accused the Indian security forces, under the patronization of the government of India, of waging what it described as an “undeclared war” against the Naga people for decades, citing the draconian law of AFSPA, 1958. Describing it as one of the “cruellest crimes” committed by India before the world, the UNC asserted its condemnation of the alleged military

campaigns and violence perpetrated against the Naga populace.

Expressing disappointment with the lack of progress in resolving the political issue between the Naga people and the government of India, the UNC highlighted the continued violence and betrayal by the government. Despite hopes for change with changes in leadership, the UNC lamented the persistence of wanton killings, military campaigns, and betrayal, terming it “truly disheartening.”

The UNC drew attention to the prevailing situation in Manipur, noting ongoing violence, killings, extortions, and intimidations within the state. It pointed out the relative peace observed only in Naga villages amidst the turmoil.

Source: [East Mojo](#)

MEITEIS TO OPPOSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR OUTER MANIPUR IF ANSAM DOES NOT RETRACT ITS OPPOSITION TO MEITEIS' ST DEMAND

A newly formed Meitei civil body called “No ST No Vote Campaign Committee, Thoubal and Kakching Districts” has declared that they would not allow and support any election campaign for the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency in Thoubal and Kakching districts if the All Naga Students' Association Manipur (ANSAM) does not withdraw its opposition to the Meiteis' ST status demand.

Briefing the media at Kakching, the President of “No ST No Vote Campaign Committee, Thoubal and Kakching districts,” P. Budhi demanded that all the candidates in the Outer MP constituency must include the demand for inclusion of Meitei/Meeitei in the ST list in their election manifesto.

Budhi said, “No other community in Manipur has the right to oppose the Meiteis' demand for inclusion in the ST list. Neither ANSAM nor the state government has the authority to grant ST status to the Meiteis but



the sole authority lies in the hand of the Indian government.”

The Outer Manipur Parliamentary constituency is reserved for Scheduled Tribes of Manipur, and the areas of all the hill districts including some areas of the valley dominated by OBC Meiteis in Kakching and Thoubal.

NO NOMINATIONS FILED FOR TWO LOK SABHA SEATS ON FIRST DAY

Election notification for both the Lok Sabha seats in Manipur was issued on Wednesday, an official said.

The seats are 1-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency and 2-Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency.

While Inner Manipur covering 32 assembly segments will go to polls on April 19, Outer Manipur having 28 assembly segments will vote on April 26.

No nomination was filed on the first day, the official said.

Meanwhile, poll preparedness has started in full swing at the district election office in Imphal West with various



district committees actively engaging in election-related activities, officials said.

The deadline for filing nominations is March 27, with scrutiny of papers scheduled for March 28, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is March 30, according to a notice by the returning officer. (Source: India Today NE)

CONTINUED MEITEI ATROCITIES: MUSLIM PANGAL VICTIM SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES FROM MEITEI RADICALS' ASSAULT

In the latest case of Meitei atrocities against minorities in Manipur, a Muslim-Pangal identified as Mayajul Laskar from Jiribam district succumbed to injuries after he was brutally tortured by Meitei radicals on March 19.

In connection with the incident, the JAC against Brutal Killing of Mayajul Laskar is fervently demanding justice following the tragic murder of Mayajul, which occurred yesterday.

Foiz Ahmed, the Convenor of JAC, addressed the media, stating that on March 19th, around 8:00 am, Mutum Biken from Gularthol, accompanied by others, visited Mayajul Laskar's residence in Babupara Ward No. 5.

Foiz Ahmed recounted that Mayajul was taken from his home under the guise of a cattle sale. Tragically, it was later revealed that he had been subjected to brutal assault and succumbed to his injuries.

The JAC has promptly submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Jiribam, as well as to the Chief Minister of Manipur and the local MLA, urging the swift apprehension of those responsible for Mayajul Laskar's murder.

Additionally, they are calling for a comprehensive investigation into the case. The JAC Against Brutal Killing of Mayajul Laskar cautioned that failure to address the matter expediently could lead to unrest in the area. They emphasized the potential for mass protests and rallies if justice is not swiftly served.

The Muslims and Nagas have been subjected to severe brutality by the Meiteis in what appears to be state-sponsored ethnic cleansing, despite their neutral stance.

In January 1st of this year, a tragic incident occurred in Lilong, Thoubal district, where four local Muslims



were killed and 14 others injured. Curfews were imposed in all six valley districts at the time. A group affiliated with Arambai Tenggol, a powerful armed militia organization aligned with the Meitei Sanamahi religion, entered a home in Lilong to demand ransom money. It's reported that they had previously demanded Rs. 50 lakh from a resident, who had already paid Rs. 17 lakh. When the family refused to pay the remaining amount, the group resorted to force on New Year's Day, resulting in a violent altercation.

The heavily armed militia proceeded to ransack the house, destroying furniture and firing at family members at close range, resulting in the deaths of four individuals. Local residents, upon hearing the commotion, intervened, leading to further clashes in which approximately 14 people were injured. Some militia members were apprehended by the angry mob and handed over to the Manipur police.

The Muslims have faced repeated oppression at the hands of the Meitei majority, with instances of Muslim businessmen being assaulted and their goods destroyed while conducting trade with Kuki-dominated districts.

NPF NAMES KACHUI TIMOTHY ZIMIK AS CANDIDATE FOR OUTER MANIPUR LOK SABHA SEAT

The Naga People's Front (NPF) has officially endorsed Kachui Timothy Zimik as the party's designated candidate for the Outer Manipur parliamentary constituency in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections 2024.

The NPF's ticket distribution ceremony for the Outer Manipur parliamentary constituency is scheduled to take place on Thursday (March 21) at the party's central office in Kohima, Nagaland.

Zimik, a retired Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, previously served as the principal chief commissioner of income tax in the union ministry of finance (revenue).

Notably, the CPI has named Laishram Sotinkumar Singh as its candidate in the Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency.

A resident of the Khurai area in Imphal East district, Sotinkumar is the Manipur unit general secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and former state secretary of the party.

The Congress and BJP have yet to finalize their candidates for the Inner Manipur Parliamentary seat. Reports suggest that the BJP is pressuring CM N. Biren Singh to contest the Lok Sabha polls from Inner Manipur, while the Congress is considering Prof. Angomcha Bimol Akoijam for the same position.



On the other hand, the Congress has announced its candidate for the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency as former MLA Alfred Kanngam Arthur, who has already begun his campaign a few days ago.

Manipur comprises two Lok Sabha constituencies: the Inner Manipur constituency, encompassing the Meitei-majority valley areas, and the Outer Manipur constituency, designated for Scheduled Tribes (ST).

The Lok Sabha elections in Manipur will be conducted in two phases, with the Inner Manipur seat scheduled for polling on April 19, while voters in the Outer Manipur constituency will cast their votes on April 19 and 26.



Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph.

- Haile Selassie

MEITEIS LOSE SENSE OF REASONING, HUMANITY; TRY TO CELEBRATE TRAGEDY OF FOUR KUKI CHILDREN DROWNING IN RIVER

The Meiteis in their Kangleipak have lost their sense of reasoning and humanity since the outbreak of their ethnic cleansing pogrom on the Kukis, uttering several unreasonable statements of hatred against a particular community even in humanitarian issues.

No doubt, the Meities often blame the Kukis for every happening without giving any substance out of it. Even after all the Kukis were evacuated from their ancestral land of Imphal valley, most of the Meiteis still point fingers at Kukis for any wrong incidents happening in Imphal. For instance, the Meiteis on their social media platforms used to blame the Kukis for torching the houses of Kukis in New Lambulane in Imphal even though the Kukis have abandoned the places owing to the conflict.

Today, four children belonging to the Kuki community who were sheltering in a relief camp in Lamka lost their precious lives after drowning in the river. However, the Meiteis, while using the social media platforms have mocked by alleging that the children have lost their lives while their parents were out of home in their quest to attack or kill the Meiteis, which is baseless and unfounded.

One Meitei social media page uploaded a post and a photo of the 4 deceased children with a caption, "Amidst the time when their parents tried to attack the Meiteis, their children have died."

The Meiteis have blatantly ignored the fact that the four children and their parents have no option but to stay in relief camps after the Arambai Tenggol and the Meitei militants attacked their villages, and were forced to stay in relief camps in Churachandpur.

The children were from the other hill districts and they were compelled to stay in relief camps in Churachandpur



as a result of the conflict. Had the incident occurred in the valley, the Meiteis would have resorted to protesting, blaming the government for the incident and even would have asked for compensation.

The four internally displaced children died drowning in the Tuitha river while they were taking a bath on Wednesday. As the news spread, the Meiteis resorted to a celebrating mode over the tragedy, losing any sense of reasoning and humanity.

The deceased have been identified as Thongkhohao (aged 6), son of Ngamginthang; Thanggouhao (aged 4), son of Thangminjang; Lallenchung Lupho (aged 6), son of Lunkholal; and Hathoithem (aged 9), daughter of Lunkholal.

The deceased children went missing since yesterday at around 2:00 pm. The civil society organizations (CSOs) initiated a massive search operation to locate them thereafter. After an extensive search, the bodies of the missing children were recovered early this morning from the Tuitha River.

The four children had been residing at the ECA Relief Centre in Canaan Veng, Churachandpur.



NEWS ANALYSIS

Viral Video of Meira Paibis Training for Confrontation with Security Forces Shows Disregard for Sacrifices Made by Jawans

A young man standing on the border protects the country risking his life. The young man leaves his home and family to do his duty. Whether it is summer or winter, he does his job honestly. It is because of the soldiers that we stay safe in our homes and celebrate. To symbolize the importance of hard work of the young man and our farmer in the fields, Lal Bahadur Shastri in 1965 gave the slogan “Jai Jawan jai kisan” which is also called the National slogan of the country.

In the corners of the same country that honour it’s soldier for their selfless sacrifices, there lies a section of community that trained their womenfolk to manhandle the same soldier weaponizing women of its gender. Taking advantage of the respect for women our jawans are instilled upon, a few cowards can be seen training Meira paibis to manhandle and combat against armed central security forces in conflict and emergency situation. In a recent disturbing viral video clip on various social media platforms, seeing their expertise they must have belongs to the Meiteis terror outfit who have been well trained and are well versed on arms and ammunition.

Why can’t Meiteis have the same solidarity feeling of respect and honour for our jawans like other Indians? Having to have left their families so that all Indians at home could sleep peacefully at night and work with

no fear of external and internal danger during the day, do our para-military and central armed forces deserve such a requital from the same Indians whom they protect day and night leaving the comfort of their home? If as women they can’t empathize our jawans, don’t they As a mother and wives who knows the pain of separation and love for one offspring and husband, be empathetic of the sacrifices made by The mothers and wives of these jawans? the Meira paibi by combating themselves to fight against the central armed security forces are disregarding the selfless sacrifices of lakhs of mothers and wives who sacrifice their sons and husbands to protect our country both internally and externally let alone by our jawans. They shame all women kind by their condemnable acts.

Training to combat against central armed forces is a terrorist and anti-national activity. An act of such nature can be committed by secessionists who disregard the sovereignty of India. The indulgence of Even women folk in this secessionist act is yet another proof of How Meiteis in Manipur are only politically and territorially apart of India but emotionally they never are a part of the Nation. It is also telling of why The secessionist Meiteis terrorist groups thrives despite the many efforts

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of India government to curb the menace. Government in Manipur as long as it has a Meitei as the head of the government, so shall the soft spot for the secessionist terrorist groups, and India effort to curb the menace shall always be a Mission impossible, for the hope of an Independent Kangleipak ignites in every heart who calls themselves Meiteis.

Biren and his government rather than engrossing themselves in a paranoid threat like illegal immigrants issues, should have occupied themselves with curbing the anti-national activities of the likes like Meira Paibis and Arambai Tenggols, who despite calling themselves a civil society engage in terrorist activities. Other than a Terrorist who undermines the very sovereignty of India, who dares trained to tackle the country's armed security forces? Biren and his government have to answer the prevalence of these anti-national activities on Indian soil. Turning a blind eye will only prove their complicity. Our central security forces have to be secured at least among Indian citizens, failure to ensure their safety in their own country speaks volumes about the government in power's allegiance to India.

There are two solutions to curb the secessionist activities in Manipur among the Meiteis. One among the necessary step and solution to curb the secessionist mindset of Meiteis is to instill Indianess among the Meiteis through Exposure and commingling with other Indians daily , unless The feelings of Being India is infused among Meiteis, Yesterday they have problems with mainland Indians who came to Manipur, Today they have a problem with Kuki, tomorrow it will be someone else. ILP might have been the mistake that emboldened the Meiteis to execute an ethnic cleansing against the Kuki, if they are let away charge-free for their crime against Kuki, their next victim shall face a more catastrophic pogrom.

The other solution is complete isolation of Meiteis in the valley where they dominated. Their powers shall have to be cut off from endangering other ethnic groups and Indians. The latter is more viable than the former,

as flight has long left the airport for harmonious coexistence despite diversity the moment ILP was introduced and the moment they are given the free hand to drive away Kuki from the meitei dominated areas. Since then There is no point of return as their is no stopping of Meiteis who have tasted the victory of Dominating their whims and fancies in the state they dominated demographically. Thus letting them prey free supplemented by the gradual installation of Being India is their only option is the best choice. India can no longer risk thousands of innocent lives just so it could infuse the feeling of indianess among the Meiteis.

Lately, Meira Painis are often seen in the news or viral on social media platforms, but they often portray women in a bad light rather than a good one. Other than the recent condemnable viral video where they can be seen taking intense training on How to tackle the Central armed forces while confronting them in critical situations, they indulge in Forceful Exhortation, obstruction of central agencies, taking the Law into their own hand, acting as a valve for terrorists and rescuing the terrorists from authorities in case they get arrested to name a few .Is this The Nari Shakti The government of Manipur intends to highlight in its Republic Day tableau this year? If so, The government of Manipur was giving a direct challenge to the central government on their own programme on how they think about being apart of India. They were sending the message to Delhi, Even our women are ready to butchered your laws and constitution ,your central forces and institutions.

By their continual engagement in unethical and anti-national activities. In a patriarchal society like India, where empowerment for women and Gender Equality a sensitive issues that are promoted and encouraged carefully even by the government, the recent activities by Meira Paibis

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Manipur's Meira Paibis Undergoes Training in Weapons Snatching Techniques Amid Volatile Situation

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gave the Reason why women should not be empowered rather than why they should be to those who opposed empowerment of women and Gender equality. The respect and honour for women by modernized thought should not be taken advantage of but rather should be reciprocated in the manner it is received. Anti-national activities are still anti-national activities regardless of which gender commits the crime.

Qualitative Education should be rational, unbiased and uncoloured. It should impart scientific temper, peace, equality, justice, humanity and supremacy of constitution and it's ideals in a democratic like India among others. The recent Questions from board examination conducted by manipur board is rather concerning. If a question like when was babri masjid demolish or when did Gujarat riots happen, won't it amount to inciting communal disharmony among community? Similar questions of an event of the past can be seen on sociology paper. It's rather pathetic and insensitive on the part of the Manipur education board when among many illegal activities of Meira paibi, the direct involvement of Meira paibi in Rape and sexual assault has been made against them victims belonging to the Kuki community, student among whom Many are Kuki are made to answer a question on the role play by Meira paibi in bringing peace in the

state of Manipur. Among the students who have to answer that question will be hundreds who have been victims of Meira paibi in different form. The cruelty does not end in being their victim but praising their culprit. If this is not the worst form of oppression then what is? Either losing a mark and lagging behind or praising your oppression is the only option. Any option is heart-wrenching for the Kuki students.

As the saying goes one man terrorist is another men hero, the glorification of Meira paibi unlawful and anti national activities from Meitei public optics must be heroic act, if secession from India is the goal. However The sequences of event in Manipur and the bending of constitutional authorities and it's institutions, ranging from the surrender of Meitei Legislators to a terrorist organisation like Arambai tenggols to the deployment of education department as a tool to suppress the Kuki and glorification of unlawful activities of Meira paibi, Manipur is sending out the wrong message to the youths in particular and residents domicile in Manipur that mobocracy and indulging in terrorist and unlawful activities triumph over the ideals and rule laid down by the constitution of India. It will be no surprising in the near future if secessionist and terrorist organisations of the likes that of ISIS or LeT found its foothold in the state of Manipur spearheaded by Youths of today, as the leaders and parents have taught by their deeds and works that ain't an illicit activities.

As days go by, Meiteis oppression too is getting worsening, but for Indians, it becomes the new normal. Today, They combat to manhandled our Jawans, tomorrow while India asleep upon Kuki injustice and suffering, Manipur will be the North Korea which will be paradise only for the Meiteis like the Kim family but a closed and censored state for other Indians travelling in the state. As far as other stakeholders in the state is concerned, their lives will be as dire as that of north Korean subjects under the Kim.



Abdul Quadir - عبدالقادر
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SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ

Terrifying scenes unfold as Neo-Nazi Radical Arambai Tenggol militants and UNLF Pambei breach Kuki areas, plunging Manipur into chaos. #Manipur #Security



9:07 am · 20 Mar 24 · 767 Views



Anirudh
@anirudhdg

Follow

A reminder that the 'patriotic' #Meiteis banned Bollywood films 23 yrs ago, not even allowing Mary Kom's biopic to be screened. It seems they have no problem with Korean culture or movies however 😏. Kukis and other tribals defied the ban in 2023, and screened the movie 'Uri'.

Bollywood movies, for allegedly destroying Manipuri culture, language and local film industry. The outfit believed Bollywood went against Manipuri values.

In due course, the militants confiscated thousands of video cassettes of Hindi films and music and burnt them as a mark of protest against the "Indianisation" of

movies in Manipur on I-Day

By Utpal Parashar

Aug 15, 2023 04:36 PM IST

Cricket

A ban on Hindi movies was imposed on September 12, 2000, following a diktat by the

styles amid fears of growing alienation.



"The time for this reign of terror is coming to an end. Every Indian citizen deserves its freedom to enjoy diverse cinema and cultural expressions. Let's expose this oppressive narrative and demand justice," mentioned a statement by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), a conglomerate of Kuki groups in Churachandpur.

9:57 pm · 20 Mar 24 · 81 Views



SWINDLERS OF
PDS RICE FOR
HILLS



The letter



Dear Mama, Papa, Grandma, and everyone who has been worried and crying because of us...

We, The Four, were children brought up near water bodies. Our love for water has always been with us, wherever we are, be it in our own respective homes or in the Relief Camp.

We are innocent small kids, so innocent that we don't even know why or how this war started and still continues. And we do not want to know either. We are interested in playing and laughing together with friends, sharing food and eatables, playing under the sun until we sweat, and taking a bath under the rain. But, even though we haven't done anything wrong, we are now paying the price of this war.

Yes, we deeply miss our village, our homes, the water, the trees, the animals, and everything. We miss playing in the water. At last, we decided to once again feel our homes and the environment by visiting and playing in the river. We just want to feel the water/river because it reminds us of our homes. We never thought that our 'missing of home and playing in the river' would result in our loved ones like you all missing us from this earth.

Since the night of 19th March 2024, we became the talk of the town. And many of you searched for us throughout the long night, but in vain! Sorry for making you all tired and weary throughout. But we were just kids who wanted to live as kids, and we went to the riverside to play. Neither did we realize that it would be the last time we ever touched water. The next morning, the search for us continued, and there we were, all lifeless forms. The hoarded worries since yesterday night now turn to cries and screams. Sorry! We never imagined making you all sad.

We were just kids who wanted to live as kids. We wanted to build castles from wet mud and clay along the riverbanks, skip stones, splash and sprinkle water on each other, bathe and scrub off dirt with small river stones. As we played and bathed, we also had fun in tickling each other and taking turns on scrubbing each other's back.

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We would hide our friends' clothes, and when they finished bathing, they would search for them with puzzled looks while we giggled. These were some of the simple pleasures we cherished as children, and for once, we tried living as we were meant to be. And then, we were gone, gone from this earth. For this world has no place for kids like us to live as kids.

Oh, river! Have you, too, turned as cruel as some humans? We came to play by your side, innocent and full of joy, but you snatched us away. Now, mama, papa, grandma, grandpa, sisters, brothers, and everyone we loved is left in tears.

Oh God, didn't you know that we were your innocent children? So young that when all four of our ages were tallied, we only reached 25 years together. Besides, we were internally displaced persons (IDPs), living in a relief camp. Our fathers and brothers are on the frontline, while our mothers and grandmas toil so hard, earning whatever they can on a daily basis. Even though we were small, we were the only hope of our parents. After enduring whatever hardships, we became their last string of hope, and now you've cut us off from them. Our loved ones are left with nothing but despair.

And now, we, The Four talk among ourselves:

If there were no war, we would still be playing in the village streets, laughing and leaving our marks along the riverbank. We would come home dirty but happy, sharing stories of our day. But war stole our childhood, our joy, leaving only silence and taking our memories and lives in its wake.

Goodbye Mama, Papa, Grandma, Siblings... And all those who loved us.

With love, The four:

1. Hathoithem Lupho@ Lenchonghoi (9)
2. Lallenchung Lupho (6)
3. Thanggouhao Haokip (5)
4. Thongkhohao Haokip (5)

- Breeze Kimneithem