

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### **BOUNTHANGLUR THIEK (30 YEARS)**

S/O LALENLIEN THIEK

ADDRESS: MOINADHOR, PHERZAWL

DATE OF DEATH: 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: AIZAWL

CAUSE OF DEATH: SUCCUMBED TO INJURY BY MEITEI MILITANTS' ATTACK



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 11.09.2024



**199**  
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 ISSUES SECURITY ALERT AMID ALLEGATIONS OF MILITANT INFILTRATION, CALLS SHUTDOWN ON SEP 28

Responding to recent alarming claims of alleged infiltration of 900 Kuki militants and possible coordinated attacks against their community by the Meitei armed groups on September 28, the Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kuki tribes has issued a security advisory for its people while declaring total shutdown of Kuki-Zo areas on September 28.

The development stems from a letter sent by the Secretary to the Chief Minister to the Director General of Police and the Security Advisor of the Government of Manipur, which has raised significant security concerns.

Kuldiep Singh, a spokesperson for the government, addressed these issues in a press statement, but the Kuki Inpi has labeled these allegations as unfounded. They argue that such statements may be fabricated to justify a potential attack against the Kuki-Zo people.

In light of these concerns, the Kuki Inpi has issued several precautionary measures for the Kuki-Zo community:

1. All programs and functions organized by the Kuki-Zo people are to be suspended until September 28, 2024, to mitigate risks of aggression from the Meitei community.
2. Community members are advised to stay home and avoid traveling or working on September 27 and 28, 2024.
3. A complete shutdown will be enforced in Kuki-Zo inhabited regions on September 28, 2024, with monitoring by Kuki Inpi and Kuki Students' Organization (KSO).
4. Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers are urged to strengthen their positions in buffer zones amid fears of coordinated attacks.



A press conference is also scheduled for September 28, 2024, to reveal what the Kuki Inpi describes as the ulterior motives of the Manipur State Government and radical Meitei groups against the Kuki-Zo community.

The Kuki Inpi has called upon the Kuki-Zo community to adhere strictly to these guidelines to ensure their safety and security during this tense period.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi proposed shutdown call on September 28 has been endorsed by various Civil Society Organizations such as the Zomi Council, Kuki Inpi Churachandpur, Kuki Inpi Chandel, Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal, ITLF and CoTU.

In a statement issued today, the Zomi Council said they stands in solidarity with the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) on its proposed shutdown in all Zo inhabited areas on September 28, 2024, and also its call for preparedness in the face of the mounting false propaganda advanced by the N. Biren Singh government.

The Zomi Council called upon all its constituent bodies and frontal organizations to strictly enforce the shutdown in all Zomi inhabited areas, and urge all to stay alert and focused.

# ITLF ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY MEASURES AMID RISING TENSIONS IN MANIPUR

In response to escalating concerns about potential violence, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) convened an emergency meeting today to address security threats against the Kuki-Zo community. This decision follows recent developments, including the Manipur government's acquisition of advanced MMG MK 2A1 weapons and alarming statements from state security advisor Kuldiep Singh regarding a possible attack on September 28, 2024.

The meeting discussed the growing fears of an impending assault, particularly in light of social media comments from Arambai Tenggol leader Kourounganba Khuman, who expressed enthusiasm for the same date. Previously, tensions heightened after reports of a prior attack on the Kuki-Zo community shortly after the state announced the presence of 200 Kuki militants in Jiribam.

In light of these threats, the ITLF has outlined a series of precautionary measures to protect the Kuki-Zo community:

- Travel Restrictions:** No travel outside the Kuki-Zo area will be allowed from September 26 to 29, 2024.
- Border Closures:** Borders will be closed during this period to enhance security.
- Institution Closures:** Schools, offices, and institutions will be shut down from September 27 to 29, 2024.
- Total Shutdown:** A complete shutdown is set for September 28, 2024, although emergency services such as medical assistance, fire services, and media will remain operational.
- Increased Vigilance:** All village volunteers and



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

File No: ITLF-PN-202477

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

## PRESS NOTICE

The Manipur government had accumulated highly advanced MMG MK 2A1 weapons earlier this month. Recently, Kuldiep Singh, the state security advisor, made hints about an impending "attack" on 28 September 2024. The Arambai Tenggol leader, Kourounganba Khuman, expressed his excitement for 28 September 2024 in a social media post. These are indicators that an attack plan is being intended towards the Kuki-Zo. Previously, an assault on Kuki-Zo occurred shortly after the Manipur government announced the presence of 200 Kuki militants in Jiribam. The 900 armed men from Myanmar who are supposedly moving must be a ruse for attacking the Kuki-Zo.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) today convened an emergency meeting in light of these situations. The meeting resolves the following to defend ourselves against the possibility of an upcoming Meitei attack:

- No traveling outside Kuki-Zo area during 26-29 September 2024.
- Closure of borders during 26-29 September 2024.
- Closure of schools, institutions and offices from 27-29 September 2024.
- Total shutdown on 28 September 2024 (excluding emergency services like medical, fire, water and media).
- All village volunteers and citizens to be on high alert.
- Medical teams and ambulances (private and government) to be on stand by during 26-29 September 2024.

We requested everyone to follow and comply with the aforementioned advice. Additionally, we ask that all district security personnel, be it state or central, remain extremely vigilant in order to thwart any outside attacks.

Issued by –

Department of Media & Publicity,  
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

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

citizens are urged to stay alert and report any suspicious activities.

- Medical Preparedness:** Medical teams and ambulances, both private and government, will be on standby from September 26 to 29, 2024.

The ITLF has called on all community members to adhere to these guidelines to ensure their safety and security. They also urge state and central security personnel to remain vigilant to thwart any potential attacks.



# KUKI WOMEN PROTEST CRPF DEPLOYMENT IN JIRIBAM, CLAIMING THREAT TO COMMUNITY

In a powerful demonstration, Kuki women from the Jiribam area protested against the deployment of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in the Ahmedabad and Kashimpur regions of greater Jiribam district on Monday. The protesters asserted that these areas are unaffected by recent violence, raising concerns that the deployment serves a hidden agenda.

The women alleged that the presence of CRPF in these locations could disrupt crucial communication lines between Kuki-Zo villages, leaving them vulnerable to attacks from Meitei militants. They expressed fears that such a strategy could lead to further violence and destruction of the remaining Kuki-Zo villages in the district.

“We will not allow any Central Agency to control this area on behalf of the Meitei political system, which has continually labeled us as illegal immigrants,” a women protesters stated. They emphasized that repeated accusations from leaders such as Meitei Chief Minister Biren Singh and associated militant groups like Arambai Tenggol and COCOMI are unfounded.



The demonstrators vowed to resist any efforts to undermine their community, asserting their determination to defend their rights and existence. “We are braver when we feel a threat to our existence, and we will stand against any force that seeks to harm our villages,” they declared.

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## MANIPUR POLICE UNCOVER CACHE OF ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES AND AMMUNITION IN BISHNUPUR

In a significant breakthrough, Manipur police uncovered a hidden cache of weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades and high-powered ammunition, during a search operation in the remote Machin-Mano hillock area of Bishnupur district. Acting on intelligence reports of suspicious activity, the operation was launched on Monday morning and led to the discovery of an abandoned militant camp.

The cache, which includes advanced military-grade weaponry, is believed to be linked to ongoing communal

violence in the region. Among the recovered items were a Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) with a magazine, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) shells, RPG shell chargers, High Explosive-36 hand grenades, Chinese-made hand grenades, and a WT handset marked “BAOFENG, UV-5R,” commonly used by insurgent groups for communication.

# BABLOO LOITONGBAM ADDRESSES THREATS AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS IN PUBLIC STATEMENT

Babloo Loitongbam, a prominent human rights defender, has issued a public statement clarifying recent threats to his family and refuting allegations made against him during a press conference by the Meitel Leepun (ML) organization. The statement comes in response to a gathering of approximately fifty individuals who reportedly threatened Loitongbam's family, warning them of repercussions if he appeared in public.

With over thirty years of experience in human rights advocacy, Loitongbam emphasized his commitment to peaceful coexistence among all communities in Manipur. He categorically denied allegations of financial ties with any Kuki militant groups, calling them completely unfounded.

He reaffirmed his support for the right of individuals facing persecution to seek asylum, including those from Myanmar. He advocated for a clear refugee policy in India that protects the rights of all, including the right to return home when conditions permit.

The Human Rights Alert Director addressed claims regarding Ms. Mya Kyay Mon, who was referred to as a "PDF Women Wing Commander" in the ML



press conference. He explained that she is a Norwegian citizen of Burmese-Buddhist origin, currently detained in Imphal for overstaying her visa. He clarified that he had no involvement in fundraising efforts for her and had only provided legal assistance through Human Rights Alert (HRA).

Lastly, he refuted rumors regarding his involvement in an alleged Naga-Kuki-Meitei meeting purportedly aimed at framing the Meitei community for genocide, stating that such claims are purely fictitious.



**War does not determine who is right -  
only who is left.**

*-Bertrand Russell*



**FEATURED ARTICLE**

**Did 900 'Kuki Militants' Really Enter from Myanmar?**

**Why Was This Alleged Intelligence Shared with the Public, and Not with the Security Forces?**

**Vishal Arora**

An “intelligence” report has emerged suggesting that over 900 “Kuki militants,” trained in advanced warfare techniques, have crossed from Myanmar into India and may target Meitei villages in Manipur around Sept. 28. It’s quite strange that this information was shared with the public at a press conference by a senior official, rather than being communicated discretely to the Indian Army, or at least the Assam Rifles stationed at the India-Myanmar border—who are better equipped than ordinary citizens to respond. This “disclosure” is not only strange but also reckless, reflecting the politics surrounding ethnic violence in the northeastern state.

Let’s first examine how this “intelligence” information was disclosed to the public.

**The Intel**

The office of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh forwarded the “intelligence” inputs to the Director General of Police and the state’s security adviser, Kuldiep Singh. A copy of the letter “leaked” to the media. When Kuki-Zo organisations reacted to the media reports by labeling them state propaganda, Mr. Singh, the security adviser, conducted a press conference on Sept. 20 to “confirm” the “intelligence” report.

It is difficult to understand why the security adviser is interested in convincing the public of this purported

intelligence report. What is the intended outcome of such efforts? It is difficult also to understand what the origin of this “intelligence” report could be. It was accessible to the state’s chief minister but not to the central security forces or even the Assam Rifles.

Newsreel Asia has confirmed from reliable sources in Manipur that no legitimate intelligence agency in the country has collected or corroborated this input.

The security adviser’s press conference evidently failed to convince the Indian Army.

After the conference, the Indian Army posted on its X handle, Spear Corps: “These inputs have very serious security implications, and the office of the Security Advisor has been requested to share the details so that appropriate necessary action can be taken at the earliest.” The tweet was later deleted for obvious reasons.

Most citizens would agree that intelligence information related to national security should be handled with discretion, especially when such content typically falls under the jurisdiction of

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the central government and its armed forces. Due to its sensitive nature, public dissemination of this information could potentially compromise security protocols or strategic responses.

It appears that this “intelligence” information was intended for public consumption rather than for actionable use by the Army or central forces.

**‘100% Correct’**

It’s not surprising, therefore, that, at the press conference, Mr. Singh placed the burden of proof on critics to disprove the alleged intel information rather than proving its correctness. Mr. Singh said, “The intelligence report cannot be taken lightly. Unless and until it is proved wrong, we believe that it is 100% correct,” as reported by NDTV.

The proposition “Unless and until it is proved wrong, we believe that it is 100% correct” can be problematic because it allows any claim to be accepted and disseminated until proven otherwise. Should the burden of verification be on the recipients of the information? And should the exercise of verification be done after potential harm has been done.

**The Infiltration**

Now, consider the logistics of such a massive infiltration. Imagine nearly 900 individuals, almost equivalent to a battalion, armed and infiltrating the country. If we assume that one four-wheel vehicle can carry five people, this scenario would involve around 180 vehicles moving through the hills of Manipur. Yet, security agencies have not intercepted any of these movements? And the chief minister’s office in Imphal is the entity that became aware of this? It seems highly improbable.

Let’s also consider who these infiltrators might be. If they have entered from Myanmar, we are likely discussing the Chin state, which borders both Manipur and Mizoram. Across the border in Chin state, there are several rebel groups. These groups are currently engaged in fierce battles with Myanmar’s military government, known locally as the Tatmadaw, and also among themselves.

Driven by its own security concerns, the Indian government is reportedly taking steps to facilitate peace in Myanmar’s Chin state. It has allegedly engaged with various factions by inviting political and military opponents of Myanmar’s ruling junta to attend a seminar in New Delhi. So, India and its security establishment are not ignorant about these groups in Myanmar.

Let’s also consider the timing of this purported intelligence input.

**The Timing**

The ethnic unrest, between the majority Meitei community and the Kuki-Zo tribal people in Manipur over land rights and identity, began on May 3, 2023. In the initial days, massive violence resulted in over 100 deaths, a few women were gang-raped and thousands of homes were destroyed. This led to a complete segregation of Meitei and Kuki-Zo areas, with the former confined to the Imphal valley and the latter to the hills.

Tensions have remained high since then, marked largely by constant attempts to attack Kuki-Zo villages and sporadic killings of tribal people and also those of Meiteis attempting these attacks. Innocent Meitei civilians have also been killed, and their homes destroyed, yet no Meitei group has disclosed the number of fatalities and casualties. Kuki-Zo groups say at least 199 Kuki-Zo individuals have been killed over the last 16 months.

In June 2024, violence erupted in Jiribam after the Manipur Chief Minister was blamed for the poor showing of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the recent general elections. There was a relative lull for nearly three months.

**‘Manipur Tapes’**

Around mid-August 2024, The Wire reported an audio recording, known as the “Manipur Tapes,”

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allegedly featuring the voice of Chief Minister Singh discussing violent tactics amid the ongoing ethnic conflict, which had been submitted to the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate the violence.

Since then, the Kuki-Zo groups have been focusing on advocating for a speedier investigation into the chief minister's purported admissions in the tapes.

Suddenly, on Sept. 1, 2024, violence erupted again, resulting in the deaths of at least 11 individuals, both Kuki-Zo and Meitei. The Manipur police, headed by the chief minister who also holds the Home portfolio, claimed that Kuki-Zo groups used military-grade drones and rockets to launch attacks on Meitei areas. The Kuki-Zo groups denied the charge, stating they have only used ordinary drones for surveillance and some homemade "rockets." The only alleged evidence of the use of sophisticated aerial weapons is with the state police.

On Sept. 4, 2024, Advocate Prashant Bhushan formally requested the inquiry commission to register a First Information Report (FIR) against the chief minister, based on the contents of the "Manipur Tapes," asserting that his removal from office is "necessary."

About 10 days later, a leaked copy of the purported intelligence report emerged from the chief minister's office, with media reports on this leak diverting public attention away from the "Manipur Tapes."

The alleged drone and rocket attacks and the purported entry of 900 "Kuki militants" from Myanmar do not seem in the interests of Manipur's Kuki-Zo groups by any stretch of the imagination. We do not know which armed group in Myanmar these alleged infiltrators belong to or which Kuki-Zo group in Manipur they are aligned with.

**Insurgents**

Among the Kuki-Zo in Manipur, there are armed groups who have been demanding a separate state within the Union of India. However, these groups have signed

"Suspension of Operation" pacts with the central government.

Conversely, valley-based insurgency groups (VBIGs), primarily Meiteis, challenge Manipur's incorporation into India in 1949 and seek to establish a sovereign state. For security forces, this insurgency has understandably been a major security concern. Several media reports, including one from The Hindu, have indicated that separatist insurgency has resurfaced in Manipur following the onset of violence in May of the previous year.

Their increasing influence in Manipur is perceivable. On Sept. 21, 2024, the armed National Revolutionary Front Manipur (NRFM), a separatist insurgent group, called for an 18-hour bandh to oppose the Manipur merger agreement of Sept. 21, 1949. Hindustan Times reported: "All shops and private establishments remained closed in the Imphal valley, and the streets wore a deserted look as vehicles stayed off the roads in view of the bandh."

**Reputation of Central Armed Forces**

Furthermore, the content of the intelligence report appears to support ongoing propaganda against the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles deployed in Manipur. This alleged massive infiltration could damage the reputation of these security forces, as it seems to imply that they failed to intercept and prevent the entry of the foreign "militants."

Given this context, the state government and the state's security adviser seem to be playing with fire by publicly sharing sensitive, unverifiable and dubious information – a kind of information that is read also by the international community. It was predictable that such disclosures – even if true, though they don't appear to be – would not aid any efforts, if present, to re-establish peace between the two ethnic groups. Such actions jeopardise both national and regional security.

Published by [Newsreel Asia](#)

# THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

**Rajan Chaudhary** @EditorRajan

I had asked yesterday who is Arambai Tenggol 🧑🏻

I have received dozens of answers from both the communities of Manipur - Kuki and Meitei - here, you should also see it.

The Kuki community says that it is a group of violent people while the Meitei say that it is a cultural organization. But..

I have many questions on the answers given by both the communities?

Why is there a need for an armed gang to stop the intruders in Manipur, and who is nurturing them?

Why is Arambai Tenggol needed despite the presence of administrative officials, police, security forces for the protection of Manipuri people, especially the Meitei people?

Who gave Arambai Tenggol the right to kill anyone?

Can't such groups cause violence in the future?

Where does Arambai Tenggol get sophisticated weapons from?

Does the Indian Penal Code apply to Arambai Tenggol or not?

**Ravinder Kapur.** @RavinderKapur2

BREAKING NEWS — #Manipur

### WHY DID INDIAN ARMY MEET WEAPON LOOTERS?

In a bizzare incident, Bihar Regiment had a round table with Arambai Tenggol Militants who looted thousands & lakhs of weapons & ammunition from state armoury. Serious breach of law !!  
[@adgpi](#) [@HMOIndia](#)

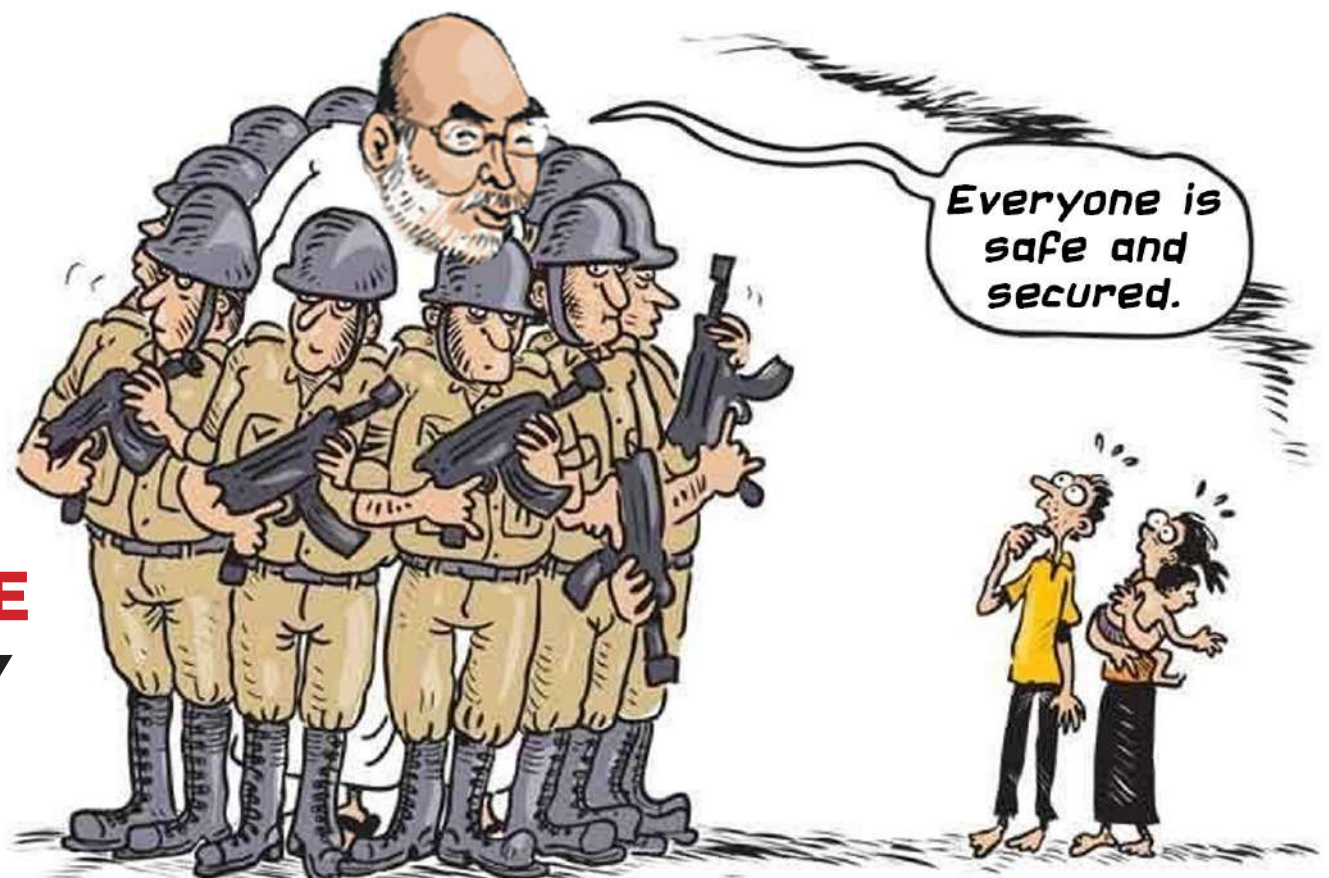
[@SamKhongsai\\_](#)  
[#MeiteiMilitant](#)  
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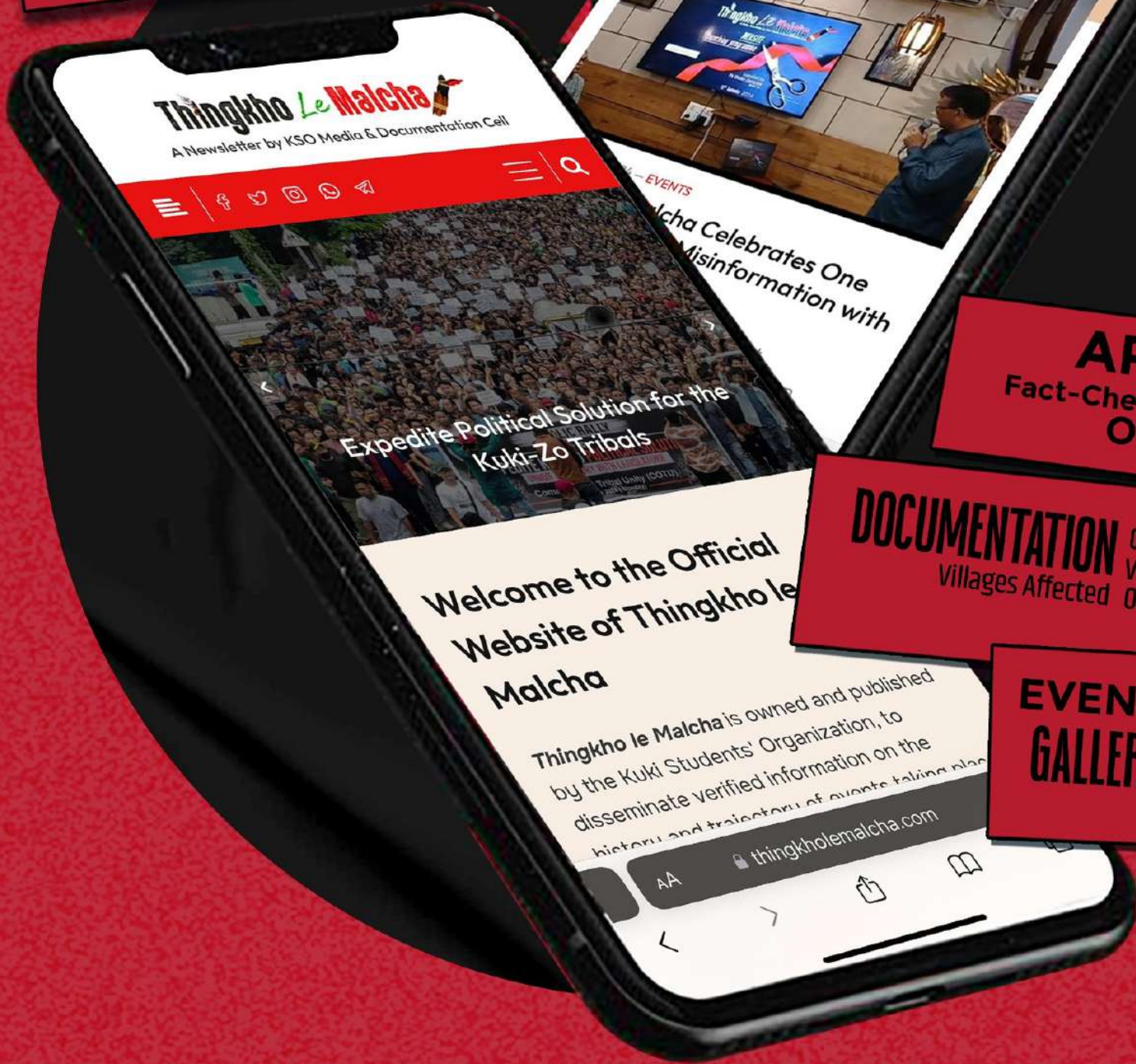
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# DON'T MOURN FOR ME

I have your soil to you now  
I had pay all your debts  
This Head that has never  
Bowed down in front of Enemy  
Is bowing down here in front of you  
The hands of mine alone  
Does contribute in craving our nation

Don't mourn and cry for me  
Dying for you all is a celebration,  
Only few can experience such a death  
There's not many who would gives up,  
Their youth for the sake of motherland  
Who put his motherland in front of family

Lover may boo with a soul for song  
But my motherland alone does belong in my heart  
Many die in a coffin wrapped in diamond and gold  
But there's nothing more beautiful then  
A coffin wrapped with my nation flag  
And laying together with a brave soul  
Who gave up their lives for the nation  
So, what if i returned DEATH  
Don't cry for me  
I will keep and watch you all  
In a dust of wind a twinkling of stars

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~ Lalgunsang Kipgen