

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## N. Molhoi RELIEF CENTRE

N. Molhoi JB School, Lamka

Managed by  
Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi  
General Headquarters (KKL GHQ)

**Total Inmates Registered: 145\***

■ Male: 84

■ Female: 61

\*As on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023



## 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 STEP SHOULD BE INITIATED FOR RESETTLEMENT OF MEITEIS IN MOREH UNTIL AND UNLESS CENTRE AND APEX KUKI-ZO BODIES REACH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

Kuki Zo civil bodies in Moreh have reiterated their stand that no step should be initiated for resettlement of the Meitei in Moreh under any circumstance until and unless the government of India and the apex Kuki Zo bodies reach a political settlement.

Hill Tribe Council Moreh, KSO Moreh Block, Kuki Women Union and Human Rights Moreh, Moreh Youth Club and Kuki Khanglai Lawmpi Moreh issued a joint release on Saturday and expressed their disappointment over certain incidents in Moreh.

The civil bodies termed it unfortunate that any event that takes place in Moreh is being fabricated and publicised by the state government, state media houses and the state commandos.

Not long ago, commandos arrested some drug addicts from Myanmar who were caught stealing in Moreh. They were then portrayed as illegal Kuki immigrants by the Manipur state medias, it added.

The civil bodies stated that, "Repetition of further such false and cheap propaganda will disturb peace".

The civil bodies alleged that the government through Tengnoupal district commissioner disallowed Moreh community leaders from cleaning and repairing the community variety market citing supreme court order, though the community leaders' move was to accommodate poor vegetable sellers.

At present, the state commandos have started occupying deserted private Meitei houses in Moreh, stated the release and added that the authority concerned should stop them immediately and confine them in the barracks.

"Or, in the event of any untoward incidents arising out of this, CSOs cannot be held accountable", it stated.

Stating that banks are indispensable public institutions, the civil bodies added that the stationing of commandos at the premises of SBI Moreh apart from causing fear among bank customers is causing a lot of inconveniences.

Vehicles belonging to commandos parked day and night along the congested main road in front of the bank itself is public nuisance which gives very little space for bank customers as well as bank staff, stated the release.

The civil bodies demanded that the commandos should be shifted at the earliest and instead, people friendly police and central security personnels be deployed at Moreh SBI.

The civil bodies suggested that it would be in the fitness of things if the off and on process of deporting Myanmar based Meitei surrenderee militants through Moreh international border is made public in the presence of media houses as this is creating public apprehension that there are high chances of the militants infiltrating the Manipur state commandos.

No Meitei civilians should be allowed to mingle among the CDO as was done before which would invite avoidable violence, it added

The civil bodies further stated that they have full faith and confidence in the central Indian security forces to keep peace and normalcy.

The civil bodies claimed that presence of state commandos is a threat to peace and normalcy whose excessive activities have been causing havoc in this border town.

The functioning of schools in Moreh have been crippled due to the presence of commandos in town. The future of the young generation is at stake. Until commandos are wholly withdrawn from Moreh, no additional personnels should be deployed, the release added.

"While the Arambai Tenngol, Meitei Leepun, surrendered meitei militants with sophisticated guns in their hand are allowed to roam freely in Imphal valley, the hunt for Kuki-Zo CSO leaders on the ground of mere suspicion or cooked allegation and the arrest and imprisonment of innocent Kuki-Zo civilians of Moreh just because they possess suspicious images on their mobile phone speaks volumes as to how much discrimination is being allowed by the state government", it added.

Let the Manipur state government stop harassing CSO leaders and release innocent civilians from prison at the earliest, the civil bodies stated.

# MANIPUR GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO FERRY CONVOY FAILS IN KANGGUI, LAMKA

Barely a few days ahead of Christmas, tension gripped Kuki dominated hill districts in Manipur over the state Home Department's public notice to ferry convoy with the provision of additional security forces along the Imphal-Kangpokpi-Mao route.

The state Government's attempt to ferry the convoy along the National Highway-2 (Imphal-Kangpokpi-Mao route) was foiled as enraged mobs came out on the street to confront any movement of the convoy at various locations from Gamgiphai to Kangpokpi District Headquarters.

On the other hand, the MST bus that departed from Malom to Churachandpur this morning, around the same time, was also forced to return from the Phougakchao area after a large number of people, under the aegis of the ITLF, halted them despite the presence of heavy central security forces.

Even the state governor's program to inaugurate the pre-fabricated houses at Champhai today was also canceled owing to the volatile situation.

The irate mobs also imposed an emergency shutdown at Kangpokpi District Headquarters putting down all shutters of shops and business establishments. Though vehicular movement was not restricted, intense frisking and checking were however carried out along the highway at Kangpokpi District Headquarters and Gamgiphai.

Even village volunteers with their licensed arms also came out on the street intensifying the public movement.

The launching of the Manipur State Transport (MST) bus service between Imphal-Senapati was also foiled as the MTS bus carrying few passengers and moving towards Senapati could not cross the buffer zone till the filing of this report.

It was reported that the MST bus with six passengers was emptied somewhere at Kanglatongbi near Gamgiphai and the passengers were shifted to the Senapati/Mao passenger bus.

It may be recalled that the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) Sadar Hills had asked the state Government to withdraw the Home Department's public notice for the provision of additional security forces to ferry convoys along the National Highway to avoid any untoward incidents while the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has issued a public notice on December 23 for sealing of border

between Churachandpur and Bishnupur district.

Similarly, the Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills while strongly opposing the Home Department's public notice, cautioned the state Government to be held accountable and responsible for any untoward incidents if it went on with its decision by bulldozing the public sentiment.

The Kuki-Zo people considered the state Home Department's public notice as something "fishy" and remained apprehensive about the state Home Department's decision to ferry convoys with the provision of additional security forces when vehicles including essential commodities carriers are plying freely without any hindrance.

The Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills termed the provision of additional security forces along the Imphal-Kangpokpi-Mao route and the unilateral declaration of free passage within the Kuki-Zo area as nothing but to depict the Kuki-Zo community in bad light.

CoTU's Spokesperson, Kaiminlen Sitlhou said that the committee considered the forced normalization of the present situation as a deliberate attempt to cover up the Manipur Government's eight-month-long sinister design of genocide.

He said that the Manipur Government's Home Department Public Notice was uncalled for, as the passage of vehicular movement was never hindered by the Kuki-Zo.

He also said that it is pertinent to mention that there has been no reciprocity of supply of essential commodities from the valley till date.

"In fact, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh is hell-bent on disrupting the Christmas festivity of the Christian minorities by trying to reignite animosity in the already volatile situation", he added.

He then said that such a prescriptive policy to appease one community over the other is unacceptable to the Kuki-Zo community.

He further said that the Kuki-Zo people will intensify the scrutiny of the vehicular movement along the Imphal- Kangpokpi-Mao route.

# BOUNDARY IS CLEAR, GOI MUST HASTEN FORMALIZATION OF SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOR KUKI-ZO PEOPLE



With the resumption of Manipur State Transport (MST) services on Friday as per order of the Meiteis' State government under the leadership of N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts, one thing is now clear as to where the boundary lines have to be drawn between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo ancestral lands.

The de-facto boundary between the Kuki-Zo Hill areas and the Meiteis' ancestral valley-land has now been clear once and for all as the MST vehicles carrying passengers were dropped off and stationed at the border villages of Kanglatongbi and Phougakchao under Imphal East and Bishnupur districts respectively, adjoining the Kuki inhabited districts, without crossing the buffer zones - the Line of Control (LoC).

In the wake of the ethnic cleansing pogrom on the Kuki-Zos by the majority Meiteis in complicity with the state machineries, the total separation has been complete and a parallel government has now been in existence in the Kuki-Zo dominated hill areas. The erstwhile Manipur state has become two states with the completion of population exchange. The Kuki-Zos now live in their ancestral hill areas so also the Meiteis in their forefathers' Kangleipak valley.

The prevailing circumstances need urgent acknowledgement by the Government of India so as

to bring a permanent solution between the two neighbouring states. Sooner than later, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, should initiate steps for fulfilling the "Charter of Demands" submitted by the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF) in their last political talks with the Centre Representative, AK Mishra.

As there is no chance of peaceful co-existence between the two warring parties, the only viable option left is formalisation of "separate administration" for the Kuki-Zo people.

Meanwhile, with imminent threat from the Meiteis, based on receiving intelligence input, the Kuki-Zo top bodies have closed all roads leading to Kuki-Zo inhabited areas.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) and the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) jointly announced closure of the road linking Lamka and Kanggui from 23rd December 2023 to 5th January 2024 as a security measure.

The two bodies advised the general public to avoid travelling on the said roads during the closure period.

# KUKIS MUST BE WIPED OUT FROM LAND OF MANIPUR, SAYS MEITEI LEEPUN CHIEF PRAMOT SINGH

The Chief of Meitei Leepun, Pramot Singh, has once again said that Kukis must be wiped out from the land of Manipur.

The controversial Pramot made the statement while speaking at a campaign against the Kukis organised by his organisation under the banner - "Immediate need for exclusion of illegal immigrant Kukis from Schedule Tribe list" held in Imphal on Friday.

He said that Manipur had been guarded and protected by the blood of Meiteis since the past and as such the Meitei could feel the pain when there were incidents in the border such as Moreh, Dzukou valley, wherein the boundaries of the state are affected.

Claiming that the present generation of Meiteis also still inherit and possess the blood of the forefathers, Pramot called upon the Meiteis to show the quality of their forefathers and see whether the Kukis could stand against the Meitei.

He also called upon the Meitei militants who are demanding an independent Manipur to speak and act exclusively to protect the Meiteis.



The radical Pramot and his organisation Meitei Leepun is known for his controversial statement after the eruption of the Manipur mayhem. He was booked for his "genocidal remarks" against the Kukis but never arrested. Recently, he was again booked for openly firing a gun towards a non-Manipuri in an alleged land dispute.

He was one of the key players who instigated and perpetrated inhumane atrocities against the Kukis and is responsible for eruption of the violence.



**He will win who knows when to fight  
and when not to fight.**

*– Stun Tzu*



**NEWS ANALYSIS**

**The MST Bus Theatrics: How Biren's Drama Once Again Failed to Convince His Own People [the Meiteis]**

On 19 December 2023, the Chief Secretary of Manipur issued a notification which said that the MST Bus service along Imphal-Kangpokpi-Mao and Imphal-Churachandpur will resume on 23 December.

Information handed out to the public on 22 December provides more detail about the schedule and bus stations. As the sun rose on 23 December, there was huge excitement in Imphal, especially at BOC and Malom, the bus-stands for Mao and CCPur. Videos were circulated showing the buses leaving for their respective destinations.

However, the situation in both Lamka and Kanggui towns remained calm, and there was no extraordinary excitement except that ITLF, CoTU, Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills, and others issued press statements cautioning the public to remain alert.

Meanwhile, to avoid any unwanted incident, particularly in Kanggui where our Naga brothers and sisters have always been given free passage, womenfolk were tasked to keep an eye on vehicles plying along the highway.

As it turned out, the bus meant for Lamka with only one passenger reportedly returned to Imphal from Phougakchao, and on the northern side, it took a u-turn at Kanglatongbi before reaching Gamgiphai.

This confirms that the media hype, particularly by Biren's PR department through social media, has found no buyers among his own people. In fact, no sensible Meitei in their wildest dream will think of travelling along these two highways unless they are

indoctrinated to sacrifice their life to draw media attention, as one Pebam Chittaranjan once did in 2004. It may be remembered that after Chittaranjan died of self-immolation, he was revered as a Hero of anti-AFSPA Crusader but the icon of the movement from Sharmila Chanu had given up her 16 years fast in 2016. Moreover, it is hard to imagine that somebody would choose to be a sacrificial lamp unless he/she has been drugged!

Whatever the intention behind such a decision remains a mystery. It can only be guessed what Biren and his evil-minded advisors might have had in mind while taking the decision. So, it could possibly be any or all of these three: show to his political masters in New Delhi, rather, fool them, that normalcy has returned; or, test the Kuki-Zo's preparedness in dealing with any situation; or, try to create misunderstanding between the Kuki-Zo and the Nagas.

Whatever may be the intention, neither New Delhi nor the Nagas will easily be fooled by Biren and his cohorts. For the Kuki-Zo, it is just their concern for humanity to warn the innocent Meiteis to be cautious since the Nagas as a community are mature enough to avoid the trap.

In fact, since the Kuki-Zo martyrs had just recently been buried in a mass funeral, their emotionally charged village volunteers were eagerly waiting for the Meiteis to cross the Line of Control which now separates them from "Manipur"!



**FEATURED ARTICLE**

**Manipur Mass Burial: Can the Govt Ensure the Dead Get Their Rightful Dignity?**

**HOINEILHING SITLHOU**

If one has learned anything at all from the ongoing political turmoil in Manipur, it is the political relevance imbued on dead bodies in zones of conflict – for individuals, communities, and the state.

After eight months of the Manipur violence, 60 estranged bodies lying in two mortuaries in Imphal were finally reunited with their families. They were airlifted to the Kuki-Zo-dominated hill districts of Kangpokpi and Churachandpur on 14 December.

This was made possible due to the joint efforts made by the IGAR South, and 22 Assam Rifles after the Supreme Court directed the state government to arrange for dignified burials.

The decision for the relocation of the mortal remains of their kin was welcomed by the victims’ families who had almost given up the hope of retrieving them.

**A Much-Needed Closure for the Grieving Families**

With the Meitei-dominated areas of the Imphal valley turning into a no-go zone for Kuki-Zo tribals and vice versa, families on either side of the divide had not been able to collect the remains of their kin for long.

On 15 December, a mass burial ceremony marked by a day of mourning, a gun salute by village volunteers, and a total shutdown of all business activities were

observed as a mark of respect to the deceased in Kangpokpi district.

The list of bodies that were solemnly buried with honour in Phaijang Village of Kangpokpi district includes the bodies of two young women who were brutally lynched by alleged Meitei mobs on 4 May in Imphal.

One’s mother had told The Quint on 25 October that she could not come to terms with her daughter’s death because she had not seen her body.

With the ‘dead bodies’ reuniting with their kin, they are now understood as ‘actual persons with identities and families’, accepted, honoured, and buried by the Kuki-Zo community as ‘martyrs’.

The grieving families could finally attain some sort of closure though healing would require both time and justice.

Similarly, in Churachandpur district, 87 Kuki-Zo victims of ethnic violence that include the 41 that were airlifted and a one-month-old baby, were laid to rest in a dignified burial ceremony

Contd.



Contd.

at Sehken village on 20 December.

Mourning and sadness engulfed the air, only to be disrupted by performative gunshots by village volunteers as a mark of respect to the deceased. The heart-wrenching video of a mother weeping inconsolably over her son's coffin, and bringing a parting gift of a pair of slippers, a tracksuit, and a biscuit had become viral the same day.

### **Laying the Dead To Rest 'Where They Belonged'**

The Kuki-Zo communities have always followed specific religious and cultural prescriptions for the societal management of the deceased bodies to ensure their safe passageways to the 'afterlife' or the 'abode of the dead' – the geopolitical location of the burial site being one of them.

Albert Vaiphei's father died of a stroke while they were fleeing from an enraged mob on 4 May. He carried his father's dead body 17 kilometres uphill, and spent a night in a jungle, in order to return to his ancestral village ie, Salam Patong that was already ravaged and there he buried his father complying with the religious and customary directives.

He laid him to rest in his own village as that is 'where he belongs,' and not in the jungle or in another village's cemetery.

Each of these lifeless bodies had stories to tell, about their own lives and the atrocities they faced which went with them. A mass burial is necessitated when a dead body cannot be meaningful in itself. It becomes meaningful only through culturally established relations to death.

They also remind the 'living' to be united and steadfast in their quest for freedom from an oppressive administration.

### **False Claims Made of Ethnic Minorities As 'Infiltrators'**

Many of those buried were killed in the initial days of the conflict, in and around Imphal Valley by radicalised mobs, suggesting that the timely intervention of the authorities could have not only saved lives but also prevented the scale and escalation of the violence.

Secondly, all 60 bodies of the Kuki-Zo community that were delivered by the Assam Rifles were identified and their details inscribed on coffins.

As ethnic minorities in Manipur, the present political imbroglio require them to constantly prove their indigenous origin, citing their participation in the Indian National Army in the 1940s and in the Kuki Uprising against the colonial Britishers in 1917-1919.

As much as the efforts made by the Indian government at facilitating a decent burial is appreciated, it is equally important that they undergo a 'social image' restoration.

Article 21 of the Constitution should also be imbibed that allows a decent obituary that publicly acknowledges them as legitimate Indian citizens. As Brahma Prakash, a JNU professor, had said: "The right to have dignity in death is perhaps one of the last virtues of humanity. It is the last act of caring."

Source: [The Quint](#)

(Hoineilhing Sitlhou is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad.)

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

H S Benjamin Mate  
@BenjaminMate1

Posting of 200 plus Meitei Manipur Police Commandos personnel & officers in Kuki-Zo town Moreh shows that @NBirenSingh Ji is trying to escalate violence Tengnoupal District.

@AmitShah @narendramodi  
@sambitswaraj @adgpi @official\_dgar @IndiaTodayNE

In view of promoting and ensuring peace and harmony in Moreh and Tengnoupal district as a whole, the following points of appeal are hereby laid down for favour of kind acknowledgement and implementation by the concern district administration.

1. Until and unless the Government of India and the apex body of our people reached a political settlement, no step should be initiated for resettlement of the meitei in Moreh under any circumstance.

2. It is unfortunate any event that takes place in Moreh are being fabricated and publicised by the state Government, state media houses and the state commandos. Not long ago, commandos arrested some drug addicts from Myanmar while stealing in Moreh. They were then portrayed as illegal Kuki immigrants by the Manipur state medias. Repetition of further such false and cheap propaganda will disturb peace.

3. The Government through Tengnoupal district commissioner disallowed Moreh community leaders from cleaning and repairing community variety market citing supreme court order, though the community leaders' move was to accommodate poor vegetable sellers. Now, the state commandos have started occupying deserted private meitei houses in Moreh. The authority concerned should stop them immediately and confine them in the barrack. Or, in the event of any untoward incidence arising out of this, CSOs cannot be held accountable.

4. Banks are indispensable public institution. The stationing of commandos at the premises of SBI Moreh apart from causing fear among bank customers is causing alot of inconveniences. Vehicles belonging to commandos parked day and night along the congested main road in front of the bank itself is public nuisance which give very little space for bank customers as well as bank staff. The commandos should be shifted at the earliest. Instead, people friendly police and central security personnels be deployed at Moreh SBI.

5. It would be in the fitness of things if the off and on process of deporting Myanmar base meitei surrenderee militants through Moreh international border is made public in the presence of media houses as this is creating public apprehension

7. While the Arambai Tengnol, Meitei Loepan, surrendered meitei militants with sophisticated guns in their hand are allowed to roam freely in Imphal valley, the hunt for Kuki-Zo CSO leader on the ground of mere suspicion or coked allegation and the arrest and imprisonment of innocent Kuki-Zo civilians of Moreh just because they possess suscipable images in their mobile phone speaks volumes as to how much discrimination is being allowed by the state Government. Let the Manipur state Government stop harassing CSO leaders and release innocent civilians from prison at the earliest.

The points of appeal made above are essential to keep law and order in Moreh border town and Tengnoupal district as a whole. Let wisdom and justice prevail for peace and normalcy.

(Victor Limthang) President Hill Tribes Council, Moreh  
(David Mimin Vajphei) General Secretary KSO, Moreh  
(Lhainethem Haokip) General Secretary K.W.U.M.T.R, Moreh  
(Paocha Baite) General Secretary Moreh Youth Club  
(Amos Thranjiam Haokip) President Kuki Kluanglai Lawmpi, Moreh

Dr. Laminthang Haokip  
@DrLaminthangHk

How hard you may try to project that normalcy has returned in #Manipur, you, Mr. @NBirenSingh, can't fool nor convince both the warring groups to believe it. Seems you still wanna keep playing with fire!

@rashtrapatibhvn @INCIndia @AmitShah @RahulGandhi @SushantSin @Polytikles @meipat @HansrajMeena @hrw @TribalArmy @UNHumanRights @VishuAdv @MajorAliShah @the\_hindu @thewire\_in @IndiaTodayNE @PTI\_News

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR  
MANIPUR STATE TRANSPORT  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
Imphal, the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

No. 1/20/MST-MAO/2023: With an objective of providing a safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable public transport service, notice is hereby given to all the general public that MST will be launching Imphal - Senapati MST Bus Service on 23-12-2023, Saturday at 9.00 am from BOC.

Route	Schedule	Departure Time	Departure Station
Imphal - Senapati	Every working day	09.00 AM	BOC
Senapati - Imphal	Every working day	01.30 PM	Senapati HQ

Public are requested to avail the above Government Public Transport.

(Dr. Nivedita Lalrenlakpam) Director (Transport), Manipur

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2023 till the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, all non-tribals within the district are not allowed to move out of the district and those non-tribals here outside are not permitted to move inside the district.

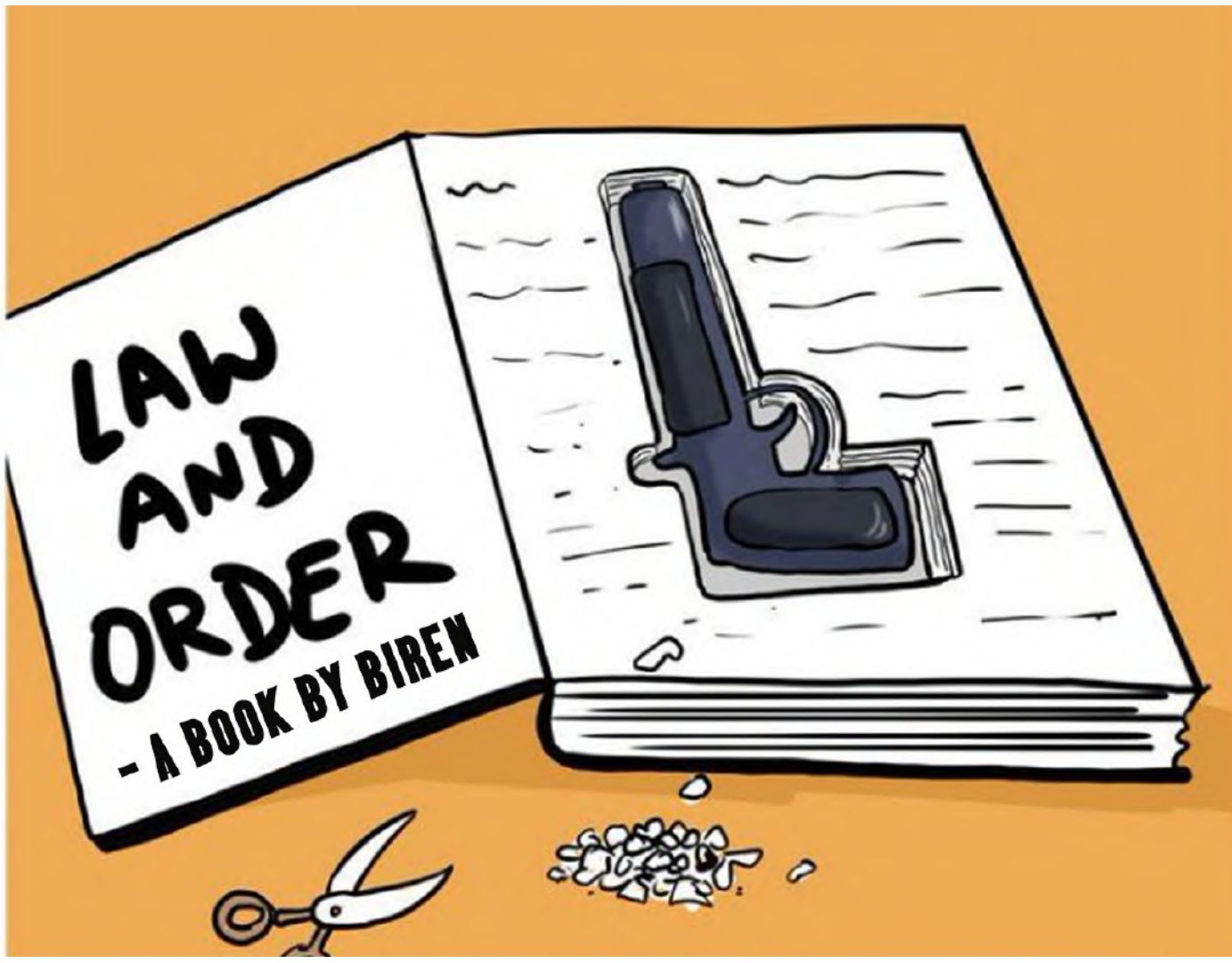
Copy to:  
1. The Chairman/Secretary, ITLE  
2. ITLE Media Cell  
3. All block roads in the border areas.

10:25 PM · Dec 22, 2023 · 7,782 Views

6:49 PM · Dec 23, 2023 · 1,324 Views



THE ALL-NEW  
LAW AND  
ORDER BOOK





# Whispers of Winter's Embrace

In the quiet hush of winter's grace,  
Where frost-kissed tales gently trace,  
Whispers weave through the icy air,  
Of a season's love beyond compare.

Snowflakes dance in a soft ballet,  
A shimmering ode to the fleeting day.  
Trees adorned in crystal lace,  
Nature sighs in winter's embrace.

Silent echoes in the twilight's gleam,  
A poet's dream, a wintry scheme.  
Moonlight spills on landscapes vast,  
A serene tableau, frozen and steadfast.

As shadows whisper in the night,  
Stars above paint a canvas bright.  
Each snowflake, a delicate token,  
In the hush, winter's spell is spoken.

The world in slumber, a tranquil sea,  
Whispers of winter, pure and free.  
Embraced by cold, yet warmth within,  
A season's tale, where dreams begin.

- Kailen Kipgen

