

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



TONSING HANGSHING (7 YEARS)

S/O JOSHUA HANGSHING

ADDRESS: KANGCHUP CHINGKHONG, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IROISHEMBA, IMPHAL WEST

CAUSE OF DEATH: BURN ALIVE INSIDE AN AMBULANCE



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
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.

MANIPUR TAPES: N. BIREN SINGH MUST BE PROSECUTED, SAY KUKI-ZO MLAS; REITERATE DEMAND FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION

Taking serious note of the “Manipur Tapes” expose wherein the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh had candidly boasted about his role in the ethnic persecution of the tribal Kuki-Zo community, the ten Kuki-Zo MLAs have said that the complicity of the Chief Minister in the state sponsored ethnic cleansing, which they have always maintained since day one, has now been established beyond an iota of doubt.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Members of Legislative Assembly from Kuki-Zo community said, “The CM can be clearly heard reassuring his audience, which from his tone and tenor can safely be assumed to be members of his militia, that they (central agencies) have to arrest him first before any of them, and that they should not promptly show up when summoned to give him time to intervene.”

“The tapes also reveal how the Union Home Minister had chastised him for authorizing the use of Bombs on civilians, and how after the UHM had left, he had instructed the police top brass to use bombs clandestinely going forward, defying the UHM’s directions,” MLAs said.

The Kuki-Zo people’s representatives stated that the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, could also be heard boasting before his minions as to how he ensured that nobody is arrested in connection with the looting of 4000-5000 arms and ammunition from the state forces. He can also be heard appealing that Kukis can throw abuses at him, and rightly so because he had caused the death of about 300 of them, but that Meiteis should not throw abuse at him.

“These and many more self-incriminating statements can be clearly heard from



the leaked tapes, which have been submitted to the Judicial Commission headed by Justice Lamba,” said the statement.

“Confirming the authenticity of the tapes, Rajendro Nong, brother to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, can be seen threatening those who sold out such sensitive tapes to others on Facebook,” it added.

The MLAs, therefore, demanded that the commission must expedite its process and that N. Biren Singh must be prosecuted for his crimes if his guilt is established. He must also be immediately debarred from the office of the Chief Minister so that he is prevented from influencing the outcome of the probe against him, the MLAs said.

The Kuki-Zo MLAs, once again, appealed to the Government of India to expedite their demand for separate administration in the form of UT with Legislature, as that alone is the path to lasting peace in the region.

AAP DEMANDS CM BIREN SINGH'S RESIGNATION AFTER THE WIRE'S 'MANIPUR TAPES' REPORTS

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday (August 20) called for Manipur chief minister N.Biren Singh's resignation in the light of The Wire's three-part 'Manipur Tapes' series on an audio file provided to the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to inquire into the Manipur violence.

The Wire was informed by the purported maker/s of the 48-minute recording that it was done in person at a meeting where the chief minister unmistakably indicated his partisan complicity in the ongoing civil war that has been raging in Manipur since May 3, 2023.

The recording, which the Manipur government claims is 'doctored', carries the purported voice of Singh saying he supported the use of lethally destructive ammunition – 51 mm mortar bombs – in parts of the state last year. The voice claimed as the CM's can be heard saying that he had shielded Meitei "village guards" who had "snatched" thousands of arms from the state police armoury from arrest. It also suggests an attempt to play down the fact that members of the mob could clearly be seen groping two Kuki women in a viral video, as they led them away naked.

The voice claimed by the maker/s of the recording to be that of Biren Singh can also be heard taking credit for "how and why the conflict started".

AAP MP Sanjay Singh, in a video statement, said that the tapes suggest that the ongoing violence in Manipur is state sponsored.

"Manipur chief minister must resign and he must be asked about the truth behind these statements," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

"What is the work of a chief minister? If there is a disagreement between two communities and there is a state of violence, it is his job to stop this violence.

"Are these revelations not enough to prove that the violence in Manipur was state sponsored, government sponsored and chief minister sponsored? And that the centre was complicit by not raising any questions including from the prime minister. These questions must



be asked from the government. Everyone must raise their voice against the revelations in these tapes and ask questions from the government."

The AAP also held a press conference on Tuesday, demanding that the Manipur chief minister be dismissed, and accountability is set.

Addressing the press conference, AAP's chief national spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said that the Union home ministry and the Manipur chief minister must provide answers.

"Why is Biren Singh still the chief minister, why is he not being removed? What was the cooperation with Delhi that he is not being removed. It has been over a year and violence has not stopped in Manipur. Biren Singh and his government need to be dismissed and accountability needs to be set," she said.

"Such a chief minister who is asking for bombs to be thrown, is our country safe in such guidance? Are our daughters safe under such people who say rapists must be awarded? He says this in the audio that we helped the women and clothed them. It is extremely shameful and questions must be asked and accountability must be set."

Also, on Tuesday, opposition parties including the Congress, RJD and the TMC demanded an investigation into the revelations made on the tapes and asked for the central government in Delhi to "wake up" to the crisis in Manipur.

Source: The Wire

KUKI APEX BODIES FROM THREE DISTRICTS DEMAND IMMEDIATE ACTION FOLLOWING CM N. BIREN SINGH'S GENOCIDE ADMISSIONS

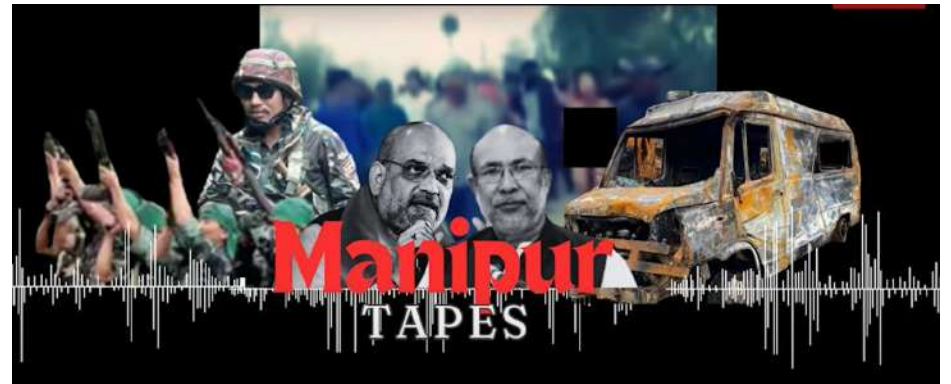
The Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal, Sadar Hills and Ukhrul Districts have issued strong condemnations of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh following the release of a leaked audio recording. In the recording, Singh explicitly admits to orchestrating a campaign of violence and ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo people, with the stated goal of "saving Meltei Civilization."

The districts Inpi (s) denounce Singh's actions and words, describing them as a calculated effort to commit genocide against the Kuki-Zo people—a grave crime against humanity.

The Kuki Inpi of three districts calls for a high-level, impartial investigation by the Government of India into Singh's orders and directives that led to widespread violence, displacement, and destruction of Kuki-Zo communities.

They demand that Singh be held accountable for his actions, citing the clear and undeniable evidence presented in the leaked recording. They insist on justice for the victims and accountability for those responsible.

three apex body of the Kukis urges the international community to condemn the genocide and apply pressure on the Indian Government to take appropriate action to uphold human rights and justice. Immediate steps must be taken to prevent further atrocities and to protect the Kuki-Zo people. Comprehensive measures should be implemented to ensure justice and relief for the victims.



The Kuki Inpi (s) expresses deep concern over the Government of India's silence and inaction in response to these revelations. They call for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation, free from political interference.

In a separate response, the three apex body criticized Chief Minister Singh's remarks which sought to justify the violence through claims of historical land disputes and alleged overrepresentation of Kuki individuals in government positions. The Kuki Inpi argues that these comments misrepresent the origins of the conflict and deepen ethnic divisions, instead of fostering unity and constructive dialogue.

The Kuki Inpi asserts that the current situation demands immediate and decisive action to address the grave human rights violations. They call for a unified effort to ensure that such atrocities are addressed and that justice is served, reinforcing the importance of upholding democratic values and human rights in India.



Don't worry about being effective. Just concentrate on being faithful to the truth.

— Dorothy Day

KUKI-ZO WOMEN'S FORUM STRONGLY CONDEMNS N. BIREN SINGH'S CALLOUS REMARKS ON KUKI-ZO WOMEN IN HIS LEAKED AUDIO TAPE

Strongly condemnation the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's callous remarks on Kuki-Zo women, the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum Delhi & NCR has expressed its deep outrage over the recent comments in the leaked tape audio recording released by "The Wire."

In a statement, the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum said N. Biren Singh's dismissive question, "Where's the proof they were raped?" in response to the horrifying atrocities committed against Kuki-Zo women during the Manipur Genocide, was both appalling and inhumane.

"For over a year, survivors and witnesses have courageously shared their harrowing experiences of unimaginable cruelty overcoming social stigma. The distressing video of two women being paraded naked at B. Phainom village shocked the nation and underscored the extreme brutality faced by Kuki-Zo women who are still reeling under their mental and physical trauma. Yet, instead of empathy or justice, the Chief Minister has chosen to trivialise their suffering, rather expresses his intent to reward the rapists," it said.

"These words are not just insensitive; they further victimise those who have undergone extreme trepidation. This blatant disregard for the dignity and humanity of Kuki-Zo women highlights the savagery perpetuated by the radicalised Meiteis under his leadership."

The Kuki-Zo Women's Forum demanded an immediate investigation into the leaked audio file and to hold him accountable for his crimes. The Forum also urged all responsible authorities to ensure that justice is served



Office of the
KUKI-ZO WOMEN'S FORUM
DELHI & NCR
Motto: Voice for the VOICELESS

Ref:KZWF/PR/2024-25/03

Date:21/08/2024

PRESS RELEASE

21st August 2024

Condemnation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's Callous Remarks on Kuki-Zo women

The Kuki-Zo Women's Forum Delhi & NCR expresses its deep outrage and condemns the recent comments made by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in a leaked tape audio recording released by "The Wire." His dismissive question, **"Where's the proof they were raped?"** in response to the horrifying atrocities committed against Kuki-Zo women during the Manipur Genocide, is both appalling and inhumane.

For over a year, survivors and witnesses have courageously shared their harrowing experiences of unimaginable cruelty overcoming social stigma. The distressing video of two women being paraded naked at B. Phainom village shocked the nation and underscored the extreme brutality faced by Kuki-Zo women who are still reeling under their mental and physical trauma. Yet, instead of empathy or justice, the Chief Minister has chosen to trivialise their suffering, rather expresses his intent to reward the rapists.

These words are not just insensitive; they further victimise those who have undergone extreme trepidation. This blatant disregard for the dignity and humanity of Kuki-Zo women highlights the savagery perpetuated by the radicalised Meiteis under his leadership.

The Kuki-Zo Women's Forum demands an immediate investigation into the leaked audio file and to hold him accountable for his crimes. We also urge all responsible authorities to ensure that justice is served for the countless women and families who continue to suffer under his oppressive regime.

KZWF stands firm in solidarity with all victims of violence in Manipur and will continue to advocate for their rights and dignity. We call upon all citizens, human rights organisations, and the international community to join us in condemning this ethnic pogrom against the Kuki-Zo people.

Issued by:
Department of Information & Publicity
Kuki-Zo Women's Forum (KZWF)

KukiZoWomensForum@gmail.com

for the countless women and families who continue to suffer under his oppressive regime.

"KZWF stands firm in solidarity with all victims of violence in Manipur and will continue to advocate for their rights and dignity," the statement said, and called upon all citizens, human rights organisations, and the international community to join the Kuki-Zo people in condemning this ethnic pogrom against the Kuki-Zo people

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Vishal Arora
@vishalarora_in

Follow

An audio recording allegedly featuring the voice of Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh discussing violent tactics amid ongoing ethnic conflict has been submitted to the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Union Home Ministry, as per The Wire.



'Manipur Tapes' Cast Doubt on Chief Minister's Role in Violence — Newsreel Asia
newsreel.asia

16:01 · 20 Aug 24 · 1,726 Views



Paolienlal Haokip
@paolienlal

Follow

"Why do we still have traitors like Khelendro and Moirang Tonjao in our midst?" Rajya Sabha MP wrt the leaked clips. Khelendro and Tonjao are traitors who helped Britishers capture the King and Tikendrajit. Proof of authenticity of the Tapes.
@PMOIndia @HMOIndia



Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba

Keino Eikhoi marakta
Khelendro Subedar,
Moirang Tonjao gumba
yam leirammissina?

929

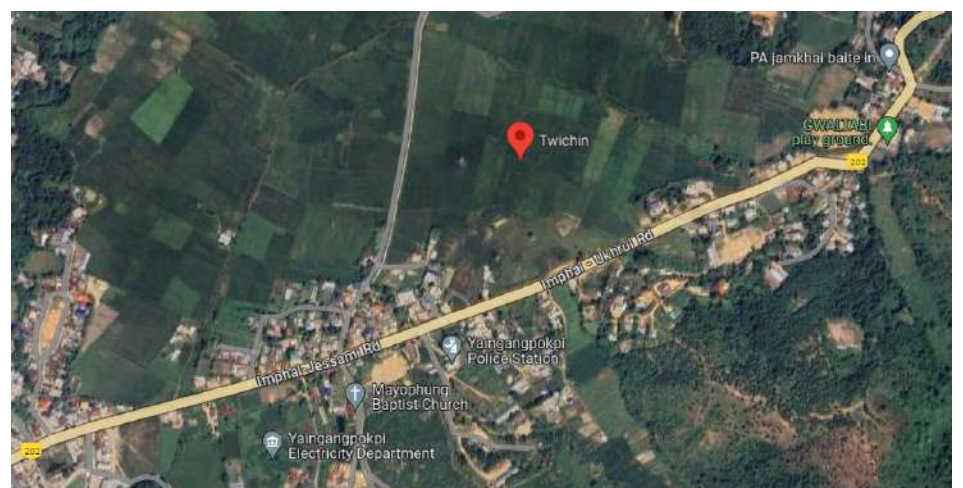
110 comments 88 shares

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 21, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 21, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

A disturbing incident occurred in Twichin when villagers went to work in their paddy fields. They were ambushed from a hilltop by the Meitei terror group, Arambai Tenggol cadres, in conjunction with Manipur Police Commandos. This horrifying attack forced the villagers to flee their homes once again, adding to the ongoing displacement and instability in the region.

Additionally, the same Meitei group had intentions to launch an attack on Kuki villages around the Gwaltabi area. However, their plans were thwarted by the central security forces, and adverse weather conditions, including heavy rain, further hindered their ability to proceed with their intended assault.



As of the latest update, no casualties have been reported, but the situation remains volatile and fraught with tension.



THE WIRE

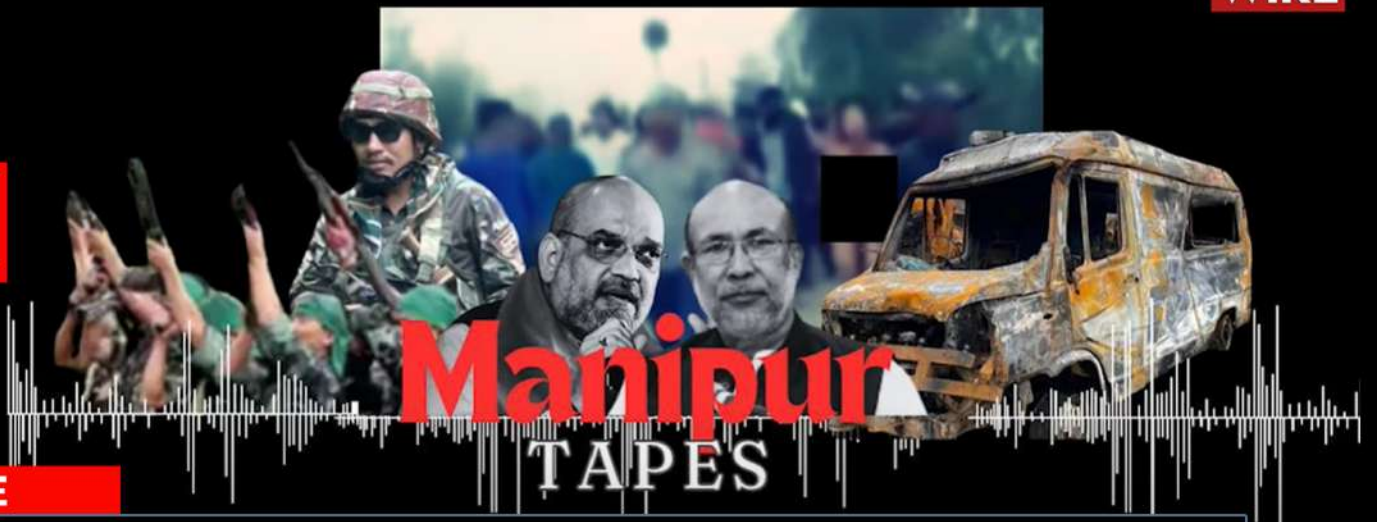
Biren's Leaked Audio

PART THREE

FEATURED ARTICLE

'I Started Operations': Biren Singh Allegedly Claims Credit for Conflict, 'Kukis Filling Up Govt Posts Through ST Quota'

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty



Ever since the Meitei-Kuki ethnic conflict broke out in Manipur last year, both the national and state-based media have been awash with reports on the likely causes. Most accounts point an accusing finger at the controversial Manipur high court order recommending Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Meitei community. The Supreme Court transferred the judge who authored the judgment, Justice M.V. Muralidharan, to the Calcutta high court, citing “better administration of justice” – judicial-speak for a rap on the knuckles – and subsequently directed the high court to delete that part of his order.

While leaders of both the Kuki and Meitei communities have blamed each other for stoking the conflict that has since taken at least 226 lives and displaced thousands internally, it is clear that the High Court order itself is not the reason for the violence which erupted in May 2023 and which is yet to fully subside.

There is a method in the madness, even if the media has so far failed to fully grasp it and civil society in Manipur has been too polarised to point this out.

However, a 48-minute audio clip claimed to be of chief minister N. Biren Singh could change that.

In the audio recording – made at a meeting the CM allegedly addressed at his official residence late last year and now submitted to the Commission of Inquiry – a voice claimed by the maker/s of the recording to

be that of Biren Singh can be heard taking credit for “how and why the conflict started”.

The audio in Meiteilon, translated into English, says:

“So, now...how has this issue started from/originated? I saw all of these...When I saw all of these, I started operations [unclear]. We started seeking governmental land over reserved forest land, protected forest land. The incidents that have followed...haven't you seen on the map? Don't you feel like crying? I have been studying all of these for the past 10-15 years now. Something like this was bound to happen...But the number of Naga villages have not increased...check the areas inhabited by the Naga indigenous people and even within Imphal. The areas in Imphal, Nagaram, Tangkhul avenue, there has been no increase in villages and they (Kuki) just spread through Veng...Veng (village or colony).

“At the secretariat, we don't have our people because of their quota, they have filled up the IPS, IAS. They are all there in the IAS service. Our Naga brethren are not too interested in this side, they are concentrated on their independence. There might be just 5-10 out of a 100 and so, they [Kukis] have a total capture.

Contd.



Contd.

“In the Secretariat, there are 12 secretariat officers and of the 12, there are 11 of them [Kukis].”

While The Wire is unable to independently establish that the person who is heard speaking on the recording is indeed Biren Singh, we have confirmed the date, subject and contents of this meeting with some of the participants, none of whom was willing to be identified because of fears for their safety. Some persons claiming to have been participants at the meeting assert that the voice is indeed that of chief minister Biren Singh and that he did say all the things in the recording in their presence.

Some of these persons were also able to confirm to The Wire that the full audio clip has been submitted to the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice (Retd) Ajai Lamba, a former chief justice of the Gauhati high court.

Given the compelling public interest involved in the contents of this recording, The Wire is placing key excerpts in the public domain.

In the audio, the voice that some of the persons who say they were present have identified as that of the chief minister’s can also be heard calling out to his cabinet minister, L. Susindro Yaima.

Separate administration demand

Since the violence between the two communities broke out, the Kuki leadership has been targeting the chief minister, accusing him of acting in a deeply partisan manner. That allegation against the chief minister appears to be the primary basis for the Kukis demanding that the Centre slice out a part of the state to grant them a ‘separate administration’. In other words, the belief that the chief minister has been acting in a ‘biased’ manner has triggered the Kuki demand for dividing the sensitive border state on ethnic lines. Prior to the 2023 conflict, there were no Kuki and Meitei ethnic fights.

However, the Narendra Modi-led Union government has been outrightly backing the chief minister.

The protracted silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

on the violence and his refusal to visit the state despite the enormity of the tragedy, were read across the state as a message to those pointing fingers at Biren Singh that he had the full backing of his party and its government in New Delhi. Even though the violence that broke out on May 3 2023 went on unabated, Union home minister Amit Shah told parliament in August last year that Singh “is cooperating” with the Union government to quell the inter-community conflict.

The audio clip submitted to the Commission of Inquiry, however, seems to make out a case that the Modi-led government has been shielding the chief minister at a time when he was taking partisan and communally divisive positions, despite holding a high elected office and having taken an oath on the Constitution.

The audio clip is likely to strengthen allegations that the chief minister’s partisan attitude at a time when the state is reeling under a delicate law and order situation has ensured continuation of the conflict.

More than a year after violence first broke out, nearly 60,000 people – Meitei and Kuki – remain displaced, forced to take shelter in relief camps.

Kuki residential colonies attacked at the time

During the first few days of the conflict, residences of several senior government officials belonging to the Kuki community were attacked by Meitei mobs in the valley areas, including in the state capital Imphal; some were killed at their official quarters. Even ambulances carrying people from the Kuki community were attacked and their occupants killed.

Most of those Kuki “veng” (villages/colonies) in Imphal that the chief minister can purportedly be heard referring to in the audio clip were attacked by mobs, and led to a substantial death toll among the Kukis. Residences, churches and commercial

Contd.



Contd.

establishments owned by people from the community in the valley areas were targeted. In December 2023, the Supreme Court – which heard a bunch of petitions on the ethnic conflict – asked the state government to restore as many as 3,500 churches destroyed during the conflict, most of which belonged to the Kukis.

If established to be the voice of Biren Singh, the contents of the audio clip take on a chilling significance since the mob which targeted Kukis in the valley areas at the start of the conflict evidently shared the opinion expressed in the recording about the Kukis having “spread” their vengs in Imphal. Especially because the two armed Meitei radical outfits accused of participating in the attack on the Kukis — Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Lepun — are seen to be close to the chief minister.

While the BJP Rajya Sabha MP and Manipur’s titular king L. Sanajaoba is the founder head of Arambai Tenggol, the founder of the other, Meitei Leepun, is Pramot Singh, a former member of the RSS’s student wing – Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (AVBP) – and is admittedly close to Biren Singh. During the course of the conflict, the chief minister was seen coming out in support of Arambai Tenggol.

As per media reports, the members of these outfits, particularly those from Arambai Tenggol, were seen using police vehicles to move around with arms; also dictating orders to police personnel and elected leaders, engaging in physical assault on Opposition MLAs and police personnel, besides assaulting those from the Meitei community who dared to question their action including attacking their residences.

In Kuki areas like Churachandpur, all Meitei residents were forced to flee for their safety to the Imphal valley in the face of threats from Kuki militants, underscoring the fact that people from both communities have paid a terrible price for the conflict and the government’s failure to restore peace.

CM and allegations of ‘narco-terrorism’, ethnic bias of Kuki judges

In the audio recording, the chief minister purportedly

questions the integrity of the judiciary, implicitly accusing Kuki judges of ethnic bias and boasting about how he had sounded an alarm about this over a decade ago:

“If you seize drugs, judge Haokip, Gangte, they are all there. It is this penetration program that I...10 years back...you would have seen my tweet... in 2013...”

In the audio recording, there is also an insinuation that the Kuki community is involved in the illegal drug trade in the state. A term often heard during the ethnic conflict was ‘cross border narco-terrorism’. It was given wind by none other than the chief minister to the media to indicate that the Kuki armed groups based out of Bangladesh and Myanmar, supposedly opposed to the Manipur government’s ‘war on drugs’ policy and on a “war against the Indian Union”, had fomented the ethnic conflict. This term found a mention in Shah’s statement in parliament too.

However, according to a July 2020 affidavit filed in the Manipur high court in relation to the arrest of Lukhosei Zou, a drug ‘kingpin’ belonging to the Kuki community, Thonoujam Brinda, a former officer of the state police’s narcotics department, stated that the chief minister had specifically asked her to release him. Biren Singh was also the state’s home minister at the time. He had then threatened to take legal action against her, though nothing came of it. The officer put in her papers soon after that face-off.

Interestingly, though the state police had caught Zou with drugs in a state that had declared a ‘war on drugs’, a local court granted him bail just four days later. Soon Zou disappeared from a local hospital and fled to Myanmar. [More on that case can be found in this detailed report filed by The Wire on July 16, 2020.]

Contd.

Contd.

Question to state minister L. Susindro Yaima

As stated earlier, the principal speaker in the meeting can be heard calling out to the minister for Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Leishangthem Susindro Yaima, who is said to be extremely close to Biren Singh.

The Wire reached out to Yaima at his official email to ask if he had heard the chief minister at any time last year express his resentment at the Kuki community for settling down in the valley areas, and also for taking up jobs in the state administration through the ST quota.

Any response from the minister would be added here, if received.

As noted in The Wire's extensive coverage of the Manipur tapes, the complete audio recording has been submitted to the Commission of Inquiry tasked with probing the Manipur violence, along with an affidavit attesting to its authenticity from the person/s who made the recording at the chief minister's official residence.

It is now to be seen how the Commission proceeds with the material that has been placed before it.

Based on the tapes mentioned in this report, The Wire has sent the following questions to the chief minister for a response:

- A) Are you opposed to the fact that most officers at the secretariat in Imphal belong to the Kuki community?
- B) Are you opposed to the fact that some judges in Manipur courts belong to the Kuki community?
- C) Are you opposed to the Kuki community being included in the Scheduled Tribe list?
- D) Do you take credit for the ethnic violence as a result of your government's action to clear reserved forest land?
- E) Do you think the Nagas are not interested in buying land in the valley areas of Manipur because they are fighting for Independence from India?

This story will be updated when he responds.

Published by: [The Wire](#)



IN THE SHADOW OF HIS RULE

The man who claims the mantle of law,
Exposed his crimes without a flaw.
Downplaying wrongs he himself did birth,
Justifying the darkness, casting a blight on the earth.

With government's might at his command,
He cloaked his malice with a sleight of hand.
Crafty maneuvers, hidden schemes,
To mask his deeds, to shatter dreams.

Under his maleficent reign,
The state teeters on the brink of pain.
Yet, amidst the chaos and the fray,
His ego reigns, come what may.

Political power, a shield he guards,
While the land suffers, fractured and marred.
In the shadow of his rule's cruel hand,
The people yearn for justice to stand.

- Diana Phaimphu

