

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LALNIKHAM KHAWBUNG (42 YEARS)

H/O LALCHULLO

ADDRESS: RENGKAI, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: MURDERED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



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.

WOMEN OF SANGAIKOT SUB-DIVISION DISMANTLE ITBP BUNKERS IN PROTEST AGAINST SECURITY BREACHES



The peace and security of the Makhao area in Sangaikot Sub-Division have been repeatedly destabilized due to the actions of the 49th battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) stationed at Tangjeng. The 49 ITBP has been accused of diluting the sanctity of the Buffer Zone by allowing Meitei civilians and suspected Meitei militants to sneak inside the area, failing to maintain internal security coordination with its counterparts, the 31 ITBP and the 36 Assam Rifles (AR), and illegally occupying bunkers on the hilltops of Cananphai and Leisan villages.

Local village chiefs have requested the 49 ITBP to vacate these bunkers, but their pleas have gone unheeded. This has led to increasing frustration among the local populace.

In response, the womenfolk of Sangaikot Sub-Division have taken matters into their own hands. The Media Cell of the Sangaikot Sub-Division Development

Committee (SSDDC) reports that these women dismantled the bunkers and forcibly drove the ITBP personnel out from the Cananphai and Leisan hilltops, urging them to relocate to their proper position at Tangjeng across the River Bank.

The SSDDC Media Cell issued a statement highlighting the reasons behind this drastic action. They cited the 49 ITBP's repeated breaches of the Buffer Zone's sanctity, their failure to coordinate with other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to ensure peace and security, and their disregard for local authorities' requests as key factors that led to this escalation.

The SSDDC's statement underscores the community's growing impatience with the 49 ITBP's conduct and their determination to protect their hard-earned peace and security.

NSCN CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF CHRISTIANS AMID RISING VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR; WARNS ARAMBAI TENGGOL

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) has issued a statement expressing deep concern over the ongoing Meitei-Kuki-Zo ethnic conflict in Manipur, which began on May 3, 2023. The NSCN has maintained a neutral stance but has been closely monitoring the developments, particularly the increasing harassment and physical assaults on Christians by the local militant group Arambai Tenggol.

The NSCN highlighted the well-known fact that the formation of Arambai Tenggol is backed by individuals with extreme principles and a radical agenda for socio-political reforms. The violent extremism exhibited by Arambai Tenggol is seen as a significant threat to peace and tolerance in the region.

In its statement, the NSCN emphasized the necessity to protect the interests and safety of Christians in Manipur, noting Arambai Tenggol's apparent animosity towards this community. The NSCN urged Arambai Tenggol to change its approach and stop treating Christians with hostility, advocating instead for the peaceful coexistence of all religious groups in Manipur.



“The NSCN stands for the peaceful coexistence of all religious groups in Manipur. We hope for a change of heart on the part of Arambai Tenggol and urge them to stop treating Christians as if to get rid of the dirt,” the statement read.

The NSCN's call comes amidst a backdrop of escalating violence and tension in Manipur, with various communities feeling the strain of the ongoing conflict. The organization hopes its message will contribute to a more tolerant and peaceful resolution of the conflict.



**I prefer liberty with danger than
peace with slavery**

- Rousseau

LAW AND DISORDER IN MEITEIS' VALLEY OF IMPHAL: MAN SHOT DEAD, GRENADE THROWN AT PMGSY OFFICER, MILITANTS ARRESTED

Daily affairs of violent incidents in the Meiteis' ancestral land of Imphal valley are clear indications of the complete breakdown of law and order under the incompetent leadership of N. Biren Singh, the Meitei Chief Minister of Kangleipak.

The absence of AFSPA has deteriorated the situation and the reign of proscribed militants including the radicalised armed groups over the Meitei people could become beyond control, thus threatening the national security.

On July 21, a man was shot dead in Manipur's Imphal East district. The incident took place at Tekcham in Lamlai police station area. The man, identified as R.K. Prithibi Singh, was blindfolded, his hands tied behind his back and shot from a point-blank range.

A proscribed outfit, KCP (Progressive), claimed responsibility for the execution-style murder, stating that Singh was spying for security forces. It claimed that Singh was a former militant who teamed up with other surrendered militants to spy for the forces. However, the family members of the victim denied the claim of KCP (P) and demanded justice.

On July 22, the Meitei militants threw a grenade at the residence of an Executive Engineer (Engineer) of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), located at Lilong Chajing Mamang Leikai under the Singjamei Police Station in Imphal West district. The grenade was found unexploded at around 5:30 am on Monday inside the courtyard of Puyam Rajendro Singh, Executive Engineer of the PMGSY.

After informing the concerned authorities, the Manipur Police Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad retrieved the bomb and later it was detonated at a dumping site in the Imphal West district at around 7:30 am on Monday. The motive behind the bomb threat is suspected to be monetary demand from the concerned officer, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Security Forces have arrested eight



militants in different locations. On Sunday, combined security forces arrested two active cadres of proscribed KCP (Politburo Standing Committee) during search operations from Meitram Mayai Leikai in Bishnupur District.

The arrested persons were identified as Ayekpam Chingkhui Meitei (28) and Chandam Devajit Singh (19). A sum of Rs. 13,500 in cash, one aadhar card, three mobile handsets and one four-wheeler vehicle were recovered from their possession.

Security forces also arrested one active member of the proscribed KCP (PWG) identified as Khoirom Ranjit Meitei @ Poirei @ Rocky (44 years) from Pangei Bazar in Imphal East District. He was involved in regrouping and recruiting new members for the outfit, arranging weapons for the newly recruited members and extortion activities.

In another search operation, security forces arrested three active members of the proscribed outfit KCP (Taibangnganba) identified as Soisenba Oinam @ Ito (22), Lourembam Chingkheinganba (21) and Ningombam Jerit Singh (23). They were involved in extortion activities in and around the Imphal area.

In another operation, Security Forces arrested two active members of the proscribed KYKL (Sorepa) group from Border pillar No. 80 under Moreh Police Station. The arrested persons were identified as Samurailakpam Deno Sharma @ kengba (23) and Taorem Yuhamba Singh @ Loya (23).

MEGHALAYA CM CONCERNED OVER 'VERY COMPLICATED' SITUATION IN MANIPUR

Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation in Manipur, describing it as "very complicated".

In an interview to ThePrint, Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma stressed on the need for political leadership at both the central and state levels to take responsibility and find a way forward to resolve the crisis in Manipur.

He had also highlighted the National People's Party's (NPP) efforts to urge the Centre to ease the situation in Manipur.

"There's a significant trust deficit in Manipur that has been exacerbated by various factors," Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma stated.

He added: "While trust issues have existed for a long time at certain levels, the recent events have caused these issues to grow exponentially."

The Meghalaya chief minister also highlighted the



crucial role that the Centre can play in restoring peace and moving forward in the right direction.

"The Centre can send a strong, positive message and take decisive actions to foster peace," the Meghalaya CM said.

"It's clear that we need to find solutions, and as leaders, whether at our party level, the national level, or the state level, we must act to resolve these issues." (NE Now News)

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JULY 22, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JULY 22, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

22nd July, 2023:

Meitei terror group set ablaze at the Children's Treasure High School (CTS) in Torbung at approximately 7:00 PM. Following this devastating act, they proceeded toward Torbung with intentions to burn Kuki-Zo houses, opening fire on the villagers.

However, the resilient village volunteers took a brave stand, defending their community against further destruction. Their courageous actions thwarted the Meiteis' attempts to inflict further harm upon the residents.

In a separate but equally troubling development, around 11:00 PM, a combined team composed of Arambai

Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, Meitei militants, and Manipur Police Commandos launched an attack on Molngat from the Kangvai area in Lamka district. This assault resulted in the injury of one village volunteer.

A combined team comprising Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun, Meitei militants, and Manipur Police Commandos launched an attack on Langza in Lamka district. It is deeply concerning that Langza has been subjected to such frequent attacks, with incidents occurring nearly every day since the tragic beheading of David Thiek.

**FEATURED ARTICLE****A New Wave of Displacement In Manipur, As Hundreds Of Tribal Minorities Seek Refuge In Assam****Debarun Choudhury**

On a rainy afternoon on 7 June 2024, a 27-year-old woman called Lalringmoi and her family fled her home in the Manipuri village of Jairon, where she had grown up, towards the neighbouring state of Assam.

A nervous and soft-spoken woman from the Hmar tribe, Lalringmoi, carried Adaline, her 10-month-old baby, in her arms, with her husband, Lalbiekthuom, a mechanic. Their three other children, aged 3, 5, and 7, ran alongside them, holding their hands tightly, as they escaped a mob of Meitei people, the largest ethnic group in Manipur.

A couple of hundred metres away from their home, they found a jeep and then a bus, carrying 50 other refugees, that would take them, and their one suitcase of hurriedly-packed clothes, towards Assam and safety.

Lalringmoi, Lalbiekthuom (both use one name) and their family are among hundreds of Manipuri Kuki and Hmar tribal minorities, both part of the Zo community, who fled their homes on 6 June 2024, when a new outbreak of violence hit the district of Jiribam and neighbouring areas.

The latest exodus from the district, 216 km west of state capital Imphal, added to the estimated 65,000 already in refugee camps since Manipur descended into civil

war in May 2023, claiming at least 221 lives, with the army and police failing to bring peace.

The latest round of violence came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the conflict for the first time in Parliament, on 3 July 2024, more than a year after the strife began, saying his government was “working tirelessly to bring stability and ensure peace”.

There has been no peace in Jiribam since 6 June 2024, when the discovery of the severely injured body of Soibai Sarathkumar Singh, a 59-year-old farmer from Manipur’s majority Meitei community, sparked fresh violence in a state already devastated by conflict.

Many families were forced to leave after at least 70 houses were burnt down by suspected militants later that same day.

The renewed violence displaced about 2,000 people, now housed in an undetermined number of refugee camps in Assam. It isn’t clear how many refugee camps exist in that state because many are informal and the state government, officials said, was not counting.

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60-80 Share 4 Bathrooms

Since reaching Assam, Lalringmoi's family has been living in a large hall with nearly 80 others, who share four bathrooms, in a refugee camp called Thalai Inn, run by the evangelist Independent Church of India (ICI).

The camp is in the village of Hmarkhawlien, 434 km south-east of the state capital Guwahati.

Lalbiekthuom has spent most of his time looking for work.

"I take care of the kids while my husband goes out to shop for groceries most days," Lalringmoi said. "While he looks for work, it's hard for me to mingle with other people."

As her children played a game of catch-me-if-you-can, Lalringmoi said she could only focus on the home they fled and all that they left behind: friends and community, the children's school, and most of their possessions.

The journey for refugees like Lalringmoi was difficult and marked with uncertainty. With the constant threat of violence, many travelled through forests and hills and endured severe monsoon rains.

The refugees travelled in groups, relying on numbers for protection, and sharing their scant supplies of food and water.

According to police estimates, approximately 1,700 people crossed the border in a week, beginning on 7 June 2024, some of them by boats across the river Barak, and the Jiri, its tributary, which marks the border between the two states, to Hmarkhawlien, in the Cachar district of Assam, seeking refuge.

'Hmarkhawlien', whose name comes from 'Hmar', the tribe's name, 'Khaw' meaning 'village' and 'Lien' meaning big, falls under the Lakhipur sub-division of Cachar.

Grim Conditions In Refugee Camps

The Thalai Inn camp is managed by local volunteers like Solomon Hmar under the supervision of Reverend Lalrohlu of the ICI and was built using donations from members of the church, which is headquartered in Churachandpur, Manipur.

"We built the inn primarily for recreation and lodging purposes for our guests, but since the violence started, we have handed it over to Hmarkhawlien village council to use as a refugee camp," said Reverend Lalrohlu.

Solomon Hmar, who lives in a single-room concrete house inside the camp, manages supplies and other needs of the refugees. Up to 80 refugees live in a common hall with four bathrooms and a single cooking area.

Volunteers, wearing t-shirts and vests in bright colours, rushed through the camp with a sense of urgency, and exhaustion written on their faces. One of them, Dina Hmar, paused to say, "We haven't gotten any help from the government."

The Hmarkhawlien camp, run by the Barak Valley chapter of the Hmar Student Association (HSA), which aims to encourage education and a sense of community among the Hmar people, is a couple of kilometres from the 'Thalai Inn' camp. The camp, which houses close to 100 people, looked like an abandoned godown. The leaky roofs and tarpaulin sheets did little to keep the constant rain out.

The refugees have to deal with the constant scarcity of food and clean water. Dina Hmar, who helps out at both camps, said, "We are doing everything we can, but it isn't enough. These people require more than we can offer on our own."

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They struggle to afford food from the local market as most of them no longer have a source of income.

Volunteers at the Hmarkhawlien camp built a temporary septic tank, but excessive rainwater saturated the ground around it and caused it to crack. Dina Hmar said, "It's a temporary solution; the leaks and cracks overwhelm the tanks, and the wastewater spills out."

Accessing medical care was also not easy. "Doctors don't visit here for checkups," Dina Hmar said. "If someone falls sick, we (volunteers) arrange for a vehicle to take them to the local Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC)."

John Lalhrietsang, 13, was able to escape Jairon with his two brothers and his parents in the same convoy that carried Lalringmoi's family before the mob could torch their house. He spends his days inside the Thalai Inn camp, with his siblings, while their parents search for work.

When we met them, the children were playing in the muddy grounds of the camp, spending most of their time looking for anything that could be used as a toy.

"I had a football," said Lalhrietsang. "But I lost it on the journey."

'No One Has Shown Up'

According to the Geneva-based non-profit, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024, Manipur accounted for 67,000 of the 69,000 individuals displaced in South Asia last year.

These refugees live in underfunded and overcrowded camps without basic amenities, such as clean water, medical treatment, and sanitation.

Volunteers on the ground voiced their frustration with the government's apathy.

"Local MLA Kaushik Rai (of the Lakhipur constituency) is the only state-level politician who has visited us and financially supported us," said Dina Hmar. "Nobody else has even bothered to show up."

The union and state government's indifference to the refugees has forced them to depend on community organisations for support.

"We are running the Hmarkhawlien camp with support from Hmar Inpui, the apex body of the Hmar Tribes," said Jesai Hmar, president of the local chapter of the HSA. "Churches from the North-East region also support us in whatever capacity they can."

Amnesty International's interviews with health workers, residents, humanitarian organisations and journalists at shelter camps in Manipur revealed the dearth of state assistance, despite the claims of "timely intervention" of the central and state government and the promise of a financial aid package by Prime Minister Modi in April 2024.

K*, of Fieldnotes, an independent digital media platform that has been reporting on the ground in Manipur, said, "The state has utterly failed in providing adequate relief."

"In February 2024, the government deliberately stopped supplying relief materials. (Those) in Lamka relief camp held a protest demanding basic sustenance," said K. "NGOs, churches and other civil society groups have come together to support the internally displaced persons."

Hostile Govt Rhetoric

The Assam police have deployed specially trained "commandos" to patrol NH-37, a vital highway

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connecting the state to Manipur. The two states share a 132-kilometre border, a large section of which is riverine.

Patrolling has increased on the Jiri and Barak rivers, as well, according to the superintendent of police Numal Mahatta.

Policies and rhetoric have often leaned towards hostility.

“It’s Assam, not Manipur,” Prasanta Kumar Bhuiyan, the Assam inspector general (law and order), said at a news conference on 24 June 2024, adding that the “state has a history of combating militancy and would not spare anyone proven to be participating in unlawful activities”.

This combative stance was made clear on 16 July 2024, when the Assam police detained three Hmar men, Lallungawi Hmar, Lalbiekkung Hmar and Joshua (who was identified by a single name), and took them into custody from an autorickshaw.

The three men, described by the chief minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, as “militants”, were later declared dead.

The HSA called the men “village volunteers” and said that they had been defending Kuki-Zomi-Hmar villages against “Meitei militants”. They described police action as “brutal custodial deaths” and “extrajudicial killings”.

The HSA, along with the Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee, a nonprofit that aims to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in India, called for an impartial, independent inquiry by state and central agencies.

On 23 June 2024, the Assam police began a door-to-door survey to establish the number of Manipuri refugees living in Cachar.

Longing For Home

Kimneihing Singson, a Kuki woman, first came to the Hmarkhawlien camp after her husband was killed in

June 2023, while guarding their home in Phaitol, Manipur. She fled the village with her five children, leaving most of her belongings behind.

She returned home in the winter of the same year, after the first wave of violence subsided, but was forced to leave, yet again, in May 2024. She travelled back to Hmarkhawlien in a convoy of around 100 people.

Jesai Hmar explained that many refugees, like Singson, went back to Manipur last year to try and pick up the pieces of their lives.

“People keep going back to salvage whatever belongings they have left,” he said, “And those who are farmers go back to collect produce from their farmlands.”

Many more Manipuri refugees shared similar stories, saying they were living in limbo, as they dreamt of their homes that perhaps did not exist any more.

Samuel Nengngaijou, 15, and his 17-year-old sister Sylvia, from Phaitol, Manipur, fled to Assam last year after hearing rumours that their village was about to be attacked by Meitei militants.

“I hope that when we go back, my parents are still alive so that I can live with them,” said Samuel.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

(Debarun Choudhury is a freelance journalist based in Assam.)

First published by [Article 14](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Kuki Lalboi
@KukiLalboi

Manipur: Hundreds of Churches burned. Thousands of homes destroyed. Demand accountability. Where is the justice for the KukiZo people? Their villages lie in ashes. #Justice4KukiZo #ManipurViolence



19:30 · 22 Jul 24 · 17 Views



Militant Tracker
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🇮🇳 - KCP Taibanganba Exposed! Meitei Terrorists Reveal Bishnupur Base

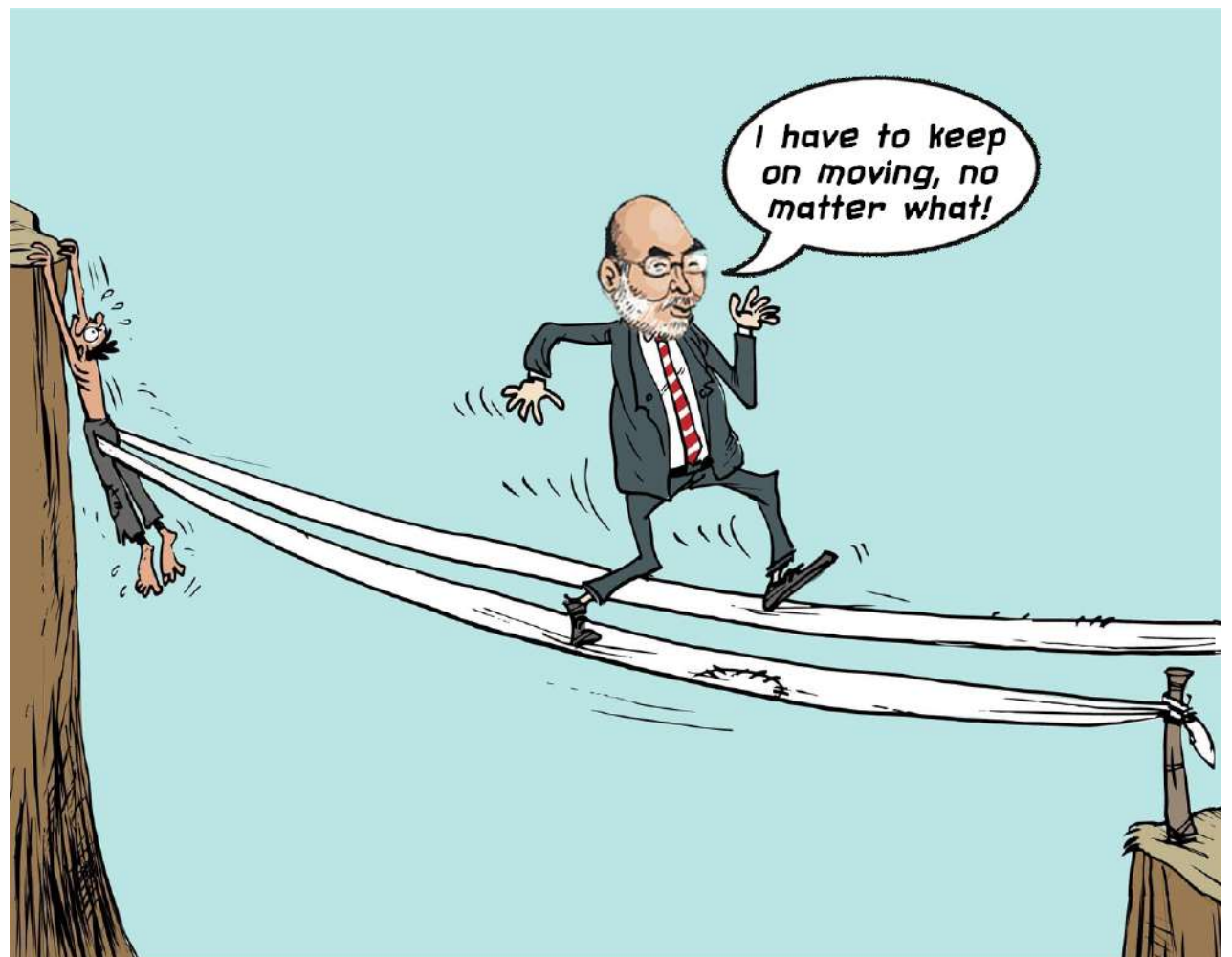
The Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) has shockingly revealed their hideout in Bishnupur Ward No-11. Boasting over 200 cadres, this Meitei terror group has been launching relentless attacks since May 3, 2023.



11:06 · 22 Jul 24 · 768 Views



TAKING THE NARROW WALK



A PRAYER OF A BIBLE LECTURER, WHOSE VILLAGE IS EXPERIENCING ETHNIC VIOLENCE

In a village once full of life and grace,
Torn apart now by ethnic violence and hate,
A lecturer of the Word, a shepherd true,
Mourns now the loss of peace and the harm done
to his people once again.

With every verse, every passage so dear,
The Bible taught us love, forgiveness, and hope to
hold near,
But now, strife and fear reign in my village and
surrounding areas,
And the darkness seems to suffocate, to remain.

Yet, even in the midst of pain and strife,
God's message of hope, of love, becomes our life,
A beacon in the darkness, a guiding light,
Reminding us that God's love will never subside.

May the Bible and its teachings, be a balm to the
troubled souls of my people.

May the Almighty God bring healing and peace,
and stability to my people and land, and make us
whole again.

May Kukiland, our motherland, feel the love and
peace once again,
And may the message of hope forever be released.

O heavenly Father, I beseech thine favour,
May our Church's worship service renew and
resume,

May your healing touch be upon my people,
May peace and normalcy return to our land.

May you judge those who wounded us.
May your name be glorified and exalted
to the nations.

LETGUNLEN LHUNGDIM, G. Songgel
(Lecturer, MIBC Trivandrum)