

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### CHONKHOLEN HAOKIP (26 YEARS)

S/O DOUKHOSEI HAOKIP

ADDRESS: LHUNGJANG, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 5<sup>TH</sup> 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.

# FRESH ATTACK ON KUKI-ZO ESCALATES TENSIONS IN JIRIBAM, COUNTER ECONOMIC BLOCKADE REIMPOSED

Several top Kuki bodies from Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney have alleged that armed Meitei militants, in collaboration with the Manipur Police Commandos, launched indiscriminate firing on the villagers and village volunteers of Phaitol village in Tamenglong, near the Jiribam border, on Wednesday evening, exacerbating the already volatile situation in the region.

They also alleged that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's hidden agenda of smuggling Meitei militants and their supplies under the pretext of visiting Jiribam was exposed last night when the combined forces of Manipur Police Commandos and the Meitei militants indiscriminately attacked and fired upon the villagers and village volunteers of Phaitol.

According to Kuki bodies, the Manipur Police Commandos, along with Meitei militants, used heavy mortars and several other explosives in attacking the Kuki-Zo residential areas around 10:30 p.m. yesterday. However, the central security forces present in the region swiftly intervened and stopped them from further attacking and firing.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi of Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney, the Kuki Chief Association of Tousem Block, the Kuki Inpi Women Wing of Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney, and the Kuki Students' Organisation of Jiribam and Tamenglong have announced their decision to reimpose the counter economic blockade along National Highway 37 (Imphal-Jiribam) following unsuccessful talks with the district administration.

The Kuki bodies stated that the counter-economic blockade imposed on NH-37 as a retaliatory move was suspended for two days following an agreement with the district authorities of both Tamenglong and Jiribam. However, despite the two-day lapse, their charter of demands has not been fully met.

Therefore, the Kuki bodies of Jiribam and Tamenglong have unanimously decided to reimpose the counter-economic blockade on NH-37 indefinitely until



all their demands are fulfilled immediately.

The Kuki bodies' charter of demands includes:

1. The immediate lifting of the blockade of highways by Meitei mobs led by Arambai Tenggol and Meira Paibis in Jiribam town, along with ensuring free access to medical and essential commodities for every community.
2. Taking full responsibility by the authorities concerned in finding L. Thianmuang (40), son of the Late Luai am from Vengnuam Dibong Khunou, Jiribam, who was abducted from his home in the presence of his children on June 6, or locating his dead body if he has been killed.
3. Booking and removal of Meitei militants and Arambai Tenggol from Jiribam and its surrounding areas.

Following the re-imposition of the counter-economic blockade, Kuki women began enforcing the blockade at several locations along National Highway 37 in the region starting from Thursday.

The women from the Kuki community were witnessed in a standoff with security forces at Tatbung, as they enforced the recently reimposed counter-economic blockade along National Highway 37.

# UNION TRIBAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MISINFORMED FOR THINKING MANIPUR ETHNIC CONFLICT AS “SIMPLE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION,” SAYS ITLF

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur, has said that the Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Jual Oram, was misinformed for thinking that the ethnic conflict in Manipur as “a simple law and order situation.”

In an exclusive interaction with The Hindu newspaper on Wednesday, the Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram had said that the ethnic conflict in Manipur for more than a year now is a “law and order situation” that is being dealt with by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Whenever a conflict of such nature occurs, it is only natural for everyone to look for solutions, he had said.

“This problem is actually one of the Home Ministry. Law and Order situation is a State subject. In this, you are asking about this only because one of the parties involved is a tribal community... Who will not want a solution? But this is being handled by the Home Ministry, in coordination with the State government and the Governor there,” the minister told the newspaper..

Oram had also added that it would not be prudent to comment on the issue any further without delving into the specifics.

Reacting strongly against the statement of the Union Minister, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum stated that the conflict in the first 24 hours might be a ‘law and order’ issue, but not the whole episode. Instead, the conflict is an ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kuki-Zo community, ITLF said, while requesting the Union Minister to study the matter more deeply and help the tribals in their hours of need.

In a statement issued on Thursday, ITLF stated that the conflict was a law-and-order issue for the first 24 hours, during which an impartial government could have stamped out the violence. “However, it is well documented that state police forces from the majority Meitei community made no effort to stop the attacks



on minority Kuki-Zo tribals but actively participated in the violence,” it said.

“It is also well known that the worst and most prolonged ethnic conflict after India’s partition happened because of the actions of state Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his patronage of militant Meitei organizations like Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, who orchestrated the systematic targeting of tribals.”

“After more than a year of hostilities, the deaths of more than 200 people, and the displacement of more than 60,000, it should be clear to everyone that the conflict is not a simple law and order issue,” it added.

ITLF recalled that sections of the Meitei community and militant groups like Arambai Tenggol have openly said that they would not stop their attacks until they kill all Kuki-Zo tribals or drive them all out of the state.

“They have raped, tortured, killed, and desecrated the dead bodies of tribals and openly recorded their acts on video without facing any repercussions. The state and central government refuse to act. If this is not ethnic cleansing, then what is?” ITLF asked.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum also alleged that the state machinery, controlled by the Meiteis, supports one community, and all essential and non-essential items for tribal areas like Lamka (Churachandpur) have been blocked for more than a year.

## KUKI TOP BODIES OF JIRIBAM, TAMENGLONG TO IMPOSE INDEFINITE BLOCKADE ON NH-37; STRONGLY CONDEMN INDISCRIMINATE GUN FIRING

All the Kuki civil society organisations functioning within Jiribam and Tamenglong districts have taken a resolute stand to impose indefinite economic blockade on NH-37 till their demands are fulfilled by the concerned authority.

The blockade was announced in a joint press statement issued on Thursday by the Kuki Inpi Jiribam, Tamenglong and Noney (KIJTN) districts; Kuki Chiefs' Association, Tousem block; Kuki Inpi Women Wing, and Kuki Students' Organisation, Jiribam & Tamenglong.

As per the request of the District authorities of both Jiribam and Tamenglong, the bandh imposed a few days back on NH- 37 was suspended for two days. However, the Kukis' charter of demands have not been fulfilled in totality.

The demands placed by the Kuki civil society organisations included immediate lifting of blockade of highways by Meetei mobs led by Arambai Tenggol and Meira Paibis in Jiribam town and that medical and essential commodities should be freely made accessible to every community.

They also demanded that the concerned authority should take up the responsibility of finding L. Thianmung (40), son of (L) Luai am of Vengnuam Dibong Khunou of Jiribam, who was reportedly abducted from his house in the presence of his kids and his whereabouts unknown till today or to find his body if he had been killed.

The Kuki CSOs also demanded that the Meitei militants and Arambai Tenggol of Jiribam should be booked and removed from Jiribam and surrounding areas.

Strongly condemning the barbarous act of Police Commandos and Meetei militants in indiscriminately



firing upon villagers and village volunteers of Phaitol village last night, the Kuki CSOs alleged that it was a hidden agenda of the incumbent regime led by N. Biren Singh for stoking violence in the region.

They claimed that Jiribam district has been at peace since the beginning of the Manipur ethnic crisis which broke out on May 3, 2023. The peaceful environment was initiated under the aegis of Assam Rifles, District Administrative heads of both Jiribam and Tamenglong, Kuki CSOs and other CSOs of Jiribam.

However, all those peace initiatives had been shattered to pieces when a young boy was murdered and all Kuki-Zo villages and localities in Jiribam town were burned down by Meetei militants and Arambai Tenggol, said the statement.

It added that the hidden agenda of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh of smuggling Meetei militants and their supplies on the pretext of visiting Jiribam has now been exposed last night when combined forces of Manipur Police commandos and Meetei militants indiscriminately attacked and fired upon Phaitol villagers and the village guards.

# KCP-NOYON LEADER ARRESTED IN IMPHAL EAST

Manipur Police arrested a key leader of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party-Noyon (KCP-N) group in a successful operation conducted on Wednesday night.

The 53-year-old leader, Kharibam Surchandra Singh alias Telheiba, was apprehended at a hidden location in Imphal East district.

Singh was allegedly involved in extorting money from various government offices and schools.

During the operation, police seized Rs 1.15 lakh in cash, a stolen two-wheeler scooter, mobile phones, a sling bag containing incriminating documents, and a wallet.

This significant arrest follows the apprehension of three active KCP-N members – Laikhuram Sanatomba Singh (24), Heikrujam Dinesh Singh (21), and Tongbram Nganthoiba Singh (21) – in Kakching District.



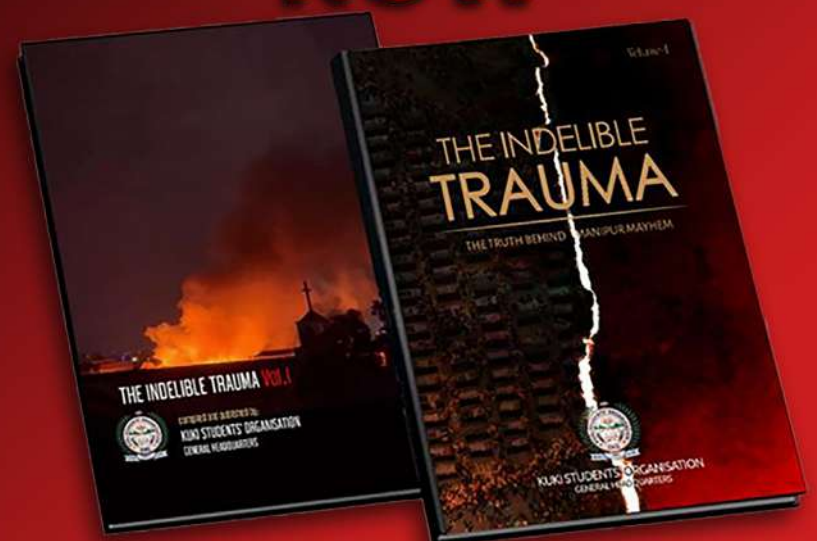
These individuals were found to have mobile phones, a vehicle, and extortion demand letters. Their interrogation led authorities to Kharibam Surchandra Singh's hiding place.

All arrested individuals, along with the seized items, have been handed over to the concerned police station for further legal action. (NE Now News)

## AVAILABLE AT

- Lamka:**
  - Circuit House:** Mimin (8414061150)
  - Ultimate:** Deborah (9366875418)
  - Endurance:** Lhingneichong (9863212287)
- Sadar Hills:** Thangrijoy (70857 76180)
- Ukhrul:** Haoneo Baite (8700682439)
- Tengnoupal:** David (93665 81670)
- Guwahati:** James (76620 81293)
- Shillong:** Jalen ( 87320 53543)
- Kohima:** Lalam (70053 86621)
- Kolkata:** Robert (78380 54432)
- Pune:** Lalgin (93703 51309)
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# ITLF CALLS FOR NON-VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION TO PRESS FOR SEPARATE UNION TERRITORY DEMAND

With the ongoing crisis in Manipur, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), the apex body of Kuki-Zo community in Manipur, has called for a non-violent demonstration on June 24, 2024 to press for their demand for a separate Union Territory. It has also expressed its opposition to the upcoming Autonomous District Council (ADC) elections in the state.

Spokesperson for the ITLF, Ginza Vualzong, said the demonstration is to press the Centre for their demand for establishment of a Union Territory under Article 239A for the Kuki-Zo people of Manipur.

Vualzong further stated that no Autonomous District Council (ADC) elections should be held. He criticised the Manipur government's announcement of ADC elections, describing it as a tactic to create divisions among the Kuki-Zo tribals. "We have demanded separation from Manipur, and so far, there has been no settlement to our political demands. Therefore, the people are requested not to participate in the ADC elections," he said.

Regarding the Free Movement Regime (FMR), Vualzong highlighted that the ITLF had written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging him to reverse the decision to remove the FMR along the India-Myanmar border. "The ITLF strongly advises against participating in any FMR-



related activity by all government departments, including the forest, PWD, Horticulture, and SDOs. In case someone is discovered taking part in any FMR activities, they will be held accountable for any unfortunate eventualities," he warned.

He emphasised that the tribe residing on both sides of the international borders is likely to be adversely affected by the FMR and border fencing, which could disrupt long standing family customs and traditions.

The ITLF also demanded the establishment of a Buffer Zone for Jiribam from the Ministry of Home Affairs, fearing possible violence by the Meitei community.



**Resilience is, of course, necessary for a warrior. But a lack of empathy isn't.**

*- Phil Klay*



FEATURED EDITORIAL

## Rhetoric Won't Suffice In Manipur

The question of whether the Home Minister convened a high-level meeting to review the situation in Manipur based on the public advice of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat is incidental. What truly matters is that a week after his suggestion, Home Minister Amit Shah held the meeting — one notable for the conspicuous absence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh. Shah's promise that violence will not be tolerated and that efforts will be made to foster reconciliation between the Meiteis and the Kukis is welcome but not novel. Similar statements have been made before, with little tangible impact on the ground. It is a grave mistake to oversimplify the violence in Manipur as merely an ethnic conflict. The recent turmoil is the product of a deeper conspiracy aimed at consolidating political power.

The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the chief minister, who allegedly commands both militias and the police, cannot travel freely within his own state, as evidenced by the deadly attack on his advance convoy. Social media are rife with images of gun-wielding militias obstructing even army vehicles, highlighting the complete breakdown of law and order. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reluctance to visit Manipur since the outbreak of violence in May 2023 has not gone unnoticed, even within his own party. Bhagwat rightly pointed out that Manipur had enjoyed

a decade of peace, making the current violence a stark indicator of governmental failure, both Central and state. The BJP's electoral defeat in Manipur underscores this political mismanagement.

Amit Shah must address a critical question: Why is the chief minister — under whose regime 225 people have been killed, 50,000 displaced, and thousands of children deprived of education — still in office? In other states like Gujarat and Haryana, chief ministers have been removed for far less. The ongoing suffering in Manipur is not confined to a single community; it affects the entire state, underscoring the urgent need for decisive action against those who flout the law in the name of politics, religion, or ethnic identity. Restoring law and order in Manipur requires more than just promises and high-level meetings. It demands an immediate crackdown on all those who perpetuate violence. The guilty must be held accountable, and the state's security apparatus must be empowered to operate without political interference. Only through decisive and impartial action can peace be restored, and the people of Manipur can hope for a return to normalcy.

Link: [The Free Press Journal](#)





Prashant Bhushan @pbbhushan1



You must read this story of the plight of Judges in Manipur to understand the gravity of the situation there. Virtually nothing has been done by the Modi govt or the State govt to normalise the conditions there

Law in time of strife: How judges deal with Manipur divide. Includes a video player with a 9:57 am timestamp and 38.7K views.



Angshuman Choudhury @angshuman\_ch

Follow

The Sagaing Federal Council of #SagaingForum requests the Indian government to release the 97 #Myanmar nationals detained in #Manipur & allow them to get legal assistance.

Also requests Manipur gov to take a humanitarian approach to the refugee situation.

Appeal to the Government of India Regarding the Unjust Detention of People from Manipur. Includes a video player with a 7:25 pm timestamp and 1,066 views.

Post MORTEM THE MAN AT THE BACK





# Time goes on but the wound will be with me forever

Time will come and go,  
But the wounded part of th  
Kuki-Zo people will be still  
with me.  
How long will it take to heal  
the wound?

They said time heals,  
But time goes on and on but  
The Justice for Kuki-Zo is still  
denied,  
And unheard.  
The Innocent Blood still waits  
and shouts for Justice.

For every sickness there is a  
healing medicine.  
For the Kuki-Zo,  
The healing medicine is  
"True Justice"  
When will this healing reach the  
Kuki-Zo people!?

People said be patient,  
Time will come for Justice.  
But Justice is delayed and  
denied.

*-Haotinmang Sithhou*