WEDNESDAY | JULY 24, 2024

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WE DEMAND AN INDEPENDENT



SS RALLY AG INST THE 16TH JULY **JTER OF ASSAM POLICE** YOUTHS 2024

Thingkho Le Malcha



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024









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-ZO COMMUNITY PROTESTS AGAINST KILLING OF HMAR YOUTHS BY ASSAM POLICE IN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'; MASS RALLY HELD ACROSS Various kuki-zo dominated areas



The Kuki-Zo women in Lamka took to the streets on Wednesday (July 24) over the killing of three Hmar youths by the Assam police in an alleged "fake encounter" in Cachar district of Assam recently.

The protest rally in Lamka was organised by the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) and the Hmar Women Association (HWA).

The rally, which began at 11 AM from Muolvaiphei playground and concluded at the Wall of Remembrance near Peace Ground in Lamka, witnessed a large turnout of women protesters demanding justice for the deceased.

They have called for a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident to uncover the truth behind the deaths.

The protesters carried placards with messages such as "Justice for Every Citizen of India", "Fair Trial Not False Encounter", "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied", "Stop Fake Encounters" and "Fake Encounter is the Mother of Lawlessness." They also chanted slogans like "We Demand Justice", "We Demand Judicial Enquiry" and "Assam Police, Down Down".

The protesters submitted a memorandum to union home minister Amit Shah through the DC of Churachandpur district of Manipur, seeking justice for the families of the three deceased Hmar youths.

In a memorandum submitted to the Home Minister, the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights and the Hmar Women Association highlighted the deaths of Lallungawi Hmar (21), Lalbiekkung Hmar (33), and K. Joshua Lalrinsang (35), who were killed in what the organizations claim was a staged encounter by the Assam Police in Cachar district on 16th July 2024.

The memorandum details several grave violations of fundamental and human rights, asserting that the Assam Police criminalized the youths without trial and failed to follow due process. Key points of

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the memorandum include:

Unclear Charges and Arrest Procedures:

The organizations state that it remains unclear under which section of the law the deceased were arrested and subsequently killed. The police allegedly did not inform the individuals of the reason for their arrest, violating Article 22(1) of the Constitution.

Failure to Produce Before Magistrate:

The Assam Police did not produce the deceased before a magistrate within 24 hours, violating legal procedures and keeping the individuals in police custody unlawfully.

Lack of Notification to Families:

Families of the deceased were not informed about the arrests, learning of the deaths through social media, which violates Article 22(2) of the Constitution.

Denied Legal Aid:

The deceased were allegedly denied their right to

consult legal aid, despite spending the night at the police station.

Contradictory Evidence:

Videos circulating on the internet show the youths cooperating with the police and later being harassed while blindfolded and with their hands tied. This evidence contradicts police claims that the deaths occurred during a cross-fire exchange with militants.

Violation of Fundamental Rights: The memorandum highlights that the victims were denied the right to equality and a fair trial, protected under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The protest rally was also held at various Kuki-Zo dominated areas such as in Jiribam, Chandel District, Tengnoupal and Halflong, NC Hills in Assam.

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JULY 24, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JULY 24, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

Meitei snipers aimed at the villagers of Molngat in the Kangvai area of Lamka district. This sinister act unfolded at around 8:45 PM, with the snipers targeting villagers who were outside their homes.

Thankfully, the vigilance and quick reactions of the villagers proved critical. The snipers missed their intended targets, alerting the residents to the danger of the sniper attack. There have been no reported casualties in this unsettling incident.







WRIT PETITION FILED IN GAUHATI HIGH COURT OVER ALLEGED Extra-Judicial Killings of Kuki-zo Youth by Assam Police

A Writ Petition (Crl.), under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, has been filed over the alleged extra-judicial killing of three Kuki-Zo (Hmar) youth on July 17, 2024 by the Assam Police.

The petitioners stated that the three deceased persons namely Lallungawi Hmar S/o Lalremsang Hmar of K. Bethel Village, Bhunankhal Dikush, Lakhipur, Cachar District, Assam; Lalbieksang Hmar S/o Lalthavel Hmar of K. Bethel Village, Bhunankhal Dikush, Lakthipur, Cachar district, Assam; and Joshua Lalrinsang S/o Tianghnengthang Hmar of Senvon, Tipaimukh Sub-Division, Pherzawl, Manipur, were arrested on 16.07.2024 at about 4.30 P.M. from Ganganagar Part-VI, Krishnapur Road, Cachar, Assam by 6 (six) personnel of Assam Police and alleged that all those detained persons were taken out from Kachudharam Police Station in the early hours of morning on 17.07.2024 after which they had been killed in extra judiciary execution.

The counsel for the petitioners has submitted that one of the prayers in the writ petition is to direct the respondent authorities to have the postmortem of all the dead bodies conducted by the doctors outside of Assam.

It was also submitted that as per the instruction, the family members of the deceased have been informed by the District and Police Administration to take away the dead bodies from the morgue by July 24.



In view of the nature of the allegations made in the writ petition, the Court has issued a notice to the respondents (Assam Government) whether any postmortem has been conducted or not in respect of the dead bodies and should produce the post mortem report, if available, on the next date of hearing.

The Court also directed the Senior Government Advocate to obtain reports from the police in the matter and should produce the same before the Court in a sealed cover for the perusal of the Court.

Till the orders are passed on the next date of hearing, the Court instructed the District and Police Administration of Cachar District to keep the dead bodies in the Morgue of SMCH, Silchar.

The next hearing is fixed on 26.07.2024.

The sword of justice has no scabbard.

-Antione de Riveral



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RESERVATION NORMS VIOLATED IN NATIONAL SPORTS UNIVERSITY; ANSAM SERVES ULTIMATUM

The National Sports University, Imphal, a central university under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has violated the reservation norms in its notification for admission, despite reminders by various tribal bodies to strictly follow the reservation policy in accordance with the Central Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Amendment Act, 2012.

However, the University in its notification and result declaration for the session 2024-2025 contradicts the reservation norms which has to be followed in the Central University by providing reservation percentage of 2% for SC, 31% for ST and 17% for OBC as per the parliament act. Whereas, the recently declared result has allocated 15% for SC, 7.5% for ST and 27% for OBC violating the actual reservation norms.

Notably, to poise the equilibrium for different categories in the society for admission to various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Manipur and other six Northeast states of India, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Amendment Bill, 2012 was passed by the House of Parliament, Rajya Sabha on April 27, 2012 and Lok Sabha on May 16, 2012 and assented to Act on June 19, 2012 on Act No. 31 of 2012 wherein the reservation percentage is reserved 2% for SC, 31% for ST and 17% for OBC and the same reservation act was validated by High Court of Manipur and the Supreme Court for implementation in the Central Institutes of Manipur.

The injudicious modus operandi decision of the National Sports University Imphal, looting and depriving the rights of the tribals with narrow interpretation and exploitation of the quotas meant for Scheduled Tribes in the state needs to be exposed to bring the responsible officials to justice. Such a deliberate act of the competent authority in the University with malafide intention is unfortunate and inappropriate. These irregularities have never done any good but always triggered resentment and unrest amongst the societies and eventually leading to social rift in the state. All these acts of exploitation and manipulation must be put to a stop once and for all.

The intentional manipulation and the nature of procrastination of the National Sports University, Imphal, and Central Agricultural University, Imphal, is a matter of great concern for the tribals. The tribals will not accept unless the actual reservation policy is strictly followed in accordance with the Parliament act for admission to various courses in the central universities.

Toward this, the All Naga Students' Association, Manipur (ANSAM), the apex Naga student body in Manipur, has submitted a representation to the chief minister of Manipur today for the prompt implementation of the reservation norms in admission to the central institutes operating in Manipur as per the Central Institutes (Reservations in Admission) Amendment Act, 2012 passed in the Parliament and to uphold the Manipur High Court Ruling and Supreme Court order of India.

The ANSAM also called on the Vice-Chancellor of the National Sports University (NSU) Manipur expressing its concerns over the "irregularities" in the recent declaration of admission result for the academic session 2024-2025 contradicting the existing reservation norms and apprised to rectify the discrepancies.

The ANSAM then cautioned, "Failing which the All Naga Students' Association, Manipur and its units would be compelled to take up befitting course of actions to meet the ends of justice and the government shall be held responsible for any untoward consequences in the course of our agitations".





MANIPUR HC ORDERS WITHDRAWAL OF PENDING CRIMINAL CASE Against MNF Members for offences during 1984 ug movement

The Manipur High Court on Tuesday (July 23) directed the Union and State Government to withdraw the pending criminal case against the Mizo National Front (MNF) personnel against whom summons were issued in a 1984 case despite an assurance made by the Union Government that no new cases would be registered against the MNF personnel's and pending cases would be withdrawn.

A Memorandum of Settlement was made on 30-06-1986 involving the Government of India, the Government of Mizoram, and the MNF, wherein the assurance was made to the MNF that the state government would abstain from prosecuting MNF personnel for committing a crime during the underground activities if they abjured from violence and give up their arms, ammunition, and equipment to restore normalcy and peace in the area.

Also, it was assured that the pending criminal cases would be withdrawn against the members.

However, in the year 2000, a summon was issued to the petitioners in a 1984-year case when the petitioners were involved in underground activities.

The Petitioner contended that the government ought to withdraw the pending criminal case against them based on the Settlement reached in 1986.

However, the Government contended that the settlement bars the government from withdrawing cases for offences committed outside the State of Mizoram. Since the offence was committed in Manipur, therefore, the settlement would not have any effect.

Rejecting the Government/Respondent's contention, the Bench comprising Justice Ahemthem Bimol Singh said that there was no record to indicate that such a decision would confine to or in respect of offences



committed by the personnel of MNF within the State of Mizoram.

"When there is no material available on record to indicate that the decision of the Government of India will be applicable and confines to only those personnel of the MNF who have committed offences only in the State of Mizoram and not in any other State, this court is of the considered view that the reason given by the State of Manipur and Union of India for refusing to withdraw or close the criminal cases pending against the petitioners is misconceived, unfounded and unsustainable before law as no specific territorial limit had been mentioned in the said Government of India's decision.", the court said.

Since the petitioners were able to make a strong case for the Court's interference, the Court directed the Respondents to take necessary steps to withdraw prosecution of the petitioners within three months in connection with the criminal case pending before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Churachandpur or to close the said criminal case so far as the present petitioners are concerned.

Case Title: Sri Lalbiakhluna & Anr. Versus The State of Manipur & Ors.

Source: Live Law





US REVISES TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR INDIA: MANIPUR, J&K, AND India-pak Border Highlighted as High-Risk Areas

In a significant development, the United States has updated its travel advisory for India, placing several regions at the highest risk level due to heightened violence, crime, and terrorism. This advisory comes as a blow to the central government and the state administration of Manipur, led by narcissistic Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

In a revised travel advisory for India, the State Department said it has updated to reflect information on the northeastern states.

"Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk," it said.

Overall India has been placed at Level 2. But several parts of the country have been placed on Level 4: Jammu and Kashmir, India-Pak border, Manipur and parts of Central and East India.

"Do not travel to: The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest; within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict; portions of Central and East India due to terrorism and Manipur due to violence and crime," said the State Department.

In addition, it recommended Americans to reconsider travel to the northeastern states due to terrorism and violence.

"Indian authorities report that rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crime, such as sexual assault, has happened at tourist sites and other locations. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning. They target tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities," the travel advisory said.



The US government has limited ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in rural areas. These areas stretch from eastern Maharashtra and northern Telangana through western West Bengal. The US government employees must get special authorization to travel to these areas, it said

Placing Manipur at "Level 4: Do Not Travel", the State Department said: "Do not travel to Manipur due to the threat of violence and crime. Ongoing ethnic-based civil conflict has resulted in reports of extensive violence and community displacement. Attacks against Indian government targets occur on a regular basis. US government employees traveling in India require prior approval before visiting Manipur."

The advisory is seen as a significant setback for both the central government and the government of Manipur, headed by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. Despite claims of restored peace and normalcy in the northeastern state, the travel advisory underscores ongoing security concerns and instability. This situation highlights the ongoing challenges faced by India in ensuring the safety of both its citizens and foreign visitors.









CLAIM:

Several social media users belonging to Meitei community posted a video on X (formerly Twitter) claiming that American Ex-Marine Soldiers are supplying and training the Kuki-Zo communities and further alleged that 'they are not ordinary instigators but well-trained transnational savages to create the havoc in Manipur'.

FACT:

A fact finding team of TLM cross-check the authenticity of the said social media post and found the claim baseless. The said video does not depict Chin-Kuki-Zo fighters, as claimed. It shows cadres from Karen National Union (KNU)/KNLA who operate along the Thai-Myanmar border. KNU flags/insignia are clearly visible in the video.

FACT-CHECK RESULT:

FALSE, MEITEIS' LIES EXPOSED





10:49 AM - Jul 23, 2024 - 147.5K Views



Tribal Army 🥏 @TribalArmy



Every life counts; stop extrajudicial killings. #Kuki_Zo #SaveManipurTribals #Manipur



21:06 · 24 Jul 24 · 1,693 Views



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South Asian Files 🥝 @saNewsDaily Follow

#Manipur: Today, #KWOHR and #HWA organized a "Mass Rally" protesting the 16th July #Cachar Fake Encounter by #AssamPolice, which resulted in the deaths of 3 #Hmar youths from the #KukiZo community. There must be a thorough investigation. Delayed justice, unlawful practices, & arson incidents demand impartial scrutiny. What #AssamPolice has done is unacceptable. #JusticeForKukiZo



16:29 · 24 Jul 24 · 5,063 Views



Thingkho Le Malcha



Conflict is a Bolt from Blue

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

On July 22, the Issac-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-Issac-Muivah) issued a press statement that said it has taken "a stand to guard the interest and safety of Christians in Manipur".

The reason cited by the armed outfit, in peace talks with the Narendra Modi government since 2015, is Arambai Tenggol (AT), an armed outfit hinged on ultra sub-nationalist sentiments of the Meitei community of Manipur — in news since last year for allegedly instigating violence against the Kuki community in the state's valley areas.

The outfit that also promotes the pre-Hindu religion of the Meiteis, Sanamahi, was founded by the erstwhile king of Manipur, Leishemba Sanajouba, who is also their sitting Rajya Sabha MP of the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP). AT is also seen close to the state chief minister N Biren Singh.

The NSCN (I-M) statement said it has decided to guard the interest of the Christians of Manipur because Arambai Tenggol "bears strong animosity towards the Christians, both in spirit and actions".

For a Northeast watcher though, the stand of the NSCN (I-M) came as a bolt from the blue. The outfit,

even though dozens of churches were attacked in Imphal since the May 3 Meitei-Kuki ethnic violence had broken out, had remained silent.

Addressing that silence, the NSCN said in that statement that it maintained "neutrality", and "cautiously" followed the "day-to-day development" during the ethnic clash.

In other words, it chose its ethnic identity even while religious places were attacked. Why then shift that "stand" of wait and watch when cases of violence including on religious sites, have gone down?

Not just the Kuki-Zo people, the majority of the Nagas in Manipur hills are Christians too. Why did NSCN take an ethnic stand of maintaining 'neutrality' earlier? Accusations against Arambai Tenggol as both anti-Kuki and anti-Christian (alleged by the church bodies) are not new.

Additionally, if you go by a chargesheet filed in a special court in Guwahati this past March by the National Investigating Agency (NIA) that is looking

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into some cases of violence on both communities during the last one year in Manipur, the China-Myanmar module of the NSCN (I-M) "gave logistics (logistical) and other support to the proscribed Meitei groups, Kanglei Yaol Kamba Lup (KYKL) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA)".

The central agency has named people like Moirangthem Anand Singh, who was arrested for the ethnic violence in the valley, as a PLA member. Singh has been accused of taking part in a "weapons training camp" organised by the banned outfit at an ecological park in Imphal during the violence. Members of the banned armed outfit KYKL, openly involved in the ethnic violence, had to be released by the security force on the demand of the Meitei women's group Meira Paibi. The NSCN had denied the NIA's allegations but the case is on.

In light of these developments, how should one read the NSCN's press statement that categorically shifts its position on religious grounds? In the last 24 hours, the statement has been widely circulated not just through local media but also in the mainstream media. Since yesterday, some mainland TV stations have taken it up for 'discussion' too.

What must be the purpose behind such a public shift of stand?

The Biren Singh factor

In an insurgency-prone border state where there are quite a few players, and their political masters are both within and outside Manipur, the ground has predictably been shifting continuously over the last one year. One constant, though, has been the chief minister N. Biren Singh's presence at the helm of affairs. He has remained entrenched in Imphal even though the clamour for his removal has been heard both in the valley and the hill areas of the state.

Biren Singh could survive in his post only because his political masters in New Delhi, particularly the home minister Amit Shah, have been his biggest protector — supporting him both inside and outside parliament since the peak of the ethnic violence. That support is so firm that even the Prime Minister is ready to face criticism in Parliament and the anger of the local public.

Post the general election though, things are beginning to move. That the BJP under Shah's leadership failed to deliver a better harvest for the party has certainly given the courage to some BJP leaders within the state unit, so also from the RSS, to talk about "the need for a change". That Biren Singh failed to deliver to the party any of the two seats from Manipur has further helped matters.

Soon after the poll results were out, we saw RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat speaking out on Manipur too at a public forum. The electoral defeat of the BJP, particularly in the Inner Manipur seat, in which the majority of the voters belong to the Vaishnava and Sanamahi faith (and thereby counted as Hindus by the RSS) has not gone down well with the ideological fount of the party. The Imphal valley is seen by the RSS as the last Hindu frontier in India's Northeast. The recent electoral defeat has made it clear to the RSS that Biren is increasingly becoming unpopular within the Meitei community.

As per top sources of the RSS in Manipur, the outfit has conveyed to Modi-Shah that it doesn't want Biren Singh to continue on the post anymore, as the ground that RSS-BJP has gained in the state over the last 6-7 years would likely slip from under their feet.

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RSS's choice for the CM

Top sources within the outfit have confirmed to this correspondent that "the RSS has its own candidate for the CM's post".

"We would rather have former BJP state president Haobam Borababu Singh as the Manipur chief minister."

"He has a clean image in the state and history is proof that he can take on people quite defiantly, and may be able to do something to break the impasse between the Meties and the Kukis."

The sources also said, "But the issue at the moment is, he is not an elected member of the state assembly and has not won an election for some years now."

Borababu Singh had shot to national fame in the early 1990s when he, as the Speaker of the state assembly, had famously refused to abide by an order passed by the Supreme Court. He had written a defiant letter to the then Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil that no Speaker should appear before any court.

The SC had asked him to present himself at the court for not following its order as per which the assembly secretary was to be reinstated. The secretary had carried out the SC's order overturning the Speaker's decision to suspend an MLA from the House, which went on to help a fellow party man from the Manipur People's Party, Dorendra Singh, to remain in power. The issue came to such a pass that Borababu Singh's passport was impounded by the Ministry of External Affairs in 1992 for defying the SC order because of which he couldn't travel abroad to take part in the International Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Since 2000, the RSS in Manipur has been pinning hopes on the likes of Borobabu Singh to help BJP win

assembly seats. In the year 2000, he had won for the BJP the Wangkhoi seat, no easy task then.

Borobabu Singh went on to head the BJP state unit; he had unsuccessfully contested from Wangkhoi in 2007 too.

In the Modi era, with the RSS working hard to topple the Okram Ibobi Singh government in Manipur, Borobabu Singh was sighted once more prominently, including sharing the podium with Modi during his visit to the state.

Another frontrunner

Aside from Borobabu Singh, another front-runner for the top post, being pushed by a section of the state BJP with New Delhi, is Thongam Biswajit Singh, a minister in the current Biren Singh government.

In 2017, Biswajit was a front-runner for the CM's post before Biren Singh became the dark horse. Since then, Biren has been the Modi-Shah's man in Imphal.

NSCN preparing for Biren's exit?

Now, with the RSS' pressure mounting on New Delhi to replace Biren Singh, and Modi-Shah unable to defend him like before due to the electoral loss, the general view among the political observers in Imphal is Biren Singh's days are numbered.

It is here then the NSCN's July 22 press statement – blaming an outfit seen close to the chief minister – gains significance. Is the NSCN then adding its weight to help New Delhi pull the plug on an unpopular chief minister? Is this the NSCN's

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messaging – Biren Singh must go as under his watch, not just the Kukis but the Nagas too have drawn a firm line against the Meiteis? Such a possibility would certainly add to the existing resentment of a large swathe of Meities towards Biren Singh.

Till recently, Biren Singh has been utilising the Naga MLAs to ameliorate his relations with the Kuki leaders. Meetings to break the impasse had taken place at the neutral ground, Guwahati.

To say that there is no control of the NSCN (I-M) over the Naga MLAs would be far from the truth. Therefore, NSCN, from being the representative of an ethnic community facilitating talks to better relations between the two other communities that populate Manipur through the Naga MLAs, to suddenly hold up its religious identity to indicate that it is tilting towards the Kukis, doesn't quite add up. The ethnic peacemaker is clearly leaving the table purportedly for religious reasons. And the blame for it has been squarely put on Arambai Tenggol, close to Biren Singh.

Surprisingly, AT has also issued a press statement, denying that it is anti-Christian. Calling it unfortunate, the AT's release has said, "While we respect all religions and the right to religious practice, we stand firmly against any form of covert or overt conversion that seeks to undermine or destroy the cultural and religious heritage of the indigenous people of Manipur."

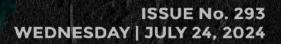
That it took so much pain to describe itself as a 'voluntary' organisation that works only for the rights of indigenous people, thereby hinting that its interest is no different from that of the NSCN, only indicates that the wheels for a leadership change in Manipur have begun rolling.

Published by The Wire

<image><text>







PRAYER FOR PEACE STABILITY, AND SEPERATE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE KUKIS

~ Letgunlen Lhungdim

Oh God, our refuge and our strength, We cry out to you in this hour of length, For peace and stability, we humbly pray, For an end to violence and a brighter day.

ARTYRS

Under the Meitei regime, we suffer and bleed, Ethnic violence rages, our people are in need, Of a safe haven, a place to call our own, Where we can live without fear, and our culture can be known.

We pray for separate administration, a chance to govern ourselves, To manage our own affairs, and our future to unfold, Free from oppression, and the shackles of pain, We yearn for autonomy, and an end to this endless strain.

Thingkho Le Malcha 🖋

Oh God, our Savior, we trust in your might, To deliver us from this darkness, and bring us into your light, May your love and grace abound, And fill our hearts with hope, and our souls with peace that's profound.

Unite our hearts, and minds, we pray, And guide us towards a future that's bright and fair, Where we can live in harmony, and our children can grow, In a land that's free from violence, and our culture can glow.

We pray for wisdom for our leaders, To seek your will, and your ways, and to lead us to a brighter day, And may our land be filled with your goodness, and your love that's true, And may we live in peace, and our people flourish anew.

Oh God, our Father, we trust in your promise, that you will bring us through the flame, And into a land of peace, and stability, and rest, Where we can live and thrive, and our people be blessed. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.