

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**SOKHONGAM BAITE  
KUM 22**

# AWAITING JUSTICE



## **SOKHONGAM BAITE (21 YEARS)**

S/O DOUKHANTHANG BAITE

ADDRESS: D. KHONUOM, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: PHOUGAKCHAO IKAI, BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD BY MEITEI MILITANTS



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 11.09.2024



**199**  
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.

# KUKI INPI REBUFFS UCM'S NARRATIVE, CALLS FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION AMID ONGOING ETHNIC CONFLICT

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) has firmly rejected the United Committee Manipur's (UCM) claim that illegal immigration is the primary cause of the ongoing violence in Manipur. According to KIM, UCM's narrative is a deliberate diversion from the true issue at hand—the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing of the Kuki-Zo people. KIM asserts that the violence that has persisted for over 16 months stems from entrenched ethnic hatred, not cross-border immigration from Myanmar.

KIM also highlighted that opposition to the Indo-Myanmar border fencing, which UCM advocates, is not unique to the Kuki-Zo community. Naga and Mizo communities have equally condemned the fencing, viewing it as a violation of human rights and an affront to the indigenous bonds that cross the international border. The organization emphasized that forcing such projects without respecting these ties is both “inhumane and unacceptable.”

While the Government of Manipur has already set up a Cabinet Sub-Committee to address concerns about illegal immigration, KIM criticized UCM for inflaming xenophobia by placing undue blame on the Kuki-Zo people for issues beyond their control. KIM accused UCM of trying to criminalize the Kuki-Zo community and using the immigration narrative to justify ongoing ethnic violence, which it says was orchestrated by Meitei groups and has led to the displacement of thousands of Kuki-Zo people.

KIM emphasized that border fencing will not resolve the current crisis, which Home Minister Amit Shah has acknowledged as an ethnic conflict rather than an issue of illegal immigration or terrorism. They condemned UCM's call for border fencing in Kuki-dominated areas as a “blatant disregard” for ethnic bonds that existed long before modern borders were drawn.

“The Government of India's continual appeasement of the Meitei community, especially Manipur Chief



Minister N. Biren Singh, is alarming,” said KIM, pointing to leaked audio tapes that allegedly link Singh to the orchestration of violence against the Kuki-Zo people. KIM emphasized that the issue of fencing affects not just Manipur but also ethnic communities in neighboring states like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram, whose cross-border connections predate Indian statehood.

Instead of focusing on border security, KIM urged the Government of India to prioritize the welfare of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), many of whom are victims of “state-sponsored genocide.” The organization stressed that basic relief efforts are still inadequate and that border fencing cannot be seen as a solution to the ethnic strife in the state.

Finally, KIM reiterated its demand for the creation of a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people, stating that peaceful coexistence within the current framework of Manipur is no longer viable. The group called on the central government to take decisive steps toward securing a permanent resolution, ensuring the safety, dignity, and future of the Kuki-Zo community.

“Kuki Inpi Manipur firmly believes that a separate administration is the only lasting solution to the ongoing conflict,” the statement concluded.

# KOHUR CONDEMNS TARGETED BOMBINGS OF KUKI VILLAGES IN JIRIBAM, ACCUSES STATE FORCES OF ETHNIC CLEANSING

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights has strongly condemned the relentless attacks and bombings of the Kuki villages of Mongbung and Sejang in the tribal-occupied areas of Jiribam, allegedly carried out by combined forces of Meitei militants and state authorities.


The attacks on the Kuki-Zos by the combined teams of state forces and armed Arambai Tenggols have plunged the tribal populace into chaos and created a climate of fear in the region predominantly occupied by the minority Kuki-Zo tribals.

“The use of mortar bombs and heavy artillery to target civilian settlements and volunteers is a blatant violation of human rights and an act of terror designed to intimidate and displace the Kuki population,” said KOHUR in their press statement.

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights stated that, over the past few weeks, Kuki villages have faced continuous bombardment, causing the destruction of homes, loss of property, and displacement of civilians. The deliberate targeting of civilian areas with mortar bombs reflects a coordinated effort to erase the Kuki presence in these regions, indicative of state-sponsored genocide.

The pattern of ethnic violence, targeted killings, and indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas with military-grade weapons, while Meitei areas remain untouched, implicates state forces in the selective targeting of Kuki villages. This reflects a sinister, state-sponsored agenda aimed at ethnically cleansing the region of Kuki populations.

Expressing strong resentment against the systematic violations of international human rights norms, the Kuki Organisation for Human Rights has urged the Indian government, the United Nations, and international human rights bodies to take immediate action and conduct an independent investigation into the ongoing bombings and the role of state forces in these



**KUKI ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TRUST (KOHUR)**  
A Member of UN Special Consultative Status Since 2016  
(Registered under the Indian Registration Act, 1908, Reg. No. 963 (V) on May 8, 2009)  
Head Office: Eureka Cafe Building, Hill Town, Churachandpur -795128  
kumhur96@yahoo.com kohur.org

Dated: 21st September, 2024

### CONDEMNATION

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights vehemently **condemns the relentless bombing of Kuki villages, Mongbung and Sejang in Jiribam, carried out by the combined forces of Meitei militants and state authorities.** The use of mortar bombs and heavy artillery to target civilian settlements and volunteers is a blatant violation of human rights and an act of terror designed to terrorize and displace the Kuki population.

Over the past few weeks, Kuki villages have faced continuous bombardment, causing destruction of homes, loss of property, and displacement of civilians. The deliberate targeting of civilian areas by mortar bombs reflects a coordinated effort to erase Kuki presence in these regions, indicative of state-sponsored genocide.


**Evidence of State-Sponsored Genocide**

- 1. Indiscriminate Bombing of Civilian Areas:**  
The combined forces have been using military-grade weapons, including mortar bombs, to specifically target Kuki settlements in Mongbung and Sejang, despite the absence of any militant activity in these areas. The repeated use of explosives against civilians points to a calculated effort to cause maximum harm.
- 2. Complicity of State Forces:**  
The involvement of state forces alongside Meitei terrorists underscores the coordinated nature of this campaign. The selective targeting of Kuki villages, while Meitei areas remain untouched, reflects a sinister state-sponsored agenda aimed at ethnically cleansing the region of Kuki populations.
- 3. Systematic Violations of International Human Rights Norms:**  
The continued assault on Kuki civilians, coupled with the lack of accountability from the state government, violates international conventions on human rights and the laws of armed conflict. The impunity enjoyed by these perpetrators signals clear state complicity in these crimes.
- 4. Pattern of Attacks and Ethnic Cleansing:**  
The bombing of Mongbung and Sejang is part of a larger pattern of violence against Kuki villages across Manipur, including the arson of homes and churches, physical assaults, and targeted killings. This pattern of ethnic violence points to a deliberate, state-sponsored genocide aimed at wiping out the Kuki population.

**Call for Immediate Action:**

- The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights calls upon the Government of India, the United Nations, and international human rights bodies to:
- Launch an independent investigation into the ongoing bombings and the role of state forces in these attacks.
- Take immediate measures to stop the violence and ensure the protection of Kuki civilians in Mongbung, Sejang, and other vulnerable areas.
- Hold accountable those responsible for this state-sponsored genocide, including both militant groups and state actors complicit in these heinous acts.

The systematic targeting of Kuki civilians must end, and justice must be served for the victims of these war crimes. The Kuki people will not stand silent in the face of genocide, and we demand immediate intervention from the international community to stop the ethnic cleansing campaign being waged against

  
 H. Benjamin Mate  
 Chairman  
 Kuki Organisation For Human Rights Trust (KOHUR)

attacks. The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights calls for urgent measures to stop the violence and ensure the protection of Kuki civilians in Mongbung, Sejang, and other vulnerable areas.

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# CoTU DENIES MYANMAR INFLUX ALLEGATIONS, RAISES NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) has strongly refuted claims made by Manipur's Security Advisor, Kuldeep Singh, about the alleged influx of 900 Kuki refugees from Myanmar. Labeling the accusations as "preposterous," the CoTU condemned the statement as part of an ethno-centric narrative fueled by the Meitei-majority government, led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

The CoTU pointed to an incident in August 2023, where over 200 Meitei refugees of Myanmar origin were allegedly brought into Manipur under the leadership of Biren Singh and his son-in-law, RK Imo Singh, an MLA from Sagolband Constituency. These refugees were reportedly fleeing persecution by pro-democracy forces after supporting Myanmar's military junta.

The CoTU expressed concerns over the involvement of valley-based insurgent groups (VBIGs) in Manipur's ethnic conflict. Groups like the KCP, KYKL, and UNLF, all operating from Myanmar, were identified as significant threats to India's national security.

The Committee urged the Indian government to expedite peace negotiations with Kuki-Zo insurgent groups,

Earlier on September 20, Security Advisor to the Chief Minister of Manipur, Kuldeep Singh confirmed the infiltration of approximately 900 well-trained Kuki militants from Myanmar. Addressing the media today, Singh said that the police department is treating this alarming development with utmost seriousness, implementing necessary precautionary measures to counter potential threats.

Singh's statements come in response to recent intelligence inputs suggesting a coordinated attack



planned for September 28. He announced that a Strategic Operation Group meeting was convened on September 18, involving top officials from various security agencies, including the Army, Assam Rifles, and CRPF, to address these grave security concerns.

"Border security forces, particularly the Assam Rifles, have been placed on high alert in districts bordering Myanmar, such as Pherzawl, Churachandpur, and Kamjong," Singh said. He highlighted the urgent need to monitor areas where militants may possess licensed firearms and explosives, particularly amid ongoing construction activities.

The Security Advisor criticized former DG PC Nair's claim regarding the absence of drone usage in recent bombings, labeling it as "his understanding and his problem." Singh indicated that criminal action could follow if formal complaints are filed regarding Nair's statements.

To enhance security measures, Singh reported the deployment of advanced anti-drone systems and jammers, with security forces successfully jamming 15 to 17 drones. Recent security operations have also led to the recovery of seven improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in vulnerable areas.

# KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF MANIPUR SECURITY ADVISOR KULDIEP SINGH

The Kuki Students' Organization (KSO) has called for the immediate resignation of Manipur Security Adviser Kuldiep Singh, accusing him of spreading false information about the Kuki-Zo community and failing to ensure their safety. The demand follows Singh's press conference on September 20, where he confirmed the alleged infiltration of 900 Kuki militants from Myanmar, a claim that the KSO has strongly refuted.

Kuldiep Singh during the press conference said that the infiltration involved approximately 900 well-trained militants entering Manipur in groups of 30 or more. Addressing the media, Singh assured the public that the state police were treating this as a serious threat, with precautionary measures already in place. He further disclosed intelligence inputs suggesting a possible coordinated attack on September 28. To counter the threat, a Strategic Operation Group meeting was held on September 18, involving top officials from the Army, Assam Rifles, and CRPF.

Singh also mentioned that border security forces, particularly the Assam Rifles, have been placed on high alert in districts bordering Myanmar, such as Pherzawl, Churachandpur, and Kamjong. The need to monitor areas with possible militant activity, especially those where firearms and explosives might be present, was emphasized.

The KSO, however, dismissed Singh's claims as baseless propaganda, asserting that the letter that first surfaced on social media on September 16, allegedly from the Chief Minister's office, was fake. The organization questioned why such sensitive security information would be handled by the CM's office rather than the appropriate security officials. The KSO believes Singh's statements were made under duress and are part of a larger political ploy to discredit the Kuki-Zo community.

Singh's press conference also addressed recent drone bombing incidents, which he stated were being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Advanced anti-drone systems and jammers



## KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

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Information Centre : Kuki Inn, Imphal, Manipur  
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Regd. No. 2991 of 1979

1. KSO Churachandpur (Manipur)	10. KSO Assam	19. KSO Mumbai (Maharashtra)
2. KSO Sadar Hills (Manipur)	11. KSO Dibrugarh (Assam)	20. KSO Pune (Maharashtra)
3. KSO Chandel District (Manipur)	12. KSO Silchar (Assam)	21. KSO Bangalore (Karnataka)
4. KSO Tengnoupai (Manipur)	13. KSO Karbi Anglong (Assam)	22. KSO Tamu (Myanmar)
5. KSO Ukhrul (Manipur)	14. KSO Tripura	23. KSO Hyderabad (Telangana)
6. KSO Jiri-Tamenglong (Manipur)	15. KSO Shillong (Meghalaya)	24. KSO Rajasthan
7. KSO Imphal (Manipur)	16. KSO Delhi & NCR (Delhi)	25. KSO Chandigarh (Punjab)
8. KSO Kamjong (Manipur)	17. KSO Kolkata (W.Bengal)	26. KSO Kerala
9. KSO Guwahati (Assam)	18. KSO Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	27. KSO Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
		28. KSO NC Hills (Assam)

Ref. No. ....

Date 21-09-2024

### PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Security Adviser of Manipur, Shri. Kuldiep Singh, held a press conference yesterday (20.09.2024) about the security situation in Manipur. One thing of a particular concern that the Kuki-Zo perceives as more of 'propaganda' and less of facts is his claim of '900 Kuki Militants' who have infiltrated into Manipur in groupings of 30 or more. In this regards, the Kuki Students' Organisation General Headquarters wants to present below facts about this rumor to the people of India:

- 1) This rumor first surfaced in the social media platforms on 16.09.2024. The letter has signature, fake or genuine which we cannot verify, of the Secretary to Chief Minister, Shri. N. Geoffrey. The said letter bearing letter no. U.O.No.1/25/2024-CM was addressed to the DGP, Manipur and copied to the Chief Secretary, Advisor (Security) and Commissioner (Home).
- 2) This news was covered by an Imphal media by the name of 'Tom TV' on their 8 PM Prime Time show the same day i.e. 16.09.2024. The next day, they issued a clarification from their social media handle stating that they clarify and retract what they have aired as soon as they got confirmation that this was fake.
- 3) A careful comparison of the signature of the Secretary to CM, which is available in public to the one which was appended on the said letter doesn't match.

The KSO General Headquarters wants to raise below pertinent questions regarding this news, which we unambiguously perceive as 'propaganda' to demonize us in the strongest way possible:

- i) If this letter was genuine, how is it that the Secretary to the CM was in possession of such confidential and sensitive security issue instead of the concerned officers and Army who are taking care of the security situation in the state?
- ii) If it was genuine, how is it that the state security adviser and security establishments apprised of it by someone who is not in any way related to the security of the state?
- iii) If it was genuine, how is the security adviser of the state the last person in the security establishments to know about it? 4 days after the propaganda letter got viral!
- iv) Are security establishments fed confidential and sensitive information by the office of the CM? If yes, why are we expected to trust them with our lives?

The KSO General Headquarters are very confident that this press conference by the state security adviser was done under duress as we believe that he being the 'security adviser' will be aware of the security situation much better than the office of the Chief Minister.

Even though we know this is propaganda to tarnish our image as citizens of this great nation, the KSO General Headquarters would like to state that we don't need anyone from outside to protect us. We are able to protect ourselves from the Manipur government sponsored ethnic cleansing as is evident since the 3rd May 2023 till today. We fought the mighty British empire from 1917-1919 during the Anglo-Kuki War and we are not in need of any external help to fight this secessionist Meitei community.

have been deployed, and 15 to 17 drones have been successfully jammed in security operations. Additionally, seven improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recovered in high-risk areas.

Despite Singh's reassurances, the KSO remains skeptical of his leadership, pointing to the resurgence of banned Meitei militants in the region, whom they accuse of attacking the Kuki-Zo community. The KSO demanded Singh's resignation, citing a failure to protect their community and the need for a more competent security advisor.



# BIREN SINGH CRITIC ARRESTED FOR 'INSTIGATING VIOLENCE' IN MANIPUR, SEVERAL OTHERS PICKED UP

Several individuals have been picked up by the Manipur Police for allegedly posting disparaging comments about Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his government in the past 48 hours, ThePrint has learnt.

The development comes barely a day after a PhD scholar was granted interim bail by a court in Imphal West, following her criticism of the state's internet ban on Facebook.

Though the police have not made an official statement over the arrest of any civilian for objectionable content on social media, a Facebook post from the official page of Biren Singh showed a veiled picture of an individual who was supposedly "arrested for instigating violence and encouraging the public to disrupt peace".

The name and identity of the individual were not made public, but an image was shared in the post with a message—"There is no need to raise slogans in the streets, no need for conducting any rally, no need for pelting stones—break down the BJP office, break down Biren's party offices, break down the RSS office."

"While we respect the right to free speech, any misuse of digital platforms to spread unrest or provoke harm will not be tolerated. We urge everyone to use social media responsibly and contribute to the peace and unity of Manipur," the statement from the CM's Facebook account read.

A senior officer of the Manipur Police confirmed to ThePrint that "some social media users" were arrested on the charges of posting objectionable statements against the government. The officer, however, refused to specify how many individuals were picked up by the police.

Sources in the Manipur Chief Minister's Office (CMO) also told ThePrint that "a bunch of people" were rounded up for making lewd comments against the CM and his government on social media platforms. The sources added that the content included fake news from multiple unverified accounts.

On Wednesday, a Facebook group of Biren Singh supporters wrote with concern about social media users indulging in content against the State. To this, the CM's official Facebook page responded stating that seven people have been arrested and that the government is looking out for more.

Several videos doing the rounds on social media platforms showed four men standing in a line and clarifying their comments against the chief minister and his government.

In the video, the men took turns to apologise for what they thought could mislead the general public and assured that such acts won't be repeated.

The Manipur Police, in the past few years, booked several journalists in defamation cases and lodged criminal complaints against few others, including rights activists.

In the second week of September, unidentified gunmen "fired about ten rounds" outside the residence of senior Manipur journalist Yambem Laba's residence in Imphal West.

Laba, the founder of a new political party, was in the news for his comments during a discussion on local television channels, in which he had said that "Manipur is not Biren and Biren is not Manipur" and that the choice before the people is either to "Save Manipur or to Save Biren".

In July, the Imphal Times, a daily English newspaper published in Manipur, had come out with an editorial critical of Biren Singh's speech at the City Convention Center, wherein the CM cautioned social media users "against ridiculing and mocking leaders or producing speeches or videos deemed inappropriate for public consumption."

Source: The Print

# NSCN-IM CONDEMNS GOI'S POLICY TO SCRAP FREE MOVEMENT REGIME AND BORDER FENCING ALONG INDO-MYANMAR BORDER

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM) has strongly condemned the Government of India's recent move to abrogate the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and proceed with fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border, which cuts through Nagalim. In a press statement issued by the NSCN/GPRN, the group accused the Indian government of attempting to further its illegal occupation of Naga territories through these policies, describing the measures as an attempt to reinforce the artificial state boundaries imposed on Nagalim.

The NSCN-IM labeled the actions of the Indian state as a "divide and rule" strategy, aimed at undermining the unity of the Naga people, who have historically lived across the present borders of India and Myanmar. The scrapping of the FMR and the erection of border fences, the statement argues, are being justified under the pretext of national security, combating insurgency, and preventing illegal immigration and drug trafficking. However, the NSCN-IM views these actions as an attack on the Naga people's shared identity and a violation of international law.



The NSCN-IM further expressed frustration over the continued use of oppressive tactics by the Indian state, despite the signing of the Framework Agreement in 2015. The group asserts that these actions by the Government of India undermine the Indo-Naga political dialogue and aggravate the already tense situation. In the strongest terms, the NSCN-IM condemned the government's policy and warned that any negative consequences arising from these measures would be the responsibility of the Indian state. (Ukhrul Times)



**The oblique paradox of propaganda is that the lie in the throat becomes, by repetition, the truth in the heart.**

*- John Grierson*



# NEED FOR DIALOGUE TO RESTORE PEACE IN MANIPUR: KIREN RIJJU

Union Minister Kiren Rijju has stressed the urgency of restoring peace in the strife-torn state of Manipur, emphasizing the need for open dialogue between conflicting communities.

Addressing the audience at a Northeast Students' Festival organized by My Home India, Rijju stated, "It is essential to restore peace in Manipur. Both communities must come together through dialogue. Dialogues will have to be there."

Rijju further highlighted the significance of the event, themed "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat," which brought together youth from the northeastern states and individuals from other parts of India working for the

betterment of the region. He conveyed the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging national unity to strengthen the country. "We have told people about the Prime Minister's message—that we must unite to make the country stronger. A united Bharat will become a Shreshth Bharat," he said.

Reflecting on the progress over the past decade, Rijju remarked, "Things have changed so much in 10 years." The festival aimed to foster connections and mutual understanding between northeastern students and the rest of the nation, reinforcing the importance of national integration.



**Paoliental Haokip**  
@paoliental

Hundreds of crores of tax payer's money wasted/spent on Manipur crisis, not to end it, but to sustain it, till thousands of crores of tax payer's money can be had by relatives of Big shots, centre and the state. Over corpses. @the\_hindu @htTweets

7:00 PM · Sep 20, 2024 · 15.2K Views

**Makepeace Sitlhou**  
@makesyoucakes

I think Kuldiep Singh will confirm tomorrow that 100 million illegal Bangladeshis are in Assam. And they've all made it to the NRC.

19:42 · 21 Sept 24 · 1,126 Views

**Ravinder Kapur.**  
@RavinderKapur2

Follow

This is the Bomb used by Meitei Militants & Arambai Tenggol while attacking Mongbung Village in Jiribam Manipur

Now the Biren Singh's government will turn on the blame to the Kuki-Zo minority community.

Being a Minority in the Country is completely a Curse.

#ManipurViolence  
#Manipur  
#MeiteiMilitants



21:10 · 21 Sept 24 · 900 Views



**NEWS ANALYSIS**

**Is the Indian Government Enabling Majoritarian Oppression?  
Analyzing the Centre's Response to the State's Unrest and  
the Dilemma Facing the Kukis**

The Home Minister's response to the problems of Manipur during his press conference to address the achievements on "100 days of NDA government" puts one into dilemma, making one question if he is partial towards the dominant group i.e. the Meiteis in the state or if ground reality is not presented to him as it is? The government of India's continual compromise towards the majority community is enabling the tyranny of the majority against the minority. Thus the question is, is the Constitution which safeguards the minority from the tyranny of the majority in a democracy made dormant for the Kukis by the government of India?

It's a moment of humiliation for Indians when a sitting chief minister in his leaked audiotape confesses to disregarding the advice of the Home Minister of India and laughs it off. One could even say the CM pays no heed to the central government. Why else would he have the audacity to command the state forces to use bombs discreetly after it is reported that the Home Minister called him out for the crime? Will someone who pays no respect to the central government care about the victims of his own pogrom? India has to ponder deeply. If the constitution guarantees the right to live with dignity as a fundamental right and a part of right to life, there is no way Kukis will ever be treated equal in a state dominated by the likes of N. Biren. For instance, any criticism made against him by a few members among their community is necessarily followed by

attacks. It is thus necessary to question the central government whether they themselves are afraid of Mr. Biren and his Arambai Tenggol.

The time has come for the central government to at least acknowledge the involvement of Biren in the whole fiasco. The BJP has more than 30 MLAs in the state. However, the central's continual support for Biren – a man who has been accused by the Kukis as the mastermind behind the violence – as if it has no other alternative while his victims the Kukis are still expected to have a dialogue with him being a member of the party in the negotiating table. If this is not cruelty than what is? If this is not perceived by the Kukis as the central government being partisan towards the majority community, then did the government of India give Kukis another option to perceive them as fair and impartial?

Going by how the government has tackled the demands sought by the two communities, the majority community have always had the say. Dialogue can be a solution when both parties agree, but how can it be a dialogue when the majority community's demands are the agenda the Kukis have to accept? How can it be a dialogue when peace after granting all the demands of the Meiteis

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will still be portrayed as a 'goodwill' the Meiteis have shown towards the Kukis by not completely annihilating them? The tone and actions of groups representing the Meiteis is telling of these outcomes, be it civil society like COCOMI, or the Meira Paibis, the government and other politicians, artists and ordinary Meitei people. Is it a crime to be tribals who know their rights in this country?

The government of India has compromised and granted the demands of the dominant group on multiple occasions, sidelining the demands and cries of the Kukis. Any organisation would have been declared a "terrorist" had they committed the same crime of attacking the constitution and its office bearers like what the Arambai Tenggol had publicly done in the ultra Kangla fort meet. But the government of India chose to compromise and fulfill their demands. What result does it yield other than emboldening the dominant groups to openly execute their pogrom to either attack or dehumanise their victims like all other ethnic cleansers and genocide criminals did towards their victims by using terms like slaves (minai), descendants of monkey (yong macha), illegal immigrants, etc. in their own country among others? The hatred against the Kukis is too deeply entrenched in the minds, souls and bones of not only the present generation but of their future generations as well that they shout the slogans in their rallies to annihilate all the Kukis. If citizens of India have equal value of votes then why does not it have equal value of life? Why are Kuki lives not worth as much as Meitei lives? If we are of equal worth, our demands will have the same weightage as the majority community does.

The Home Minister says there is no religious angle involved in this. But Meiteis like actor-turned-politician Maheswar Thounaojam knocks at the door of Hindu radicals to garner their support and sympathy. And as a result the radical news websites like Swarajiya and organizers among others yoga guru Baba Ramdev and many right wing social media influencers like Rami Niranjana Desai have toed the Meitei narrative and defamed the Kukis, portraying the conflict as a persecution against the "Hindus" of Manipur. Love makes people irrational, and the Meiteis took advantage of their religious card to influence such

radicals. It is preposterous that a community that controls the politics, economy and judiciary in the state is claiming to be persecuted? But did the government in the state and at the centre hold such propaganda-peddlers to account for adding fuel to fire in what they term as a sensitive issue? This is one such instance where the arm of the law is crippled to favour the Meitei. Even procurement of military equipment and crowd funding money for an organization that looted government armories and utilized it to commit heinous crimes seems permissible too, going by how the arm of the law never reaches their doorstep. The government can at least curb these menace outside Manipur who are catalyzing and justifying the atrocities against the innocent Kukis, but Kukis are let down in this area too. The likes of Arnab Goswami are using Hamas images and Myanmar videos to defame Kukis in the name of national security as if they don't know who the real threat to the integrity and sovereignty of India is.

It is a well known fact that many in the Meitei community thinks that the merger agreement of Manipur into India is illegal as it does not represent their voices., hence the rise of secessionist insurgency in the state of Manipur. Thus, their agenda is to work their secessionist movement along with their Plan B until Manipur becomes an independent country. They will make a state only for the Meiteis where other Indians have no say in the state. Removal of ASFPA and the Assam Rifles was the first step, implementation of ILP is the second and ethnic cleansing and dehumanizing of their perceived enemies is the present strategy. And if they succeed it will not be surprising if they attack Nagas after the death of Muivah. They will avail all the benefits of being a part of India but will never whole-heartily become Indians themselves. Secession movement in a close and homogeneous society will then be a difficult and complex issue India will have to tackle later on. Thus, to all Hindu right-wingers, the people whom you support for

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

being Hindus would rather become a country like Nepal than join you all in the movement of “Akhand Bharat” because their identity as Meiteis come first before their religion.

If today Kukis are asked why their loyalty and allegiance are with the Assam Rifles, their impartiality is one of the reasons but they are the Indian para-military forces that defend us from Meitei terrorists operating in the hills who raped our girls and used our villagers as human shields and slaves. Kukis are not ungrateful people. If today Meitei sings derogatory and lewd songs of Kuki women and AR, it reflects and mirrors their mentality. Truth be told, the AR is more lenient towards the Meitei than the Kukis in this conflict but since the Meiteis have a debt to settle with them for removing their freedom fighters of Kangleipak from the hills. But the government of India agrees even to this demand.

Myanmar is bordered by four different Indian states and it has porous border across all this state. Any one invested in the security of Northeast is aware of the fact that numerous insurgents and terrorist groups operating in the north eastern states take advantage of this porous border. Some of them like the insurgents groups belonging to the dominant community wage war against India using the porous border. Yet our national media's lack of understanding about Northeast is so clearly visible when they use images of sophisticated weapons as proof of 'foreign hand' in the conflict. Are they too poor to buy books for their further research on insurgents groups operating in Northeast? How come they don't even know who associates with China to fight for their sovereignty in India? They make the innocents out of all the scapegoat. The owners of their channels should invest on buying them books from the earnings they invest on defaming the Kukis. And where is the government authority that is sometimes very proactive in arresting people for spreading hatred, communal disharmony and fake news? These unscrupulous and biased propagandists masquerading as journalists are spreading all the three at one go in the national media.

If illegal immigration is an issue, it is an issue pertaining to all states that have porous borders with Myanmar. Yet the term is used specifically to dehumanize the

Kukis as illegal immigrants. It is understandable that the Meiteis use them because they have to dehumanize the Kukis first to justify their crimes. But what of other Indians who fall in the lies of the Meitei community? If not the Home Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office, at least the Ministry of Tribal Welfare should have come to our rescue or the Judiciary should have passed an order to prohibit them from using the term!. If we talk about illegal immigrants, there are Meitei illegal immigrants too and also from people belonging to other communities. Why specifically target the Kukis? It is a classical case of “the psychology of cruelty” done to the Kukis, but the government is least bothered about it.

As Nobel laureate William Faulkner once said, “Peace is not the absence of conflict, it is the presence of justice,” no big conflict in the past three months as thus declared by Home Minister Amit Shah is not a sign of return of normalcy. It only means that the dominant, majority community had paused the attacks during these three months. It is necessary to underscore the fact that the recent attacks started yet again when the Kukis held rallies calling for holding the chief minister N. Biren Singh accountable with regards to his leaked audiotape confessions. Recognizing the problem for what it is than mere dialogue between the two communities is thus the first step towards bringing a solution in the state. Unless the problem is diagnosed correctively, justice will remain a far cry. It is important to diagnose the problem correctly because JUSTICE PRECEDES PEACE. The central government can achieve this by fulfilling the demands of the Kukis as their past strategies of trying to compromise and meet the demands of the dominant Meitei community have always resulted in failure.

Unless Kukis' demands for justice are given the same importance, any effort will still lead to the tyranny of the majority against a minority due to failure to uphold the constitution and its values by the concerned authority .

**FEATURED ARTICLE**

## Christians Skeptical of New Roadmap for Peace in India's Manipur

Christian leaders have expressed skepticism over the federal government's new "road map" for peace in India's strife-torn Manipur, where the majority of Hindus and ethnic Christians have been fighting for 16 months.

"The situation could have been different had the government taken proactive steps soon after the violence started on May 3 last year, said a senior Church leader, who did not want to be named due to security reasons.

Addressing a press conference in the national capital, New Delhi on Sept. 17, federal Home Minister Amit Shah said a "road map" for peace in Manipur was ready.

"We have prepared a road map to take different initiatives for the situation in Manipur," bordering civil war-hit Myanmar, which is also a leading producer of opium in the world, said Shah, the second in command in the government.

"We are talking to the Kuki and Meitei groups," Shah said but refused to divulge details.

However, it is difficult to achieve a breakthrough as both parties continue "to stick to their guns," the Church leader said.

The church leader alleged that the announcement of the "road map" for peace comes on a politically

important day for the government.

"If anyone can settle the crisis, it is only the federal government," the Church leader told UCA News on Sept. 17.

Shah spoke at the press conference about the significant achievements of the first 100 days of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third consecutive term.

Modi's new federal government came to power on June 9.

The prime minister has not visited the strife-torn state although his pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party runs its government under the leadership of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

The sectarian violence started on May 3 last year when indigenous students were protesting a court move to confer tribal status on the influential Meiteis.

The violence has already claimed more than 230 lives and uprooted 60,000 people, most of them Christians. More than 300 churches have been set on fire.

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Nearly 53 percent of northeastern Manipur's 3.2 million people are Meitei Hindus, while 41 percent are Christians, mainly Kuki-Zo tribal people.

Christians are against the pro-Hindu government's move to include prosperous Meitei Hindus in the affirmation action policy that would guarantee them reservation quotas in education and government jobs.

Kuki-Zo Christians are demanding a separate administration in the hilly areas where they are dominant. The Meiteis who stay mainly in the valleys want Kuki-Zo people removed from their areas.

That would mean Kuki-Zo Christians, who are now displaced and live in relief camps and relatives' houses, would not be able to return to their homes, the Church leader noted.

According to Christians, Meiteis have already destroyed more than 11,000 homes of Christians and some 360

churches in the valleys to "wipe off even the traces" of their existence.

Singh and his pro-Hindu party have been blaming the thriving narcotic trade in Myanmar as the root cause of ethnic strife in the hilly state.

Christians in Manipur have close ties with their counterparts in the conflict-stricken Myanmar in Southeast Asia.

On Feb. 6, India announced that the entire 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar would be fenced.

"Fencing work in 30 km has been completed" and the budget for the fencing is ready, Shah said.

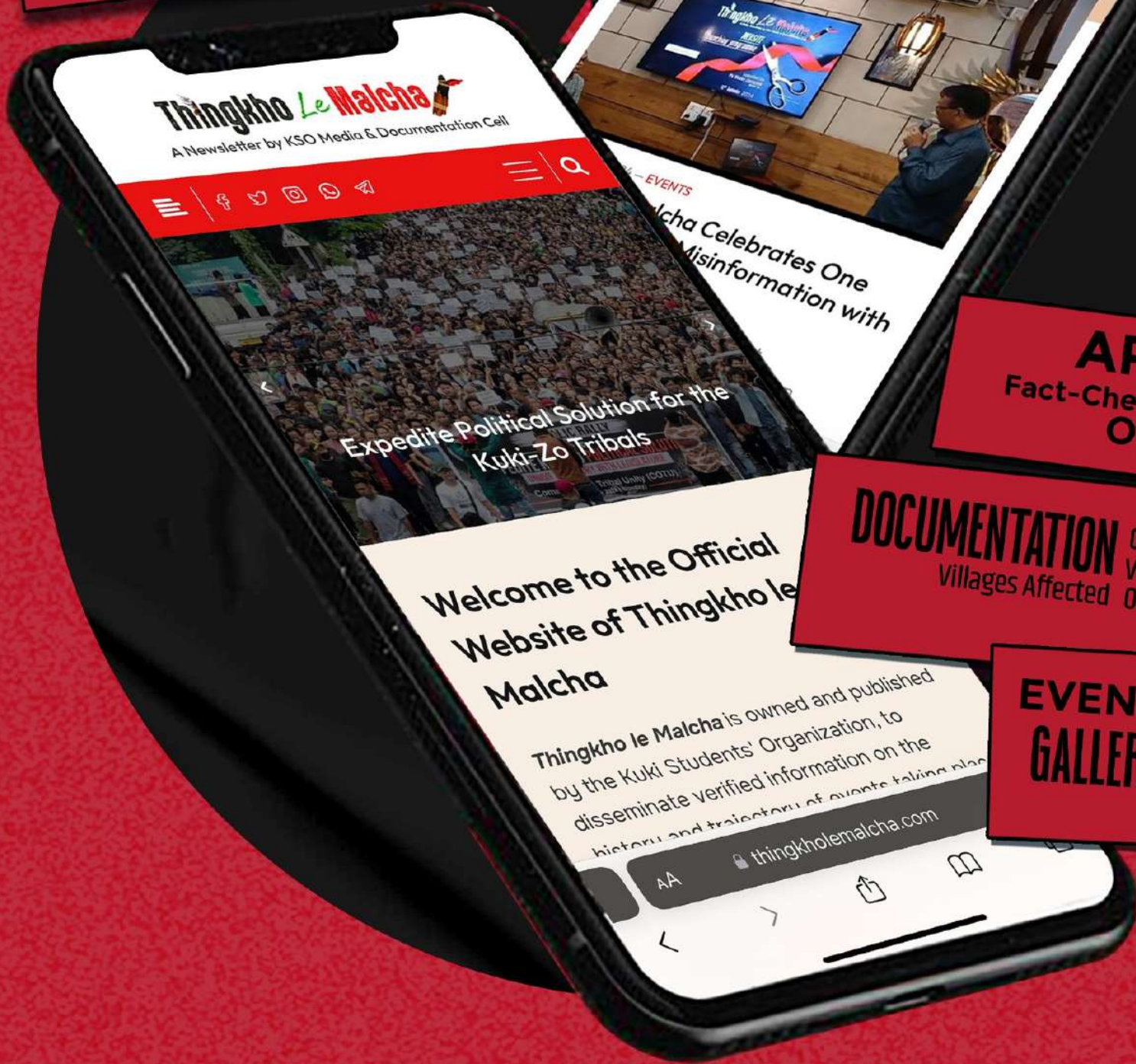
"We are hopeful to bring the situation under control," with the new road map, Shah said.

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# a mask man

Born into a family's loving embrace;  
Without a clear role of designated place;  
He navigates life's journey, lost in the haze.

As he awakes to the World's harsh light;  
Evils outnumber virtues in sight.  
Yet, he finds a few reasons to hold on tight;  
A glimmer of hope , a beacon in the night.

In times of joy , friends flock to his side;  
But in times of needs, few remain to abide.  
He search for work, to make his family proud;  
But faces rejection, a heavy cloud.

Alone, he bears the weight of his struggle and pain;  
Secretly shouldering the burdens , the shame.  
Still, he shows up for his family gatherings and events;  
A Mask of strength,a heart that relent.

In the end, when his time on earth is done;  
A crowd gathers to bide him farewell, a final sun.  
Their condolences, a testament to his life;  
A complex tapestry,a man's strife.

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~ Seineo kuki