

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



THE RESOLUTE STAND IN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

ITLF Women Wing-Led Sit-in-Protest at Wall of Remembrance, Lamka



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 10.01.2024



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.

KUKI INPI MANIPUR CONDEMNS COLLUSION BETWEEN STATE GOVERNMENT AND ARAMBAI TENGGOL, URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION AMIDST GROWING GENOCIDE CONCERNS

Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kuki tribes, has stated that the collusion between the Manipur government and Arambai Tenggol, the perpetrators of the genocide against the Kuki-Zo community, indicates that justice and peace remain distant dreams. Kuki Inpi Manipur issued a press release on Wednesday in response to the events in Imphal, where Arambai Tenggol and valley-based MLAs had a meeting initiated by Arambai Tenggol.

KIM stated that they condemn the demise and subsequent burial of democracy in Manipur on January 24, 2024, at the heart of the capital city, Imphal, Manipur. KIM emphasized that “separate administration is the only means for (Kuki-Zo) survival, as we can no longer coexist with a community that blatantly supports and advocates militias and terrorist organizations hell-bent on annihilating and wiping out the Kuki-Zo people.”

It is alarming that the state government has openly accorded “state patronage” to non-state actors, namely Arambai Tenggol, as all the Meitei elected representatives succumbed to the dictates of Meitei militias in their collective mission to annihilate all the indigenous Kuki-Zo people in Manipur, stated the release. The nature, extent, and modus operandi of ethnic cleansing against the oppressed Kuki-Zo people by the hate-filled Meitei community, in collusion with the N. Biren Singh-led BJP government, have been manifested in broad daylight at Kangla, a few meters from Raj Bhawan and CM’s Bungalow, wherein members of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei terrorists, who looted 6000-plus arms and more than 5,00,000 ammunition from the state armories, were accorded VVIP status, shying off their crimes and anti-national activities, it added.

KIM claimed that such illegal acts of anarchic, totalitarian Manipur state government and its cohorts, namely Arambai Tenggol and Meitei terrorists, clearly prove that



there has been a complete failure of constitutional machinery and a total breakdown of law and order in the state. “Seeing the cacophony of spectacles conducted today, it is not surprising, as it has always been known to all since the outbreak of ethnic cleansing who the real perpetrators are, and today we (Kuki-Zo) stand vindicated,” KIM added.

The oath-taking and the subsequent resolution under the dictates of Meitei militia Arambai Tenggol in broad daylight and the blatant disregard for law and order under the watchful eye of the elected government point to the fact that the Manipur government and the Meitei community’s call for peace were merely hollow, lip-service, and sheer hypocrisy, stated the release. In view of the transferring of power and authority by the Manipur state government to the illegitimate Meitei militias on Wednesday, the Kuki Inpi Manipur reiterates its stated demand and makes a clarion call to the Government of India to expedite processes for separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people, it added.

KUKI MLAS URGE AMIT SHAH FOR AFSPA RE-IMPOSITION, WITHDRAWAL OF MEITEI POLICE COMMANDOS FROM MOREH



Manipur's 10 Kuki MLAs formally wrote to Union Minister Amit Shah pressing for, the re-imposition of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the valley, immediate withdrawal of Manipur State Police Commandos from Moreh and about one-sided (Biased) resolution adopted by Legislators of 12-Manipur Legislative on January 21 on abrogation of Suspension of Operation (SoO).

In a letter addressed to the Union Home Minister, the Kuki MLAs said- "on 21-01-2024 the Legislators of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly sans Members from Kuki-Zomi-Hmar Representatives vis-à-vis coercive signature of other non-Meitei MLAs adopted the one-sided misconceived Resolution which moves to abrogate the ongoing political discourse between the Suspension of Operation (SoO) Groups and the State and Central Government. This partisan decision is nothing but a sinister ploy to demean and tarnish the image of the SoO groups."

Further, the letter mentioned the continued presence and reinforcement of Meitei personnel among the State Commando Forces in the Kuki-Zo border town of Moreh, and the proven embedding of suspected Meitei militias among the commando units is behind the violence in Moreh.

"It is strongly suggested that there will be peace and tranquility once all Meitei personnel from the State Forces are withdrawn from Moreh and Tribal Police Officers and Personnel deployed as is the case in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi Districts," the letter stated.

Further, the MLAs further asserted that since the looting of Arms and violence continues till date, the Assam Rifles and the Indian Army be given full powers to recover the arms looted from the State Police and IRB by re-introducing AFSPA in the Manipur valley as well.

ITLF ADVOCATES PRESIDENT'S RULE AMID MANIPUR GOVERNMENT'S SUBMISSION TO MILITANT INFLUENCE

Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has stated that today's events in Imphal have shown that Manipur government has submitted its authority to an armed militant group.

"Imposition of President's Rule is the only way the central government can prevent total anarchy in Manipur. If not now, then when?" ITLF stated in a release issued on Wednesday.

ITLF stated that for the first time in history, a militia that led attacks on innocent civilians because of their ethnicity and openly display sophisticated weapons stolen from police armouries is able to order state lawmakers, including the Chief Minister, to attend a meeting and made the MLAs endorse their demands.

The release stated that Manipur state police and central security forces remained mute spectators as Arambai Tenggol leader Korounganba Khuman arrived at the venue in Imphal in a police vehicle, and the militant group proceeded to administer an oath to the MLAs.

All these happened even as a special team sent by the central government is camping nearby in the city. How could the world's largest democracy allow such events unfold under their nose? ITLF questioned.

The release further stated that Korounganba Khuman is not some shadowy figure pulling the strings from the dark and hiding what he does, instead he regularly posts pictures and videos of himself flaunting assault rifles, and deliver speeches in public before armed men and openly calling for attacks on tribals.

Questioning the central government on why it has not acted against Korounganba, ITLF stated that there are numerous videos of Arambai Tenggol cadres openly displaying sophisticated weapons stolen from



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PR-202477

Wednesday, 24 January 2024

PRESS RELEASE

For the first time in history, a militia that led attacks on innocent civilians because of their ethnicity and which openly displays sophisticated weapons stolen from police armouries was able to order state lawmakers, including the chief minister, to attend a meeting it had called and made the MLAs endorse their demands.

Manipur state police and central security forces remained mute spectators as Arambai Tenggol leader Korounganba Khuman arrived at the venue in Imphal in a police vehicle, and the militant group proceeded to administer an oath-taking ceremony to the MLAs. All these happened even as a special team sent by the central government is camping nearby in the city. Why did the world's largest democracy allow this?

Khuman is not some shadowy figure pulling the strings from behind and hiding what he does. He regularly posts pictures and videos of himself holding assault rifles, and publicly gives speeches before armed men calling for attacks on tribals. Why has the central government not acted against this individual? Also, there are numerous videos of Arambai Tenggol cadres openly displaying sophisticated weapons stolen from armouries. They don't even feel the need to hide the government-issued weapons.

Today's events have shown that Manipur's government has submitted its authority to an armed militant group.

Imposition of President's Rule is the only way the central government can prevent total anarchy in Manipur. If not now, then when?

Ginza Vualzong

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To authenticate ITLF's press releases, please refer to our website <https://itlfmediacell.com>

armouries and that they do not even feel the need to hide the looted government-issued weapons. Even with such evidences and videos, the Arambai combatants still walk the streets of Imphal with impunity, functioning above and beyond the constitutional law and order.

CoTU QUESTIONS RATIONALITY OF MHA'S MEETING ARAMBAI TENGGOL, CALLS FOR ITS OFFICIAL DESIGNATION AS OUTLAW ORGANISATION

The Kuki-Zo body, Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU Sadar Hills, questioned the rationality of the visit of the 3-member panel from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, meeting the alleged warmongering radicalized militia; the Arambai Tenggol, while vehemently demanding the Government of India to declare Arambai Tenggol as a "ban outlaw" organization.

The Committee also considered the MHA visit as a one-sided appeasement policy alleging that the team was stopping short of meeting the minority Kuki-Zo community who bore the major brunt of brutality and mass genocide.

It stated that CoTU represents all kindred tribes of the Kuki-Zo in the ensuing communal conflict and strongly opposed the one-sided appeasement policy of the Central Government.

The committee also condemned the alleged prescriptive tactics by providing succor to N. Biren Singh, who allegedly has failed miserably to fulfill his constitutional mandate and the Central Government's attempt to absolve him from his political miscalculations.

"This act of redeeming the unqualified and incapacitated leader in a state where the party is in power has a damning consequence and has belittled the image and reputation of BJP", it stated.

Drawing the attention of the Central Government, the committee stated that lasting peace and restoration of normalcy in the state could only be achieved if the Government of India first ban the Arambai Tenggol as outlaw and illegal arm outfits while also imposing AFSPA in the jurisdiction of 19 Police Stations within



COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL UNITY (CoTU)

Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District

Administrative office : Kangpokpi DHQ

Email : cotukangpokpi@gmail.com

Ref. No.

PRESS RELEASE
Dated: 24th January 2024:

Date

The Committee on Tribal Unity is compelled to question the rationality of the visit of the 3-member panel from the Home Ministry, Government Of India to Imphal valley on the 23rd January to meet the majoritarian Meitei community including the warmongering radicalized militias, the Arambai Tenggol but stopping short of meeting the minority Kuki-Zo community, who bore the major brunt of brutality and mass genocide.

Committee, CoTU representing all kindred tribes of Kuki-Zo in this ensuing communal conflict strongly opposed the one-sided appeasement policy of the Centre Government and also condemn such prescriptive tactics by providing succor to N. Biren Singh, who have failed miserably to fulfil his constitutional mandate and the Centre Government attempts to absolved him from his political miscalculation. This act of redeeming the unqualified and incapacitated leader in a state where the party is in power has a damning consequences and has bilittle the image and reputation of BJP.

Therefore, the Committee, CoTU would like to draw the attention of the Centre Government for lasting peace and restoration of normalcy in the state could only be achieved if the Gol first ban the Arambai Tenggols as outlaw and illegal arms outfits secondly, by imposing AFSPA within the 19 Police Stations in the valley (which were earlier exempted from the purview of the said act), and to ultimately recognize the physical and geographical separation between the Kuki-Zo and the Meiteis. This separation will ensure amiable and cordial relationship between two warring communities in the coming days.

Jai Hind!

Information & Publicity
Committee on Tribal Unity

the Imphal valley, which were earlier exempted from the purview of the said act, and to ultimately recognize the physical and geographical separation between the Kuki-Zo and the Meiteis.

It further stated that this separation will ensure an amiable and cordial relationship between the two warring communities in the coming days.

KUKI'S TOP STUDENT BODY BOYCOTTS MANIPUR'S PHED EXAMINATION

Discontent and frustrated over the alleged non-responsive stance of the authority concerned in connection with the demand for an examination centre in Churachandpur, the Kuki students' apex body, the Kuki Students' Organization - General Headquarters decided to boycott the upcoming Public Health Engineering Department examination.

The Kuki's top student body stated that on November 27 last year, it had officially communicated its concerns to the relevant department urging a review of the examination centre allocation, but, regrettably, no response has been received to date leaving us with no choice but to take a stand against such blatant disregard for our legitimate demand.

Vehemently condemning the alleged biased treatment meted out by the authorities concerned, the KSO General Headquarters stated that the lack of consideration for the genuine needs and aspirations of the Kuki-Zo aspirants is a clear violation of our rights and a dereliction of duty to ensure equal opportunities for all.

It also stated that the Kuki-Zo aspirants, who have been eagerly preparing for the PHED Examination, deserve fair and equal opportunity, and denying them the option to take the exam in Churachandpur is a direct infringement on their rights and a clear indication of the systematic neglect that the region has endured for far too long.

In light of the alleged unresponsiveness from the concerned authorities, Kuki's top student body issued a stern advisory to all Kuki-Zo aspirants, urging them not to participate in the upcoming PHED Examination until the demands are adequately addressed.

"We believe that the denial of an examination centre in Churachandpur is an affront to the educational aspirations of our community, and we stand united in our decision to boycott the exam until justice is served", it stated.

The KSO General Headquarters also called upon the authorities to recognize the severity



KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

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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 Tengnoupal (Manipur)	13. KSO Karbi Anglong (Assam)	22. KSO Taniu (Myanmar)
5. KSO Ukhrul (Manipur)	14. KSO Tripura	23. KSO Hyderabad (Telangana)
6. KSO Jini-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 ...24-01-2024...

PRESS RELEASE

The Kuki Students' Organisation - General Headquarters (KSO-GHQ) vehemently expresses its deep dissatisfaction and frustration over the non-responsive stance of the concerned authorities regarding our legitimate demand for an examination centre in Churachandpur and the subsequent decision to boycott the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) Examination.

On November 27, 2023, KSO-GHQ officially communicated its concerns to the relevant department, urging a review of the examination centre allocation. Regrettably, no response has been received to date, leaving us with no choice but to take a stand against this blatant disregard for our legitimate requests.

The KSO-GHQ strongly condemns the biased treatment meted out by the authorities. The lack of consideration for the genuine needs and aspirations of Kuki-Zo aspirants is a clear violation of our rights and a dereliction of the duty to ensure equal opportunities for all.

The Kuki-Zo aspirants, who have been eagerly preparing for the PHED Examination, deserve fair and equal opportunities. Denying them the option to take the exam in Churachandpur is a direct infringement on their rights and a clear indication of the systemic neglect that the region has endured for far too long.

In light of the unresponsiveness from the concerned authorities, the KSO-GHQ issues a stern advisory to all Kuki-Zo aspirants, urging them not to participate in the upcoming PHED Examination until our demands are adequately addressed. We believe that the denial of an examination centre in Churachandpur is an affront to the educational aspirations of our community, and we stand united in our decision to boycott the exam until justice is served.

We call upon the authorities to recognise the severity of this matter and engage in a constructive dialogue with KSO-GHQ to find a swift resolution. It is our sincere hope that the concerns of the Kuki-Zo aspirants will be given the attention they deserve, and justice will prevail.

The KSO-GHQ remains committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of Kuki students, and we will not waver in our pursuit of a fair and just resolution to this matter.

Issued by
Department of Information & Publicity
KSO General Headquarters



of the matter and engage in a constructive dialogue with them to find a swift resolution.

It is our sincere hope that the concerns of the Kuki-Zo aspirants will be given the attention they deserve, and justice will prevail, it stated.

Kuki's top student body further stated that it remained committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of Kuki students, and we will not waver in our pursuit of a fair and just resolution to this matter.



WILL NOT ALLOW FENCING ALONG MYANMAR BORDER, SAYS NSCN-IM

The NSCN-IM has clarified its stance and declared that they will not allow the proposed border fencing along Myanmar border in the Naga areas.

On the issue of illegal immigrants, NSCN-IM said that the Naga themselves would control any illegal immigrant in the Naga soil and they will not allow any illegal immigrants in their territory .

In a press release NSCN stated that “ Nagas are indigenous people with a high level of political consciousness, cultural and social cohesion. They are also fully aware of the irrefutable historical narratives of the Naga nation that transcend the international barriers, oppressively created by the Indian and Myanmar governments without consulting the Nagas. Such manner of injustice and wrong conduct against the Nagas continues to haunt the Nagas till today”.

The release stated that the Naga political movement came into existence with the avowed stand to defend the historical and political rights of the Naga nation and put to an end the hegemony of the government of India and Myanmar in the manner that is acceptable and honorable.

The recent move of the Government of India to abolish the “time honored” FMR has come as a rude shock to the whole Nagas in general and to the group in particular, stated the release.

The move to abolish the FMR reminds NSCN IM of the treacherous division of the Nagas by the Prime



Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and the Burmese Prime Minister U Nu in 1953, it added.

However, the fact remains that the Nagas have never accepted the arbitrary international boundary demarcation set up by the two prime ministers, and the Nagas living on either sides of the so-called international border have remained as one family defying all the odds, the NSCN-IM stated .

The NSCN IM also expressed that the Nagas, as one family, need free movement to and from both sides of the border.

NSCN IM further stated that ironically, the nature of the boundary demarcation was so cruel that it ran right through the house of Longwa King in Mon district. Nothing can be crueler than such demarcation while dividing the Naga family, the group said.



**In War: Resolution, In Defeat: Defiance,
In Victory: Magnanimity
In Peace: Good Will.**

– Winston S. Churchill

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Terror Master Korounganba Coronated as Meitei King?
Handing Over Ceremony Concluded, What Next...**

The State Government and its democratically elected Meitei legislators have eventually surrendered to the fundamentally terror organisation, the Arambai Tenggol. The Manipur reign is 'officially' handed over to them by the Government after the much hyped Kangla meeting today. Many Meitei legislators were administered oath by the Arambai Tenggol. This ceremony heralded the end of a democratic government in Manipur to pave way for fascism and talibanisation of the state. This also exhibits the supremacy and triumph of the terrorist group Arambai Tenggol over the Indian Constitution.

This chain of events assumed greater significance close on the heels of the two rounds meeting between a three-member special envoy deputed by Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and AT leadership including Meiteis' titular king and MP Leishemba Sanajaoba.

Close observers of events and incidents preceding today's ceremony, since the State-sponsored ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kukis was triggered last year, had predicted today's event since long back. As anticipated, the inevitable has happened. There is no more popular government in Manipur. The Government led by despot N Biren Singh gave in to the radicalised terror group Arambai Tenggol. The rein is now officially handed over to the Arambais. The Arambais are now held superior to the Indian Constitution. There is neither law nor order. The volatile situation is only awaiting exacerbation, if not, a complete flare up.

The MHA's envoy must have seen the public display of firearms by the Arambai Tenggol combatants in Imphal Valley during their visit, particularly today morning. It must be noted that the arms and ammunitions held by these terrorists in Imphal Valley are the ones handed over to them (said to be looted) by the State Government. These illegal arms play a crucial role in the course of the violence besieging Manipur. If New Delhi is serious about restoring normalcy, these illegal arms should be immediately recovered and people responsible should be booked under relevant laws. The 'looting' of huge arsenals from State Arms cote, the open display of firearms and free movement of terrorists with such illegal arms is a shame for the National Government and a threat to the integrity and security of the Nation.

As the Manipur Government demonstrate its incapability to hold the reins, by ceding to a terror organisation, the Centre should now think of the next crucial step. There is no need to seek 'the next step' any farther. There are now ample grounds for imposition of President's Rule in Manipur. At the same time, New Delhi should not miss the fundamental point that the demand for separation from Manipur by the Kukis is being warranted and validated by events unfolding each day.

ANALYSIS**The Making of a Tin-Pot Dictator: Assessing the Role of N. Biren Singh in the Ongoing State Sponsored Ethnic Cleansing Pogrom**

Mr. Nongthombam Biren Singh, the present Chief Minister (CM) of Manipur, was formerly a footballer playing for BSF, and the editor of a Manipuri (Meitei language) daily newspaper, before switching over to politics in 2002.

For more than two decades, Biren had been representing Heingang AC winning five consecutive state elections (2002, 2007, 2012, 2017, and 2022). As a shrewd politician, he was an integral part of Mr. Okram Ibobi Singh's government during the 15-year Congress leadership in the state. However, in the later part of 2016, he left the Congress and joined the BJP, and after the 2017 state election, he was unexpectedly chosen as the first BJP CM, and repeated the same feat in 2022.

Apart from his professional career, Biren is known to be closely associated with the Valley Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs), particularly the RPF/PLA and CORCOM. So, it is obvious that he became the CM with their blessings despite enjoying the support of only 6 out of the 21 BJP MLAs in 2017.

Meanwhile, he is also widely regarded as the overall commander in chief of Arambai Tenggol (AT), the Meitei militia outfit responsible for most of the state-sponsored violence since May 3, 2023. Mr. Pramod Singh, the chief of Meitei Leepun (ML); another militia group, openly claimed on a national television that they worship CM Biren.

Being a former editor, Biren knows how to control

the Imphal based media houses. In many cases, he is reported to have dictated News Editors and even the topics chosen for TV discussions.

On a more personal note, Biren is also a known womaniser. He had a wife but is an open secret that Mrs. Olish Lamkang, the MLA of Chandel AC, is his unofficial second wife. Not only this, he is alleged to have begotten a son with the sister of his second wife. It was also widely talked about that in his maiden visit to one of the farthest district headquarters after becoming the CM, he told his companions that he had a girlfriend from there while he was a footballer.

During his first term as CM, Biren focused on silencing alternative voices within his own Meitei community. Anyone who spoke against him was slapped with various sections of IPC, and sometimes even NSA. The best example was the arrest of two senior journalists, Paojel Chaoba and Dhiren Sadokpam, in January 2021 under UAPA and sedition charges. Journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem and social activist Erendro Leichombam were also slapped NSA and other sections of the IPC for facebook posts multiple times!

Side by side, he has been grooming anti-social elements in the form of pseudo-CSOs such as Federation of Haomee (FoH), Kangleipak Kanba

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Lup (KKL), International Meitei Forum (IMF), World Meitei Council (WMC), etc. He has also been forming his private militias, AT and ML, along with some of his cohorts like Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba, Khurai MLA and Minister L.Sushindro alias Yaima, Keirao MLA Lourembam Rameshwor Meetei, and others. Even BJYM Manipur was used more as a private militia than the youth wing of a ruling national party until Mr. Barish Sharma was removed from its post of President unceremoniously. The rise of such neo-nazi type militias sidelined the much older group like the Universal Friendship Organisation (UFO), often known among the Meiteis as marijuana smokers.

Biren might today portray himself as a person concerned over destruction of the environment and its ecosystem but since the early 1990s, he and his family, as timber traders or loggers, had been responsible for cutting-down most of the big trees in the hill districts, particularly Kangpokpi. He was also a known businessman dealing with marijuana (ganja) among the Kukis.

During his first tenure as CM, Biren also showed a fake urgency to reach out to the hills under various flagship programmes such as “Go to Hills”, “Go to Village”, etc. He also held cabinet meetings in the Hill districts’ headquarters. Various pro-poor schemes including the CMHT were introduced with the intension of portraying the government in good light though it was designed to benefit private hospitals and pharmaceutical companies.

Though all these steps were symbolic, it was able to portray Biren as the People’s CM. Whereas the Meiteis fondly called him “Pabung” (Uncle or Father), the then Tribal Minister and MLA of Thanlon, Pu Vungzagin Varte, labelled him as the second missionary of Lamka. Minister Nemcha Kipgen also referred to him as a godly figure for the hill people!

In hindsight, all these attempts were made to portray himself (Biren) and his party (BJP) as the only saviour of the state. The other reason was to protect the unnamed minority coalition ministry which Biren somehow managed to weave together to form the first BJP government. The members were drawn from NPP-4, NPF-4, LJP-1, Independent-1 and a Congress turncoat-1, apart from 21 BJP MLAs.

However, with the consolidation of the BJP at the Centre following the massive victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the true colour of Biren and his cohorts began to unfold in full public view.

Slowly, the newly formed community based organisations like COCOMI and others began playing divisive politics between the Nagas and the Kukis, and an attempt was also made to further divide the already fragmented Kuki-Zo community. On the one hand, the colonial division of the Kukis into “Old” and “New” was openly promoted, and on the other, attempts were made to widen the gap between the majority Thadou-Kuki group and other smaller tribes. But they didn’t know that all the Kuki-Chin-Mizo(Zo) tribes are connected by blood relationships unlike others who are united politically.

Playing the dirty politics of indigeneity, Meitei CSOs, activists, intellectuals and even academics have been constantly propagating the so-called Old Kukis as indigenous and the New Kukis as later immigrants. These Old Kukis, along with some of the Naga tribes, were also assigned the seven clans of the Meiteis to win over to them. This was done to show the world that they were once under the suzerainty of the Meitei kingdom! In other words, in the imagination of these neo-nazi ideologues, any tribe who are not part of these “seven clans” are not part of the idea of Manipur.

It may be mentioned that most of the tribes have more than seven clans, but the desire to be called indigenous was so strong that many of the tribes fell to the trap. It was one thing to despise the word Old Kuki for some, but a different one to accept the same designation if it offered a room to be called indigenous!

On one occasion, defying all logic, the Meitei CM formally declares the Tangkhuls and Meiteis as blood brothers though it was officially refuted by the apex bodies of the Tangkhul community.

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Moreover, the traditional rivalry as a result of British divide and rule policy has been ingeniously exploited to serve the ulterior motive of the state's dominant community. It was also a well-known fact that Meitei CSOs and Meira Paibis have been frequenting Hebron during this term though the Nagas and Meiteis were at loggerheads till the early part of 2017.

In about 2021, as the plan reached an advanced stage, the communal state government began targeting the Kuki-Zo community in Imphal and its surrounding areas. Village chiefs were summoned to surrender land ownership related documents to prove that they are the real owners of their land. Most of the forests owned by them were also declared as Reserved Forest, Protected Forest, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and proposed sites for cultural heritage. In the same way, the low lying areas were to be protected under wetlands or paddy protection laws. With these, the innocent traditional tribal chiefs who were masters of their hills have suddenly become insecure.

In Imphal too, many localities dominated by the Kuki-Zo were issued eviction orders, and were show-caused to submit their patas. Villages such as K.Songjang in Churachandpur, and three Churches in Tribal colony, Imphal, were forcibly evicted. In all these, no Naga villages or churches were touched!

In the meantime, the Meitei civilians led by AT, ML, and BJYM, began frequenting the hills in hordes giving the traditional Meitei "Ching Kaba" (climbing the hills) for rituals a communal colour. Unfortunately, these "Ching Kalois" (those who climbed the hills) often indulge in thievery and destruction of huts in the jhoom fields, drinking alcohol, and on few occasions, resulted in unfortunate incidents involving scuffles between youths belonging to different ethnic groups.

It may be recalled how Mr. Barish Sharma, the then President of BJYM Manipur, and his followers were seen openly wielding pistols and confronting innocent villagers en route to the hills. In spite of all these notoriety, the Kukis remained glued to their traditional humane values; Khankho, and even extended all possible help to a team of AT who met an accident.

During this phase, there has been constant campaign to demonise the Kuki-Zo community as illegal immigrants, drug dealers, poppy cultivators, forest encroachers, and what not. The level of hate campaign was so much so that within 2-3 years, almost the whole Meitei community was convinced to consider the Kuki-Zo people as non-indigenous and drug dealers even before the ongoing ethnic violence began.

It may be noted that the same technique was applied against the Nepalis (Gorkhas) of Manipur in the 1980s and the Muslim (Meitei Pangal) community in the 1990s when there was an attempt to cleanse them from the soil of Manipur. The resulting riots sometime in the 1980s and May 1993 led to the death of more than a hundred lives and many properties destroyed.

Another method used by Biren and his brigade was the random arrest of Kuki-Zo people for simple social media posts and comments. A youth from Kangpokpi was summoned by the police with the instruction of the CM simply for using the word "Kuki Hills" in his facebook comment. Interestingly, not even a single person belonging to any other community was arrested or summoned during this period for mere social media comment.

With this background, the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom, which began on May 3, 2023, must be seen from the lens of this complex ethnic churning in the state in the last 3-4 years and beyond. The sooner the silent majority within the Meitei community realised the evil intention behind the current ethnic cleansing pogrom, the better it will be for the future of Manipur which they fondly called as Meitei Leipak, Meitrabak, Kangleipak, or Sanaleibak (Land of Jewels). The making of this mafia raj under a Tin-Pot Dictator, if crystallized, will certainly be a doom for this two millennium centuries old civilization.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

H S Benjamin Mate
@BenjaminMate1

Talibanization of Manipur Valley is complete. Even elected Meitei MLAs & MPs are summoned & beaten up by this radical armed militias Arambai Tenggol.

@narendramodi @AmitShah @blsanthosh @sambitswaraj
@IndiaTodayNE @vijaita @EastMojo @CNNnews18



7:46 PM · Jan 24, 2024 · 2,338 Views

Samuel T Khongsai
@SamuelTKhongsai

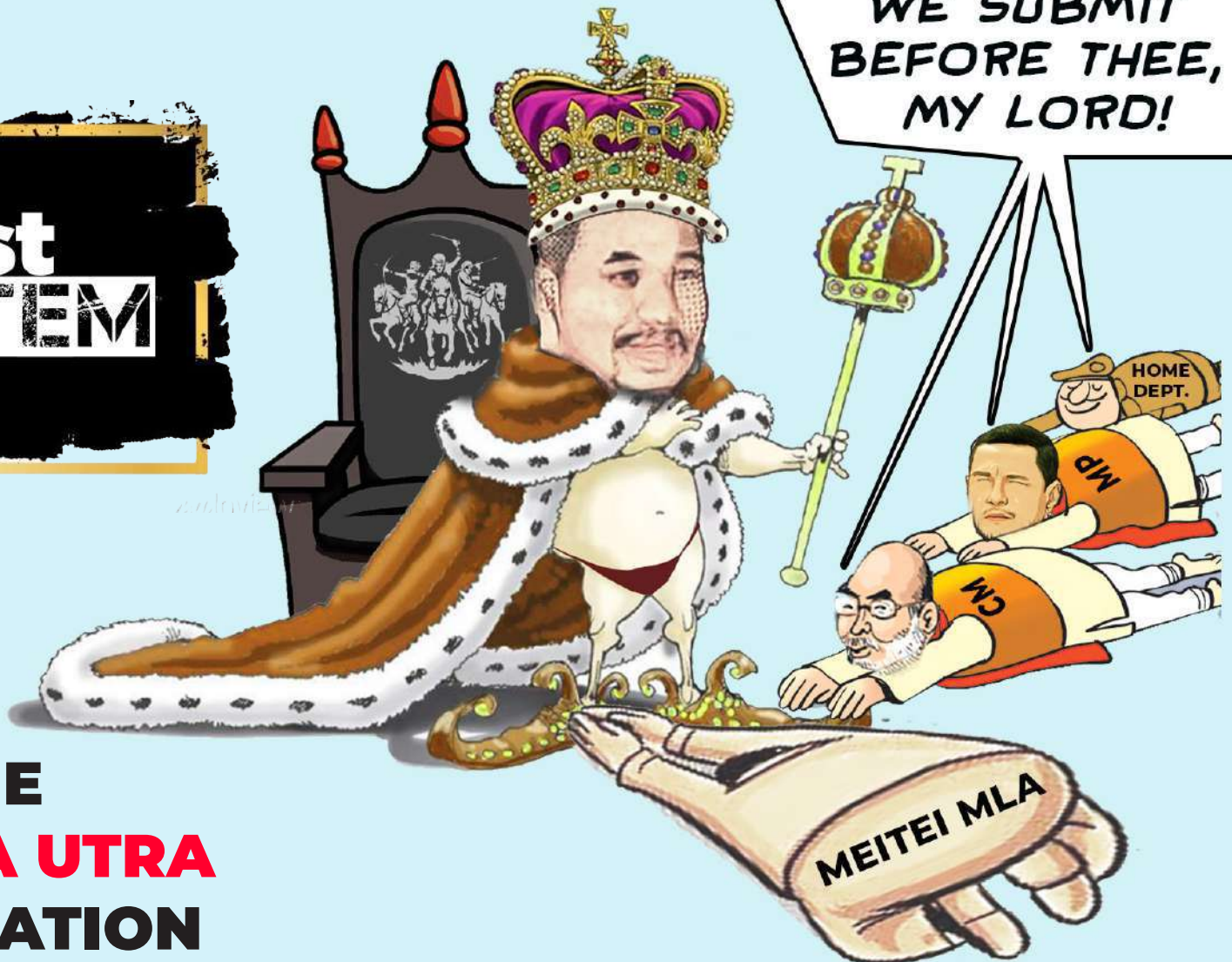
Startling scenes from Manipur. Arambai, an armed Meitei civil society group administers oath 2 MLAs/MPs 2 protect the integrity of Manipur. Seen here is 4mer Congress CM O Ibobi Singh, MoS External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh & RS MP Leishemba Sanajaoba



From Vijaita Singh

3:04 PM · Jan 24, 2024 · 1,789 Views

Post MORTEM



THE KANGLA UTRA CORONATION



A Frontliner

- *M Lunlensang Flaokip*

We are the front-liners,
The unsung heroes.
Greyness covers the rows of boys,
as we lie together in silent rows.
Many voluntary lay in despair
Fitting oneself out.
Cannons and Rifles firing, people dying,
As ears went deaf.
The smell of Gun powder and smoke covered
the fields,
Few lay in hope that there's a way out.
The Gunshots is heard, and in a little while
you saw someone fall.
Blood, poisoning these beautiful lands,
Hopeful in God that we could make it out.
Families at home brace themselves,
And so do we.
Many want it to end,
Yet we face them with guts and bravery.
Fighting them even if we risk our lives,
No matter what happens,
To secure and protect our land and
our people is our great vow.