

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGSAMIR (25 YEARS)

S/O GINMINLUN (INAO)

ADDRESS: MERCYLANE, MANTRIPUKHRI

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: MERCYLAND, MANTRIPUKHRI

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

ARMY CHIEF GENERAL UPENDRA DWIVEDI LEAVES MANIPUR, CANCELS VISIT TO KANGPOKPI OWING TO BAD WEATHER

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi expressed satisfaction with the 'great coordination' among security agencies during his visit to Manipur on Saturday.

The Army General, however, cut short his visit to the state, after cancelling his proposed visit to Kangpokpi, Churachandpur, and Moreh owing to bad weather.

Before leaving Imphal, General Dwivedi held a meeting with the heads of various security agencies in the state. He was briefed on operational preparedness by commanders on the ground.

The Army chief had met Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Friday to discuss the internal security situation and the role of the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles in ensuring the return of peace in the northeastern state.

General Dwivedi said, "My main aim to come here was to review the security situation as of today in Manipur and I was happy to see the great coordination between the



security agencies. I had a detailed frank discussion... and the main aim is to ensure that there is trust, peace, and tranquillity in this state. I was lucky to meet the chief minister... and it was a very great meeting, very encouraging meeting where we could discuss a lot of issues and we were looking for the way forward where we can bring peace to the state and also... get all the communities together so that there is an enhanced harmonious relationship amongst them." (The Indian Express)

THREE MEITEI MILITANTS INJURED IN A FACTIONAL CLASH IN IMPHAL WEST

A gunfight between two Meitei armed groups in Manipur's Imphal West district on Saturday left three militants injured, officials said.

The incident occurred near Koutruk Primary School and Community Hall in Lamsang police station area around 2 p.m., said a police official.

According to police, the clash erupted following a heated argument between the two groups. The gunfire resulted in injuries to Pukhrambam Amar (22), Morangthem Alex (23), and Laishram Gopen (30).

Amar, a resident of Langjing Achouba, sustained a gunshot wound to his left knee. Alex, from Langthabal, was injured in his left hand. Gopen, from Tenthavillage, was shot in the back.

Amar and Alex were immediately taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Imphal for treatment. Gopen was rushed to Raj Medicity, a private hospital in the city.

Police are investigating the incident and have registered a case in connection with the gunfight.

MANIPUR GOVT. URGES CENTRE TO WITHDRAW SUSPENSION OF OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH KUKI UGS

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh announced on Saturday that the state government is pressing the central government to withdraw the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with certain militant groups due to repeated violations of ground rules.

Addressing a press conference at the Chief Minister's Durbar Hall in Imphal, Biren Singh explained that the SoO agreement, initially signed with several Kuki rebel groups in August 2008 to ensure peace and order in the region, has been compromised. The Chief Minister stated that some of these groups have breached the terms of the agreement, leading to increased unrest and disruption in Manipur.

"The Manipur Legislative Assembly has resolved to urge the central government to withdraw the SoO agreement with the militant groups that are violating the ground rules," Biren Singh said. He noted that while the state government has formally requested this action, there has been no official response from the Centre yet, although discussions on the matter are ongoing.

The SoO agreement, which initially included 25 Kuki militant groups, was partially withdrawn by the Manipur government on March 10, 2023, specifically targeting the Kuki National Army (KNA) and the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) due to their alleged role in inciting unrest among illegal forest encroachers.

In other news, Chief Minister Singh expressed his appreciation for the Assam Legislative Assembly's recent decision to recognize Manipuri as an associate state language in four districts of Assam. He extended his gratitude to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa



Sarma and the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly for this gesture.

Singh also provided an update on his recent meeting with Chief of the Indian Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi. The meeting, held on Friday in Imphal, focused on reviewing security arrangements in vulnerable areas of Manipur amid ongoing unrest. Singh handed over maps and other relevant documents to General Dwivedi and indicated that positive developments might follow once General Dwivedi returns to Delhi. General Dwivedi's visit to Kangpokpi, Churachandpur, and the border town of Moreh was canceled due to bad weather.

During the press conference, Singh criticized the Indian National Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing them of jeopardizing national unity and security for political gain. He also accused the Congress party of exposing their political motives by forming an alliance with the Abdullah family's National Conference for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir election.

AFTER 'HUGLOMACY' HAS PLAYED OUT, PM CAN SPARE A THOUGHT FOR MANIPUR: CONG JABS MODI

The Congress on Friday took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hug with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, saying now that the PM's "huglomacy" has played itself out, perhaps he can spare a thought for long-suffering Manipur.

Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kiev with a warm hug that came barely six weeks after the prime minister had similarly hugged the leader of Ukraine's arch-enemy, President Vladimir Putin.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Now that the non-biological PM's huglomacy has played itself out, perhaps he can spare a thought for long-suffering Manipur, which has been awaiting his visit for over 15 months now." The Congress has been accusing Prime Minister Modi of ignoring the plight of the people of violence-hit Manipur and asking why he is not visiting the northeastern state.

Manipur plunged into violence with clashes between



the Meitei and Kuki communities in May last year. Since then, some 200 people have been killed while thousands have been displaced following large-scale arson that gutted homes and government buildings.

Source: The Print



It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.

— Aristotle



FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur Tapes: CM's Brother, Arambai Tenggol Founder's Threats To 'Traitors' Who Leaked Tapes to 'Enemy' Contradict Biren's 'Doctored' Claim

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

While the N. Biren Singh's Bharatiya Janata Party state government in Manipur has claimed that the audio tapes put out in the public domain by The Wire after they were submitted to the Commission of Inquiry are "doctored", and has termed the news reports "anti-national" and an attempt to derail the peace process between the Kukis and the Meiteis, the chief minister's brother, Rajendro Nongthingbam and the Bharatiya Janata Party's Rajya Sabha member L. Sanajaoba have issued separate threats on Facebook in Meiteilon to the "Meitei" who they think had passed the tapes on to "the enemy".

Sanajaoba is also the founder of the Arambai Tenggol, the controversial and radical Meitei group.

Sanajaoba and Nongthingbam said that "Meitei" has been "sold out", and that they would soon find "the traitors" within their community.

Sanajaoba, in his personal Facebook account, said on August 22: "Come on Meitei...Don't even know the leader...I don't want to talk, it will be problematic, will show by action...Enemies are secondary, Meitei traitors (Khelendro) should be handled first...Don't want to talk more..."

The BJP eader used the word "Khelendro" to mean "traitor", thus equating the deponent/s at the Commission to Subedar Khonthoujam Khelendro Singh, a Meitei and a British official who had arrested the celebrated Meitei prince Tikendrajit Singh at the behest of the British after the Anglo-Manipur war in 1891. Tikendrajit was later hanged to death in Imphal. There is a road named after Khelendro in Assam's Silchar. Khelendro is also celebrated for being the first Meitei officer to have got a gun salute at his funeral.

Meanwhile, the Arambai Tenggol, founded by Sanajaoba, is a radical Meitei group accused of openly brandishing arms in police vehicles during the ethnic conflict. It has also been accused of attacking Kukis in the valley districts, as well as Meitei citizens and police personnel who do not agree with its actions. The chief minister is said to be close to Sanajaoba, and has been seen meeting members of Arambai Tenggol.

The chief minister's brother Rajendro Nongthingbam (also known as Rajendro Nong) first said on his Facebook page: "Those who are

Contd.

Contd.

giving out news to the enemy, you are Meitei and don't think that we won't unmask you, traitor".

This post was later replaced with on August 21 with: "We need to find the Meitei traitors who sold us out."

The threats indicate that the audio tapes were being considered to be authentic, and not "doctored" as claimed by the Biren Singh government. The Wire tried contacting Rajendro Nongthingbam and Sanajaoba to throw more light on the matter. But multiple calls and text messages went unanswered. This story will be updated when they respond.

The Wire, in its reports published on August 19, has said that while it is unable to independently establish that the person heard speaking on the recording about the violence in Manipur is indeed Biren Singh, it has confirmed the date, subject and contents of the meeting held at the chief minister's official residence with some of the participants, none of whom are willing to be identified because of fears for their safety.

The Wire had underlined that some persons claiming to have been participants at the meeting assert that the voice is indeed of CM Biren Singh and that he did say all the things in the recording in their presence. Some of these persons were also able to confirm to The Wire that the full audio clip has been submitted to the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice (retired) Ajai Lamba, a former chief justice of the Gauhati high court.

The Commission was set up by a notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs on June 4, 2023.

The Wire was informed by the purported maker/s of the 48-minute recording that this material has been submitted to the Commission along with an affidavit attesting to its authenticity from the person/s who

made the recording at the chief minister's official residence – and that protection and anonymity has been sought from the Commission as well.

The date and time of the recording as well as the circumstances under which it was made have been provided to the Commission in the affidavit but The Wire is withholding from publication any particulars that might help lead to the disclosure of the deponent/s' identity and endanger their security.

As per official records, the death toll of the ongoing violence since May 2023, is 226 with another 39 missing, as of this May. Around 60,000 people belonging to both the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities are still displaced and unable to return to their homes. Despite official assurances, the Bharatiya Janata Party's governments, both in the state and in Delhi, have failed to end the bloodshed. More importantly, they have done little to bridge the gulf between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.

Several Opposition leaders have sought a thorough investigation of the tapes, and some others have demanded his resignation. The ten MLAs of the Kuki community, eight of whom belong to the BJP, and two of them cabinet ministers of Biren Singh, have demanded the Commission expedite its work, and that Biren Singh be asked to resign in order to ensure his non-interference in the investigation.

Source: [The Wire](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Tribal Army
@TribalArmy

The Kuki-Zo community is intensifying their protests in Manipur, demanding Union Territory status with legislative powers under Article 239A. The government must ensure peace and justice.



From India Today NE

17:56 · 24 Aug 24 · 2,218 Views



Hejang Misao
@Tahchapa77

Follow

The saddest thing is we have representative/leaders who cannot see beyond vote bank politics. A true leader with legendary vision can never be cow down by public pressure, if they do they are just an opportunist. We have 3 opportunists, their well-being above the community.



22:35 · 24 Aug 24 · 282 Views



Priority Ukraine & Not Manipur



FAREWELL BROTHER

~ Lalgunsang Kipgen

There isn't a body to lay on grave
With no one to witness the tale
Scream of pain never to be heard
Artillery to protect, raise against him
Is how my Brother fell and Die
Desecrated his deceased body
Is how they celebrate their victory
Rest well in eternal peace my brother
You have laid down your today's
For the betterment of our tomorrow's
The path you have chosen
Is never to be forgotten
The unfinished destiny of yours
Is to be accomplished soon

Remembering the gone days of together
On the hill lock village we grew
On the grass and trees sheds
Did we laughed and shared memories
Those were the days never to be back

We all shall miss thy gentle grace
Thy willing hand and cheerful face
Never to be seen again
Saying goodbye to your body
But your spirit will always be with me
When I see a bird
Chirping on a nearby branch
I will know it is you singing to me.
When a butterfly brushes
Gently by me so care freely
I will know it is you assuring me you are free from pain.
When the gentle fragrance of a flower catches my attention
I will know it is you reminding me
To appreciate the simple things in life

The Sun still shines as before
And the roses still bloom
Beside my lodging house
But you have gone

