

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



# 87

# KUKI MARTYRS LAID TO REST

IN DEFENCE OF OUR ANCESTRAL LAND  
AND FREEDOM





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.12.2023



**158**  
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.

## 87 KUKI-ZO BODIES LAID TO REST PEACEFULLY WITH FULL HONOUR



Despite the attempts by many of the Meitei populace to disintegrate the unity among the Kuki-Zo community following the recent unfortunate incident among Kuki-Zo youths, the burial ceremony of Kuki-Zo martyrs was held successfully in a grand manner today at Kuki-Zo Martyrs Park at Sehken Village, near Khuga Dam, Churachandpur.

People from all walks of life gathered in thousands for the formal burial ceremony of the martyrs which was first held at Peace Ground Tuibong, Lamka. The function was marked with speeches from Kuki-Zo leaders and songs by the Joint Artists Association, Lamka.

The programme was attended by the leaders of Central Young Mizo Association (CYMA) from Mizoram. The leaders of CYMA in their speech today called for the unity of "Zofate" (Descendants of Zo). The Central leaders of YMA also assured all possible help in future for the Kuki-Zo people of Manipur in their demand for a separate administration.

Veineikim Baite, sister of martyr Jamkhogin Baite, one among the martyrs said that her brother was killed by a Meitei terrorist who runs a Pharmacy in Churachandpur. She narrated that Jamkhogin was shot dead near Zou Veng. Veineikim said that her brother was a former Indian Army personnel who had recently retired. Veineikim said, "Jamkhogin's wish was to spend time with his relatives and family and his wish was very short-lived."

She further said that the family members have been having a hard time for many months since they could not conduct the burial service of her brother. Veineikim said that the Kuki-Zo are now separated from the Meitei and as such it is the duty of the government to institute a mechanism for separate administration.

Stephen Pulamte, son of another martyr, Minthanglien Pulamte, said his father who was working as a daily wage earner in Imphal was killed by the Meiteis at Imphal on May 3. After his father passed away, Stephen, who is the oldest son of Minthanglien said they have been longing to perform the last ritual/ rite of his father but that was not possible for many months. Stephen said, "What the Meiteis have done in Imphal is unforgivable and is injustice of the highest form. In Churachandpur we do not harm the innocent people".

After the formal function, the bodies were carried to the Martyrs Park. State and Central security forces were stationed at different locations from Tuibong to the Kuki-Zo Martyrs Park to avoid any untoward incident.

The road stretching from Peace ground to the Martyrs park was crowded and jammed with vehicles and people who came to attend the burial service which even led to delay in the burial ceremony.

Prior to the burial, leaders of different denominations were given enough time to perform their necessary religious activities for the burial service of the martyrs.

All together, the burial service of 87 bodies were conducted successfully as per the religious rituals of different denominations.

Later, the families were also given enough time to perform necessary procedures in the grave. MLAs and CSO leaders were also given time to do the needful for the martyrs.

# SACRIFICES OF MARTYRS SHALL FOREVER ECHO IN THE ANNALS OF KUKI-ZO HISTORY: ITLF

The sacrifices of our martyrs are a testament to the boundless love and unwavering devotion they held for our land, and shall forever echo in the annals of history, said the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) on Wednesday.

“May their souls find eternal peace, knowing that their sacrifices were not in vain, and may their legacy endure as a source of strength, unity, and hope for generations to come,” said Ginza Vualzong, Spokesperson ITLF, in a statement as the bodies of 87 martyrs from the Kuki-Zo community were laid to rest in a mass burial ceremony today in Lamka district, more than seven months after being killed in Manipur’s ethnic violence.

The burial took place around 2:30 pm at Sehken village near Khuga Dam. Earlier in the day, a farewell ceremony for the departed souls was held at Peace Ground in Tuibong, attended by tens of thousands of people.

Five days ago, the funeral of 19 other Kuki-Zo victims took place in Kangpokpi district.

The youngest tribal victim in the ongoing conflict is one-month-old Isaac, while the oldest is 87-year-old Veinem Chongloi. One hundred and sixty tribals have died during the violence, including 13 whose bodies have not yet been recovered.

At the burial site in Sehken, volunteers from various philanthropic organizations prepared 87 graves on the morning of the ceremony, using pickaxes to dig into the rocky ground, preferring hands over machines to show their respect for the martyrs.

With crosses laid on top of the coffins, a traditional gun salute was held by volunteers, while Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) Women Wing members placed white shawls as a show of respect.



**Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)**  
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PR-202370

Wednesday, 20 December 2023

## PRESS RELEASE

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While most bodies were laid to rest with Christian rituals, a Messianic ritual was performed on 3 victims, and a Jewish ritual was performed on one victim who followed Judaism.

The sacrifices of our martyrs are a testament to the boundless love and unwavering devotion they held for our land, and shall forever echo in the annals of history. May their souls find eternal peace, knowing that their sacrifices were not in vain, and may their legacy endure as a source of strength, unity, and hope for generations to come.



**Ginza Vualzong,**  
Media & Publicity,  
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)  
Website: <https://www.itlfmediacell.com/>



To authenticate ITLF's press releases, please refer to our website <https://itlfmediacell.com>

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## GLIMPSES OF TODAY'S MASS BURIAL PROGRAMME



First Session at Peace Ground, Lamka



Coffins brought out from Mortuary



Coffin of martyrs reaches Kuki-Zo Martyrs Cemetery, Sehken, Lamka



A road-side banner honouring Kuki-Zo martyrs at Elim Veng, Lamka

Contd.

Contd.



Paying homage



A grieving victim's family



Gun salute to the Kuki-Zo martyrs



A drone footage of the mass burial service



Burial site of the youngest victim, Baby Isaac



Hmar Veng youths paying tributes to martyrs

# THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

Lalduhoma  
@LaL\_Duhoma

Finally, the solemn ceremony for our 87 brothers and sisters took place today at Sehken village, Churachandpur district. May the souls of our Kuki-Zo martyrs rest in peace. 🙏  
[#Remembrance](#) [#ManipurViolence](#)  
[#Martyrs](#)



7:38 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 8,001 Views

তন্ময় | Tanmoy I  
@tanmoyofc

Mass Graves are Going On in Manipur

Did the President of India and the Vice President of India show empathy for those who died in Violence in Manipur ?

Now, we are dismayed with your behavior.

[#Manipur](#) [#ManipurViolence](#) [#DroupadiMurmu](#) [#JagdeepDhankhar](#)  
[#ParliamentSuspended](#)



Last edited 4:57 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 38.1K Views

barkha dutt  
@BDUTT

A final farewell in [#Manipur](#) - mass burial ceremony including that of a one month old baby - seven months after the violence first erupted, the dead come home. The Noisy Media's Forgotten Headline.

Mojo Story @themojostory · 4h · 📌

After 7 long months, 87 victims of [#ManipurViolence](#) finally laid to rest in [#Churachandpur](#), one of them being a 1 month old child.



8:26 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 11.5K Views

Rokibuz Zaman  
@ROKIBUZZAMAN2

Finally the last rites of 87 Kuki Zos-- including Gouzavung, an under-secretary and her son Goulsang--killed in the ethnic conflict since May 3, is being performed.

I had met Gouzavung's 20-y-o daughter and her family at Manipur Rifles camp on May 5.

[scroll.in/article/104863...](https://scroll.in/article/104863...)



THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

**Manipur Tribals' Forum Delhi** @mtfdelhi

Dear brothers and sisters! May you rest in peace! While the challenges remain big, we did our best as per our tribal customary rites to lay you down, but not to be forgotten. We will rise together again, here on Earth and in Heaven! Pray for us with the angels! 🙏



Lalduhoma and 9 others

5:39 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 3,030 Views

**Tamal Saha** @Tamal0401

My President of My Country didn't speak a word on Our Manipur, not even an appeal for peace. And we are not dismayed.

**President of India** @rashtrapatibhvn · 13h  
I was dismayed to see the manner in which our respected Vice President was humiliated in the Parliament complex. Elected representatives must be free to express themselves, but their expression should be within the norms of dignity and courtesy. That has been the Parliamentary...  
[Show more](#)

2:10 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 15.7K Views

**Swati Chaturvedi** @bainjal

Manipur burning for six months left you unmoved, the daily attacks on democracy keep you deaf & dumb, open cronyism & corruption have you putting in your pay check & a tape on your mouth. Yes let's outrage about mimicry Modi slave media. As democracy dies so does the free press in India

Last edited 6:19 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 7,812 Views

**miZO zEITGEIST** @mizozeitgeist

Earlier, a final tribute ceremony was held at Peace Ground, Tuibuang. The solemn occasion was marked by songs of condolence from Blessed choir, Joint Artist Assn etc. CYMA President affirmed that as long as the Mizo people have food to eat the Zo community in Manipur won't starve.



8:39 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 111 Views

**Tamal Dass** @DassBabai

SHOCKING VISUALS !!  
Mimicking the speaker has outraged this govt & media  
But not these mass burials in MANIPUR?

Question-  
- Where is Govt?  
- Where is Media?  
- Where PM & President?

#ManipurViolence

**Pradeep Saxena** @Pradeep30341602

Respected Ma'am President - you were not outraged and remained silent when the Kuki women video was made public. But you were dismayed at the alleged disrespect to the V-P. Why this Dohra Maapdand. Can please enlighten us on this dichotomy?

**তন্ময় | Tanmoy I** @tanmoyofc · 12h  
Ma'am With All Due Respect to You and The Chair of the President of India,  
Why didn't you post/tweet when the #PrimeMinister mimicked the Elected Members inside the #Parliament ?  
...  
[Show more](#)





TAH CHAPA KUKI- ZO CHAPA  
THONGKHONEH NEHLENLAL, HENTHANG CHAPA  
THI LAM AKITING NGAI POI.  
HAT LAM AKITING NGAI POI.  
LAM OT IN, LAM OT IN  
KAPU THA'N OT IN  
KAPA THA'N OT IN  
BAPHEH KATHA'N OT IN  
TUH TUNG KATHA'N OT IN

APENG CHOI CHOI ATHAN ANA OT IN  
CHUNG A LENG ATHAN ANA OT IN  
A OP A KITHOL ATHAN ANA OT IN  
JANGSEL ATHAN ANA OT IN  
HUMPI ATHAN ANA OT IN  
SAIPI ATHAN ANA OT IN  
AKI PAH AKI BAL ATHAN ANA OT IN  
KA THEI LOU KAHET LOU ATHAN ANA OT IN

THIJIN TONGLAM DONGKOT AH  
ALAM PIU SEM TOH UN  
NIPI LHAPI LAMJOT BANG CHAN KITOL UN  
SAH LONG CHUNG AH  
KALHAO VE LAIJON CHENG IN  
LHAOLHA MUBANG SELOU JEN UVO  
TAH CHAPA TAH CHANU  
CHUNG MANG PATHEN NGAICHENG THISAN IN  
KAGAM U NEI TUN DOH PEH TAO VO.

-----  
This was the 'war chant' before the gun-salute to the Kuki-Zo martyrs during the final tributes today at Kuki-Zo Martyrs' Cemetery, Sehken Village, Lamka.

This is one of the many variants of "war chant" expressed by the Kukis before or during battles. It was chanted to boost the morale of the tribesmen and to create a sense of unity among those involved in the battle/war.

Similar war chants were also expressed by the Kuki Chiefs during the Anglo-Kuki War (1917-1919), and many were recorded by the Britishers. For example, one of the more popular war chants was recited by Pu Tintong Haokip, Chief of Laijang. His heroic war-chant reverberated in the minds of the Kukis of his time and they henceforth agreed to go for war.

The war-cry goes as follows:

*"Tah chapa!  
Haokip chapa, Lunkhel chapa,  
Laijang Tintong kahi;  
Kachang seh hijong leng,  
Kameilou, kameichang,  
Kanei jouse abei masangsea,  
Mikangte kakap ding ahi."*





# *The Martyrs Rest*

*Today's sunset doesn't amazed me anymore  
Rather filled by the unfathomable thoughts  
Oh! How I wish I could pause time  
& hold today a little longer  
Embrace the moment a little longer  
Conveyed the unspoken thoughts*

*Today, the heroes are laid to rest in eternity  
Wishing there's more time to mourn  
To communicate my thoughts & emotions  
Console the unspoken words  
And sit down beside the coffin  
Wail to my heart's content*

*No time would ever be enough  
To wail out this weary hearts  
No words would be enough  
To describe the unfathomable thoughts  
The heart's in dilemma  
To embrace the grief or  
To be grateful for the soul  
They are set to rest finally*

*Now, as you rest in power, do pray for us  
Sent angel from above to protect us  
That history doesn't repeat.  
May your sacrifice lead us to freedom (Zalengam)  
Your valor taught us to march ahead  
Your blood in our thoughts is our strength  
For the life you gave up for our tomorrow*

*-Elizabeth Tinneinieng*





# HOME THEY BROUGHT OUR WARRIORS DEAD

One,two...Eighty-seven  
One by one we dug their graves  
Our fallen heroes in caskets  
Each for freedom, a step closer to victory.

Seven months of suffering,  
The wait is over  
And we can now lower you down  
To your roots, to your own earth.

A mournful celebration for you  
Mournful for your supreme sacrifice,  
Celebration for the hope you give us;  
A hope for a better tomorrow.

For you, I've taken an oath:  
To not let your blood go in vain,  
To embrace Zalengam with my life.  
If not in my lifetime, in the next.

For our better tomorrow  
you bravehearts had laid down your lives Today!

Salute Kuki-Zo Martyrs!

- USB Lhungdim





# *The Moon's Cry*

*Seven months ago I left home,  
Now I'm back home as my journey ends  
As I traveled my last weary mile.  
Mother don't cry for me  
For I'm not gone,  
My soul is at rest.*

*When tomorrow starts without me,  
Please understand I'm at a better place,  
Where my limbs are intact and I don't hurt,  
Where my body has no wounds and scars.  
Save your tears for I'm still here  
By your side as a memory and in your heart.*

*May the pain and unjust I suffered  
Be a reminder to you all,  
Let none go through thus anymore  
Let me be the last of us all,  
My blood for Zale'ngam.*

*As you look up I'll look down  
For now I'm free from the monstrous grips,  
I'm sad to leave behind all I dearly love  
But in heaven far above I feel so at home,  
For the angel took me at Heaven's Gates  
And the Lord smiled "welcome home".*

*~Angie Doungel*



# Oh Death!

Oh Death, you are the only one who make people cry,  
Oh Death, you are the only one that humans fear.  
Oh how powerful you are!

After 7 months my son, daughter, sisters, mom & dad,  
Your dead body comes to your ancestral land.  
Are you not hungry??  
Don't you feel cold??  
You have not eaten food for so long.  
Wake up and have something I have brought for you to make  
your body warm.  
Why are you not responding to me?  
Please respond to me.

I can't bear your mom crying,  
I can't bear your dad crying.  
Who will wipe your mom's tears,  
Who will wipe out your dad's tears?

Your innocent blood should not be in vain.  
Let your dead body and innocent blood,  
Speak to the whole nation and give us justice.  
Your sacrifice for the nation Kuki-Zo should not be in vain.

-Haotinmang Sitlhou





# The Threnody

The aberration that occurred  
The ablaze that I've seen  
The abstinence that we bear  
The lamentation everywhere  
The abstruse feelings Oh! It hurts

Its been a month or more since I lost you  
I longed for you every night and day  
If I were asked for a favour  
I would only wish for you to get back.

Loosing you in all of a sudden  
Seems like I had lost the world.  
Have an eyed on me, are you glad?  
Me being without a land to settled.

Losing for your cool breeze, the chirruping,  
The beautiful sunshine, the wonderful landscape  
Where could I find a peaceful place like you?  
You are just incomparable!

The period of time we had spent together  
Lingers in my mind everytime  
How can I get rid off our memories?  
I close my eyes and all I see is you.

My heart keeps bleeding  
All of the time I hear your name Langmaiching,  
If I could turn back the clock,  
I'd make sure the light defeated the dark  
And spend every hour of everyday keeping you safe.

-Kimhoiching Kipgen  
XI (Arts), EMRS Gamhom Sapormeina