

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



KUKI VICTIMS AWAIT

JUSTICE



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.

NO LEGITIMATE SPACE FOR JIRIBAM DISTRICT TO CLAIM THE HILL AREAS, SPECIFICALLY TOUSEM UNDER TAMENGLONG DISTRICT: TASO

Tousem Area Students Organisation (TASO) has written to the MLA Tamenglong assembly constituency Janghemlung Panmei stating that there is no legitimate space for Jiribam district to claim the hill areas, specifically Tousem under Tamenglong district.

In a memorandum submitted to MLA Janghemlung on Thursday, TASO sought the attention and necessary action of the MLA regarding persistent border issues between Tamenglong and Jiribam districts.

TASO stated that the "...official Gazette no. 18/1/1971 Dated 14/2/1972, Planning and Development Gazette no. 20/39/69-D, Dated 12/11/69 by the Government of Manipur and latest official report of Deputy Commissioner, Tamenglong No. 11/453(D-B) 06, Dated 24 August 2021 clearly designates Phaitol and Tatbung under Tousem Sub Division, Tamenglong District".

"Unfortunately, certain individuals and organisations have illegally encroached upon Tousem land, particularly in the mentioned villages", it added.

TASO also stated that Article 371(C) of the Indian Constitution prohibits the occupation of Hill Areas by the General category caste without the permission of the Hill Area Committee, Manipur, and the respective Deputy Commissioner of the hill district.

Stating that they strongly condemn any illegal claims to the land in hill areas and urging prompt resolution of the issue, TASO further stated that individuals or organisations unlawfully occupying land must be addressed within the framework of the law.

KSO GUWAHATI ORGANISE CANDLE LIGHT VIGIL IN HONOUR OF KUKI VICTIMS

Candle Light Vigil to honor our Brave Kuki-Zo Martyrs was organized by Kuki Students' Organisation Guwahati on 20th December 2023 at KWSG Auditorium.

The program started with an opening prayer by Rev. Dr. HD Angam, Pastor KSWG and a Key Note Address by Mr Haoginlen Chongloi, Vice President KSO Guwahati. The candle lighting was led by Mr James T Haokip, President KSO Guwahati, to honor the lives of departed souls.

Kaikam Lupheng, father of Martyr Thangginlun shared the victim's story. KSO Guwahati offered 'Tradition Shawl' as a sign of condolence to the bereaved family. The program ended with a mass prayer led by Rev Stephen Touthang and Rev Hejang Kipgen.



NAGA WOMEN CAUTIONS CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

The Naga Women's Union (NWU) emphasized that extortion and abductions are not signs of a civilized society. They urged all organized Naga civil societies to approach crimes against women more thoughtfully.

In their Thursday Press Release, the NWU highlighted the importance of acknowledging that women are not commodities to be compensated with money.

According to the NWU, the lasting solution lies in allowing judicial expedition and legally punishing offenders based on the severity of their crimes.

The NWU stressed, "It's crucial not to forget that something beneficial to one might harm another. Extortions and abductions are not indications of a civilized society."

The unchecked prevalence of coercive behavior by armed miscreants, camouflaged as taxation in various parts of the state, amounts to nothing less than extortion in the current situation. This trend is leading Manipur into darker times, despite the efforts of those striving for peace.

Under the guise of the status quo, armed miscreants causing chaos in valleys and hills have targeted Naga women, physically harassing and abducting them to unknown locations, which is unacceptable to human rights agencies and global communities.

The NWU asserted that demands, threats, and ransom-based abductions of innocent civilians, especially women, constitute villainous acts that do not serve the larger aspirations of the state and the nation.

Cautioning against the repercussions, the NWU stated, "When our tolerance exceeds limits, remember that actions happening locally can spread globally within seconds."

Condemning armed miscreants operating in groups or units, the NWU indicated a serious and unwarranted path to calamitous doom for Manipur.

Urging an immediate end to these human rights breaches, they emphasized, "Our silence doesn't indicate



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PRESS RELEASE

Date:

A CALL TO STOP HARASSING WOMEN: *Naga Women Union*

The Christmas celebration is approaching fast and is at hand. In spite of high and elated mood of celebration to welcome the Saviour, Christ our Lord, the unbridled and unchecked prevalence of indulgence to coercive behavior by armed miscreants in various parts and localities of state disguised as taxation which is not less than extortion in the name of the existing situation is sounding a call to darker and grimmer Manipur in the times when every sane and good people is striving for the restoration of peace.

In the guise of the status quo, armed malefactors and miscreants creating chaos in the valley and hills have not spared, targeting the ladies belonging to Naga community, physically harassing and abducting them to unknown locations by armed miscreants is not acceptable at all by human right agencies and global communities. The cases of demands, threats, abductions for ransoms on innocent civilians, especially women is a villainous act that will not serve the larger aspiration of the state and the nationwide. This notoriety will lead to nowhere but deep prejudices to whatever community the armed miscreants belong.

The armed miscreants operating in groups or units, as reported, are undertaking a serious yet unwarranted route to calamitous doom for the state of Manipur. It is not good to be forgotten that a thing which seems good for one is harming the other. In the like manner, extortions and abductions taking place is not a sign of civilized society.

The Naga Women Union, Manipur condemns the felonious activities operating indiscriminately to Nagas populace especially, hapless women and ladies is uncalled by the union. We appeal to put an end to those acts of breaching the human rights immediately. Our silence doesn't mean that we are weak. The offensive conduct of interference in work, a threat impacting the victim's self esteem and mental health is punishable under certain sections of IPC. When our tolerance is beyond than we can bear, do not forget that the action which is happening locally can be spread globally within a few seconds. We have been accommodating for a long time considering the situation of confronting parties. The brunt of using women in conflict is costly.

And, it is our fervent appeal to all the Naga organized civil societies to be more sober in negotiation of all types of crime against women. It is always good to remember that women are not commodities or stuff which can be compensated with money. The long lasting solution is to give room for judicial expedition and punish the offenders legally according to the degree of their crime.

Ch. Priscilla Thiumai
President
Naga Women Union

weakness. Interfering with work, threatening self-esteem, and impacting mental health are punishable under certain sections of the IPC," the release stated.

Furthermore, they highlighted, "When our tolerance exceeds limits, remember that actions happening locally can spread globally within seconds."

Acknowledging the Nagas' long-time accommodation amid confrontations, the NWU warned about the costly repercussions of involving women in conflicts.

NAGA YOUTH WILL NOT TOLERATE ACTS OF HATRED AND VIOLENCE AGAINST NAGA COMMUNITY: MANIPUR NAGA YOUTH ORGANISATION

The Manipur Naga Youth Organisation (MNYO) has declared that it will not tolerate any and all acts of hatred and violence against the Naga community.

A statement released by the organisation on Wednesday stated that the MNYO henceforth commits to vigilantly monitor the situation and take decisive actions whenever necessary.

In a resolute commitment to harmony and solidarity, MNYO issued a compelling call to the Meitei and Kuki communities, stressing the urgent need for unity in light of incidents targeting the Nagas in the region.

MNYO stated that a surge in ransom and assaults against the Naga community has prompted the Manipur Naga Youth Organisation to extend their heartfelt appeal to both the Meitei and Kuki communities. It also emphasizes the shared responsibility in safeguarding the cultural richness and diversity that forms the essence of Manipur's unique social fabric. This call transcends ethnic lines, urging the youth from both the Meitei and Kuki communities to reflect on the profound consequences of intolerance and aggression, stated the release.

MNYO also stated that they firmly believe that forging a united front against all divisive forces is essential for peaceful coexistence that transcends ethnic boundaries.

Making it unequivocally clear that patience has its limits, MNYO further urges all communities to actively discourage actions that escalate tensions. Acts of violence and intimidation, irrespective of the targeted community, have no place in shaping Manipur's future, it added. Adopting an impartial stance in the state conflict, the MNYO seeks to dispel misconceptions about its position being a sign of weakness. The impartial stance is a deliberate choice to create an environment where dialogue and understanding can flourish, laying the groundwork for a future that prioritizes shared



PRESS COMMUNIQUE
Imphal, the 19th December, 2023

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Adopting an impartial stance in the state conflict, the MNYO seeks to dispel misconceptions about its position being a sign of weakness. This impartial stance is a deliberate choice to create an environment where dialogue and understanding can flourish, laying the groundwork for a future that prioritizes shared values and mutual respect.

In a stern message to those responsible for acts of hatred and violence, the organization implores an immediate cessation of such actions. The MNYO emphasizes that these deeds not only defy humanity but also sow seeds of irreparable discord that can have long-lasting consequences for all communities involved.

Looking ahead, the MNYO commits to vigilantly monitor the situation and take decisive action whenever necessary. The organization firmly declares that Naga youth will not tolerate acts of hatred and violence against the Naga community.

Sd/-
(Athot Keitang)
President, MNYO

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FOH, MAHESHWAR MISINTERPRETS SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT

The Federation of Haomee in Manipur has submitted a Memorandum to the President of India, urging the removal of the Chin-Kuki-Zo ethnic groups, including one of the oldest constitutionally recognized tribal group “Any Mizo,” from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list in Manipur.

The group contends that the so-called Chin-Kuki-Zo groups do not belong to what they refer to as the “Hao” community. However, it’s important to note that ST recognition is not contingent upon a specific community’s perception of tribal identity or the appropriation of others’ identities. A tribe’s ST status is determined by legal and constitutional criteria, not subjective notions of tribalhood or opinions of a particular community and their imposed “Hao” criteria.

It is anticipated that a much better-articulated and reasonable memorandum from the Kuki-Zo community of Manipur may follow. Despite months of turmoil, it is notable that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Manipur have yet to find a harmonious solution to their issues. It is hoped that Manipur CSOs will soon exhibit better reasoning and wisdom, given their demonstrated capabilities.

If the inclusion of communities in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list of a state were subject to the whims of a majority community in each states, there would likely be a plethora of suggestions from various sources. However, it is essential to recognize that the Constitution prohibits such arbitrary decisions. The fundamental purpose of ST identity is after all to safeguard vulnerable communities from such exploitation by larger communities. It is crucial to grasp a basic understanding of how this system operates. Nevertheless, in a free country, anyone is entitled to submit a memorandum to the President of India.

Social Worker and defeated candidate of the last state assembly election Maheshwar Thounaojam also met Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt of India and raised concerns regarding why Meitei/Meetei should be included in Schedule Tribe list.

According to Maheshwar, “Meitei/Meitei” are descendants of the aboriginal tribes of Manipur and accordingly, they have every right to be considered for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes List of Manipur. He also presented supporting documents to the Minister.



“I have also raised concerns regarding why the Kuki Refugees should be stricken off the roll from Schedule Tribe list. In a Judgement passed on 5th January 2011 in Criminal Appeal No. 11 of 2011, arising out of Special Leave Petition No. 10367 of 2010 in Kailas & Others versus State of Maharashtra TR. Taluka P.S ., the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India held that all Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis) shall be original inhabitants of India.”

“In the light of the said judgement of the Apex Court, the Kukis including Zomis of Manipur are not qualified for being Scheduled Tribes of Manipur on the ground that they are not original inhabitants of Manipur. And now they are playing victim card in the name of ST. We, the indigenous population of Manipur should not tolerate this,” he added.

However, the saying goes “half knowledge is dangerous” to emphasize the potential risks of acting on incomplete or insufficient information. Mr. Maheshwar Thounaojam is devoid of knowledge behind the technicality involved in this court judgement. The court judgement was misread or misinterpreted by Maheshwar which only manifests his pure hatred against the Kuki community. He interpreted the court judgement as per his whims and fancies that he thought the court judgement

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could be used as a tool to initiate campaign against the Kukis to be delisted from the ST list. In reality, the Court judgement does not mention any criteria for a particular community to be enlisted in ST list, rather the judgement emphasized on giving special protection and help to the Scheduled Tribes so that they can be uplifted from their poverty and low social status.

The court judgement said that the most disadvantaged and marginalized in India are the Adivasis (STs), who are the descendants of the original inhabitants of India, and are the most marginalized and living in terrible poverty with high rates of illiteracy, disease, early mortality etc. This was misinterpreted intentionally

by Maheshwar Thounaojam, claiming that the ST should be given only to the original inhabitants of India, which he followed up with another blatant Meitei propaganda which claims that the Chin-Kuki-Zo kindred tribes are not indigenous to Manipur.

The statement of half-wit Maheshwar can only invite contempt of court petition against him for misrepresenting a Supreme Court judgement and making fake claims about the Kuki community. He could also be fined a hefty amount and also invite a prison sentence for involving the Supreme Court in their hate campaign against a particular community.

MEITEI YOUTH RESPONDS TO BIREN'S REMARK, QUESTIONS WHETHER HE HAD TRIED TO TALK WITH THOSE IN THE HILLS

A Meitei youth has given a response to the recent remark of Chief Minister Biren Singh wherein the chief minister had questioned the Meitei youths as to who gave them the authority to check and frisk the vehicles on the roads.

In a video circulating on social media, a youth covering his face partly and carrying an automatic weapon said Biren must not make such statements towards the Meitei community.

He said many of them also had different dreams of becoming an officer, a doctor or an engineer and that it is not their wish to carry arms and move around as village volunteers and so on.

As the head of the State, the chief minister represents all the communities from hills and valleys, he said and questioned Biren as to whether he as the chief minister had tried to talk with those in the hills and tried telling them that the people from the hills and valleys have lived together since the past.

Claiming that the Kukis had recently fired several gunshots from the hills towards the Meitei inhabited areas in different places, the man also questioned the intentions



of the state government in sending security forces in valley areas and thereby conducting combing operations in response to the firing by the Kukis.

He also said that the Prime Minister has not been able to visit Manipur after the violence broke out in the State and he questioned the chief minister whether he was capable of visiting Churachandpur and Moreh after the violence broke out.

MEITEI TRUCKER PROVOKE KUKIS' HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

In an attempt to provoke the humanitarian principles of the Kukis, a Meitei truck driver passing through National Highway 2 has challenged the Kukis, aiming a vile dig at them by calling out certain Kuki names and taunting them by saying all of them fled after he passed through their area. The video was shared on Facebook by "Heingang 360" page.

The Kukis have been known to preserve humanity even in times of war. There are many instances where Kukis freed their enemies who had crossed the buffer zone. Recently, a Meitei woman who crossed the buffer zone in Gamgiphai, Kangpokpi district was sent back safely by the Kuki volunteers.

The trucks carrying essential commodities have been given free passage in an extreme display of humanity. Though the Kukis and Meiteis may be at loggerheads right now, food, medicines and other essential commodities are not blocked by the Kukis unlike the Meira Paibis who blocked even Oxygen cylinders meant for the hill districts, particularly the Kuki dominated areas.

This man and the Meiteis should only blame themselves if any untoward incident happens in the future along the National Highway passing through the Kuki areas for openly provoking and challenging the inhabitants therein. The humanitarian values that the Kukis preserve and hold in high regard should not be provoked like this. It will only invite perilous situations for drivers passing through this area.

Notably, the Home Department, Government of Manipur today issued a Public Notice stating that Imphal – Kangpokpi – Mao Highway and the Imphal – Bishnupur – Churachandpur



Heingang360 • Follow

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**JOURNEY OF DIMAPUR TO IMPHAL TACHAPPA
FHAGI MANLIRO MEITEI NONGSHANI
HAODOKHIBA WA NGAKPA MEITEINI
KHANGJILU** [Dhiraj Luwang Vlogs HEE YAI](#)
[Creation Ngari na Yaifare LeiSna Hijam Sahil Malom](#)



Highway are operational and open for use by all. For convenience and security of the people using the highways, the state government deployed security forces along the aforementioned highways.



Peace we want because there is another war to fight against, poverty, disease and ignorance

– Indira Gandhi

THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

Adfer Aijaz
@adferaijaz

While the whole nation is busy debating over petty issues that happen every now and then, there's a region that needs comprehensive solutions at the earliest!

#Churachandpur #Manipur



From Mojo Story

10:54 PM · Dec 20, 2023 · 3,855 Views

Rajdeep Sardesai
@sardesairajdeep

Story that must not get lost in parliament din: mass burial of 87 victims who died in ethnic violence in Churachandpur in Manipur. It's taken six months and a SC order. Who will hear the voices of the grieving? Who will bring closure?



11:02 AM · Dec 21, 2023 · 171.2K Views

Thongkholal Haokip
@th_robert

I say to all those leaders, do not look the other way. Do not hesitate... It is within your power to avoid a genocide of humanity. - Nelson Mandela



8:56 PM · Dec 21, 2023 · 597 Views

তন্ময় | Tanmoy I
@tanmoyofc

Priority of India's Administrative Head

- Manipur Violence 🙄
- Naked Parade of Tribal Women 🙄🙄🙄
- Hathras Rape Case 🙄
- Sexual Harrasment of Wrestlers 🙄
- Silkayara Tunnel Collapsed 🙄
- Brijbhushan Still in Parliament 🙄
- Ramesh Bidhuri Used Slur Against a Muslim Elected Member 🙄🙄

Mimicry 🙄🙄🙄

#DroupadiMurmu #JagdeepDhankhar
#ParliamentSuspended #ModiDisasterForIndia



FEATURED ARTICLE

Tree Planks and Bones: Manipur Families Burn and Bury Remains of Kins killed in Conflict

Makepeace Sithou & Kaybie Chongloi

At the crack of dawn on Friday, December 15, an unusual funeral was underway at Khumbong Mayai Leikai in Manipur’s Imphal West. Instead of corpses, two human-shaped planks made by Meitei Brahmin priests out of leaves and straws from a Pang-gong (Flames of the Forest) tree were placed on the pyres and burned. The Hindu ritual was more symbolic, to help depart the souls of 47-year-old Atom Samarendra and Yumkhaibam Kirankumar, who have been missing without a trace since May 6.

The two Meitei men, who were last seen at the Olympic Park in Sangaithel hillock in Imphal West, have been accepted as dead by their families after the rituals conducted last week. On the same day, 73 bodies that had been lying scattered in morgues across the state were airlifted to the respective home districts after the Supreme Court ordered the Manipur government to make the arrangements. Of these, four bodies were brought to Imphal. One of the four families declined to receive the body of their kin because they had already conducted the Pang-gong funeral ritual in absentia, said Atom Nanda, a member of the Imphal West Students’ Club and cousin of one of the missing men, Atom Samarendra.

Despite a massive hunt by the police and state government to locate Atom Samarendra and Yumkhaibam Kirankumar, their whereabouts remain unknown to date. “The family elders decided to perform the last rites so that their souls can find peace,” Nanda

told The News Minute. “But my bhabhi and I still believe he will come back one day. We cannot accept he’s gone until we see his body.”

The two are among 27 non-tribals reported missing since the ethnic conflict broke out on May 3 between Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo tribes. Nandan told TNM that his brother’s final rites were the sixth in the valley to have been conducted in the absence of a body. “The families of two other boys who died also performed the same ritual because they saw the video of them getting killed,” he said. “It went viral but they did not get the body.”

In the Churachandpur hills, 87 bodies were finally laid to rest six feet under on December 20, five days after 41 bodies of the deceased lying in Imphal morgues were airlifted to the town renamed Lamka. The Kuki-Zo tribes had waited months for the bodies lying rotting in Imphal to bury them along with the 46 that were preserved in the Churachandpur hospital morgue, as per tribal customary laws. The mass ceremony entailed songs like Igam Hilou Ham (Is this not my land?), mass prayers and gun salute attended by thousands in the Tribal Martyrs’ park.

While many of the dead are victims of the violence, LS Mangboi died a martyr defending his homeland

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and the Kuki-Zo demand for separating their territories from the state of Manipur. The singer and composer of Igam Hilou Ham (which has over a million hits on YouTube) died in the line of duty as a village defence volunteer, one of the many hundreds of civilians who picked up arms to protect tribal hills villages from attacks by Meitei extremist groups.

Lhingboi, his wife, said her husband died from government-licensed weapons that were stolen from the police armouries by Meitei radical groups. "More than 10 splinter mortar bombs were found on his head," she told TNM. "He was buried with those splinters."

As a single parent to three sons and two daughters now, Lhingboi is mentally preparing for the challenges ahead. She said she had no regrets "becoming a widow for the cause of the Kuki-Zo nation because I strongly believe his sacrifice will not go in vain."

The conflict that broke out over a Manipur High Court order recommending Scheduled Tribe status for the Meiteis, who are the ethnic majority in the state, has shown no sign of simmering down eight months down the line despite the death of 178 people reported by officials till October. Instead, the state has been sharply divided along ethnic lines in administration (including the state police) and geographically with buffer zones dividing the tribal-dominated hills and the Meitei-ruled valley. The Kuki-Zo minority tribes, who make up 14% of the state population, suffered in greater numbers with 77 of them dying in early May as opposed to 11 Meiteis, as per a Reuters report.

A majority of these deaths from the Kuki Zo community were in the Imphal valley, where attacks on tribal neighbourhoods started in the evening of May 3 after trouble broke out in the Kuki-dominated Churachandpur hill district.

WhatsApp-fuelled rumours gave way to Meitei mobs, many of them accompanied by state police forces, rampaging through neighbourhoods looking for

houses and residents belonging to the Kuki Zo tribes.

Last Saturday, 28 bodies coined as 'tribal martyrs' were buried at the Martyrs Cemetery at Phaijang village in Kangpokpi hill district. However, the tribal custom of allowing families to take the bodies home for condolence and see them one last time could not be followed due to the aggressive decomposition of the corpses, said L Singsit, the general secretary of the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU), Sadar Hills.

Unlike the Meitei families who conducted last rites with tree planks, the Kuki Zo tribal families felt a wave of relief after burying their relatives. Paotinthang Hangsing could not eat or sleep for months until his daughter, Florence, reached him on Saturday. Florence Hangsing and Olivia Chongloi were brutally raped and killed in a car wash centre in Imphal where they had been working for over a year.

"But I carried the coffin. It felt heavy," he told TNM, aggrieved that he was not allowed to open the coffin and see his beloved daughter's face. "After her decent and honourable burial, I am very relieved and can finally accept she is no longer with us."

Also, buried that day were 7-year-old Tonsing Hangsing, his mother Meena and aunt Lydia who were burnt alive in an ambulance in June en route to Imphal after a sniper bullet hit Tonsing. His mother and aunt belonged to the Meitei community. Tonsing's father, Joshua felt a mix of pain and relief when his deceased wife and son came home in the Indian Air Force chopper, breaking down on the side of their coffins. He knew that only their skeletal remains were left inside.

"I was in pain that even an innocent child who needs urgent medical treatment was not spared," he said. "But I am relieved that they can now rest peacefully in the arms of God."

While many of the Meitei families expressed their anguish over the 27 missing bodies, the Kuki Zo families were upset over the inordinate delay in burying their dead, with little hope of justice from the BJP

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government. According to the Indigenous Tribal Leader Forum, 11 Kuki Zo bodies remain missing. With the valley remaining out of bounds for the Kuki Zo tribes, the families of the deceased had long pleaded with state and central authorities for the bodies to be handed over to them to no avail. In November, however, the SC formed judicial committee submitted that NGOs had prevented the burial of the bodies lying in Imphal morgues by pressuring families ostensibly to keep the ethnic tension boiling.

Kuki-Zo NGOs strongly objected to the report, saying the committee had no contact or discussion with them, which they attributed to the state government, which has openly shown their support for the Meitei majority. Singsit of COTU told TNM that they had never agreed to bury their dead in Torbung Bangla, a village in the periphery of Churachandpur hill district and Bishnupur in the valley that was earlier being considered as a burial site for the slain Kuki-Zo.

Inaotan Lourembam, Lydia's husband, and also from the Meitei community, said that their Haosapu (village

chief), area leaders, and Kuki-Zo NGOs had not pressured him in any way but rather consoled him and his family. He said that she was three months pregnant at the time of her death.

"She was killed while showing humanity at its best, and the same humanity brought her home and gave her a decent burial," he told TNM.

Neither Lourembam nor Hangsing felt they could hope for justice from either the state government, which is accused of ethnic bias by the Kuki-Zo or Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has not visited the state to date.

"Modi's silence over Manipur's violence makes me angrier than the delay in burying my loved ones," said Joshua. "Had he spoken seriously about the violence, my son and my wife could have been buried much earlier, and the victim numbers lesser."

Source: The News Minute



**THE
AWAITED
JUSTICE**





Village Wardens

In the heart of night, 'neath moonlit sky,
Village defenders stand, ever nigh.
Tirelessly they guard, both day and night,
Through sweltering heat and cold's cruel bite.

In bunkers, where mosquitoes dance,
They hold the line, their steadfast stance.
Single barrels gripped, their trusted might,
Against a foe with weapons of automatic fright.

Beneath the stars, a silent fight,
Village defenders, warriors of the night.
In echoes of gunfire, their valor's heard,
Against odds, they stand, unwavering and absurd.

Through shadows deep, and danger near,
They'll defend their land without a fear.
Single barrels blaze, a resolute breath,
Against the storm, they'll stand 'til death.

-Thangmin Baite

